



Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

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From the Director.

45 Years. Jimmie Oliver, former Tax Assessor of Choctaw County, has been a GTPDD Board Member for 45 years. That averages 225 meetings that he has attended with a smile on his face and always pleased to share farming stories. Jimmie seized his membership on the Board with great dedication and leadership. He has retired from his long career as Tax Assessor to work on his farm in Choctaw County. He and his wife, Nell, are blessed with two children and two grandchildren, which is also another way he gets to stay busy and enjoy his retirement years. Jimmie, it has truly been a blessing for me to have you as a Board Member, Secretary-Treasurer, but most importantly, a Friend.



Thank you for your years of service and friendship,

Rudy



Pictured above-Nell Oliver, Jimmie Oliver, Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson, GTPDD Executive Director & Bob Boykin, GTPDD President.

GTPDD is participating in the Belk Charity Sale on November 5th. If interested in purchasing a \$5 ticket contact Cindy Brown, 662-324-7860 ext. 1107 or Tricia Jones, ext. 1144. Monies made from ticket purchases will be donated to the Nutrition Meals Program.



United Way Kick-Off

Staff from the Golden Triangle Planning & Development District/Area Agency on Aging attended the North Central Mississippi United Way Kick-off at the Mill Conference Center in Starkville, MS on September 14, 2016. Representatives from all 15 agencies that United Way supports were there to help celebrate the 2016-2017 fundraising campaign for United Way. Agencies used display tables to demonstrate what services they provide and how United Way money supports each agency. There was a morning reception and an evening reception with good food, good music and good company.



**FANS!!
FANS!!
FANS!!**



- ◆ Do you have small children in your home?
- ◆ Do you have air conditioning?
- ◆ Are you at least 60 years of age?

United Way North Central partnered with Lowe's and the GTPDD to help donate fans to be placed in houses that are lacking air conditioning. If you think you qualify, please contact Cindy Brown at 662-386-9247.



Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program

What is the Elderly and Disabled Waiver?

It is a statewide program designed to offer assistance to qualified Medicaid beneficiaries. The program allows qualified individuals to remain in a home or community-based setting as an alternative to a nursing facility or other institutional care. All persons who are eligible to receive Home and Community-Based Services under this waiver must first be approved through the Division of Medicaid.

Who is qualified?

Be 21 years of age or older.

Qualify by either SSI or 300% of SSI.

Score 50 or above on the interRAI HC.

Require nursing facility level of care, if assistance is not provided.

What services are offered under this waiver?

Case Management - Everyone who participates in the waiver is assigned to a local case management team. This team consists of a Registered Nurse and licensed Social Worker.

Personal Care Services - These are supportive services provided in the home of the participant. They include assistance with light housekeeping, laundry, meal planning, marketing, and food preparation.

Adult Day Services - This is a structured program that focuses on the strengths and abilities of the participants. This service allows participants to make connections with their community and/or use all of their retained skills. Depending on the specific facility, the following services are provided: supervision and/or assistance with ADLs,

Expanded Home Health Services - The participants of this program are eligible for extended home health services. Covered services include: nurse, aide, physical, and speech therapists.

Home Delivered Meals - A well-balanced meal is delivered to the home of the person who is unable to leave home without assistance and/or unable to prepare own meals.

Institutional Respite and/or In-Home Respite - This is provided to participants on a short-term basis because of the absence of, or need for, relief for the primary caregiver. This can be provided in the home or licensed respite care centers.

Transition Assistance - This is provided to a beneficiary currently residing in a nursing facility who wishes to move from the nursing facility to the E & D Waiver in the home.

The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District serves clients in Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston counties. If you live in a county outside of GTPDD's service area you may contact the Division of Medicaid at 1-800-421-2408.

Apply or Refer Services:

To apply for services or to refer another individual to receive services, call this office at 662-324-7860, extension 1154.

**MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN
OPEN ENROLLMENT
October 15, 2016 – December 7, 2016**

For a FREE evaluation of coverage and enrollment assistance for 2017
Call **662-324-7860, Ext. 1159** for an appointment
or visit the GTPDD office at **106 Miley Drive, Starkville, MS**
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For assistance and enrollment you **MUST BRING** Medicare card and list of prescription medications.
MEDICATION LIST MUST BE SENT TO OFFICE BEFORE APPOINTMENT DAY

**WIOA
...An Outside View**

Were you ever so impressed with an activity, or situation, or group of people, and in trying to share your enthusiasm, you realized you were not doing justice to the source of your warm, fuzzy feelings?

As a GTPDD staff member (but outside the WIOA department), I have observed for years the services for young people that are sponsored primarily by the Workforce program. For simplicity, I will call them “students,” tho’ some are a little older.

I see them coming in, courteous, but a little shy. I see them grow in their comfort level, as they keep coming back, taking classes, taking tests, conferring with counselors, picking up FIRST paychecks! I see some of their struggles, and hear of other struggles that they relate in a matter-of-fact manner. I don’t hear much complaining or whining, as sometimes youngsters are inclined to do.

I hear so many success stories and counselor compliments about the students’ progress. Occasionally, a student will come by the office to see if his/her attire is appropriate for a job interview! What dedication for a 17 year-old!

(For sad-to-glad stories, see **WIOA STUDENTS and STORIES** on next page.)

I envy these counselors, teachers and role models for their young charges, giving breaks to young people who might not have another break for a long time, if ever.

I often wonder, if it were not for this program (now called **WIOA**), what opportunities would these students have? The composition of our counties of service is largely rural, with the attendant limitations of jobs availability. High school curricula are designed for education geared toward background for college study in business, sciences and the arts. There is no time for teaching students how to arm themselves for success in the competition for those few jobs that are available in areas such as: preparing a resume, dressing for interviews, scouting out job possibilities, displaying appropriate behavior via phone and in person for interviews, and handling oneself on the job (following rules of the workplace).

TV, movies, and Facebook do not prepare us for job hunting. It is not inborn. It is not a subject discussed around the dinnertable. It is not discussed in our text messaging to friends. It is not discussed during regular classroom activity. So, who is there to help these kids in something that can affect their entire lives?

Many students come from impoverished homes and others lack the advantage of positive role models. They appear to be trapped and don’t know where to go, what to ask, whom to ask, or even able to dream about what they would like to do in life—everything seems out of reach. Who is going to expose these kids to what it is like to have self-esteem in feeling confident, self-sufficient, and independent, and offer them the tools to accomplish this self-actualization? Who?

Who?

WIOA STUDENTS AND STORIES

DOES WIOA WORK?

---Jody's mom went to prison when he was 14; he lived with relatives who were not happy having him around. He is bright, but he had no one to support and encourage him. Informed of the WIOA program, he enrolled and WIOA enabled him to take charge of his life. With program classes, guidance, and support, he was able to enroll in college.

---Laketa represents many students who are already parents when they discover WIOA, they and their babies bunking at the homes of friends who may not be working either, depending upon food stamps and hopefully a grandmother to help get them through the day, often wondering if there is a tomorrow. They realize that further education may be tough and uncertain, but their present circumstances are definitely tough and definitely uncertain. Without the HAND-UP offered by this program, these young parents could easily be the next generation of the forever homeless.

---Carlton made a bad life choice and was remanded to an alternative school for his senior year. He fulfilled the requirements for graduation, but he had no direction for the future. Skills learned in WIOA, and the positive attention he received, gave him the confidence to pursue an education. Now, guess what? He is holding down a fulltime job and attending evening college classes.

---Dewayne: A bright, smart, high school graduate, BUT choices, choices, choices, and he made an unfortunate choice, becoming entangled in the dark world of drugs for several years. As he said, "I was sitting on a couch, sponging off my family, accepting handouts—this was my norm." He married and fathered a child; life was an ongoing financial struggle. In his search to "grow up and take responsibility" he attended a job fair at which WIOA was recruiting participants. At the conclusion of his coursework, WIOA staff helped to place him in an internship, driving a back hoe. "I never dreamed this would lead me to other places," he stated. He landed a real job operating heavy equipment and has commented "Without the WIOA program, I would still be sitting on the couch!"

---Debbie was a shy, but very bright girl, who kept dropping out of school. Poor decisions, as in selecting friends, ultimately led her to legal problems. When she came to WIOA, she needed direction in her life. WIOA gave it to her, assisting with enrolling her in a high school equivalency program, and providing job training. She was placed in a daycare as her on-the-job portion of the training. She reported, finally not so shyly, that "I love it, and I love the children!" It was reported to her WIOA counselor that the daycare staff was very impressed with Debbie and that the children loved her. Obviously, this experience had shored up her confidence because she said "I'm not scared anymore."

---Darius, a sophomore dropout in special education classes, found himself jailed for home burglary charges. While incarcerated, he was assigned to housekeeping and took care of laundry services for the inmates. He related many months later that this duty made him feel good about himself, and know that he was needed. When he was placed on probation, he heard about the C2C (WIOA) program from a cousin who was enrolled, and this seemed like a good opportunity for him, so he applied. During classes, Darius spoke about "doing everything in my power to become a dependable citizen of my community." With so many barriers to overcome, including limited family support, he feared that he would never get a chance to prove himself. Upon completion of his work ethics class, WIOA found him an internship with a local grocery store. Store manager states "Darius makes a wonderful employee and eagerly reports to work every day." His counselor reports "Every time he comes to the office to pick up his timesheet, excitement is written all over his face." She said he told her he thought he would never see the day when he would be able to find employment and learn skills to better himself. She said "He became emotional when he shared that his family was proud of him." With the wages from his internship, he plans to save enough to pay off his fines, find a place of his own, and continue his education. He wants to right his wrongs and became a productive citizen.

Does WIOA work? You will have to ask Jody, Laketa, Carlton, Dewayne, Debbie, or Darius.

Submitted by a WIOA fan

(NOTE: stories are real, names were changed.)

Steel Dynamics, Inc. moves ahead with construction of new “Paint Shop” addition at the Golden Triangle Industrial Park in Lowndes County

The Lowndes County Board of Supervisors, in partnership with Steel Dynamics, Inc. (SDI), secured funding for providing infrastructure improvements at the Golden Triangle Industrial Park to accommodate the expansion of the SDI presence in Lowndes County. The construction of the “Paint Shop” addition will allow Steel Dynamics to offer another value-added product to its line of steel products. A combination of funding from the State of Mississippi and from several programs administered by the Mississippi Development Authority allowed an

approximate 3.8 million infrastructure project that includes water and sewer improvements, rail access construction, and the required access roads to the new site. SDI is investing approximately \$100,000,000 and will create 40 jobs at the new site.



Siloam Water Association

In an effort to improve the quality of life for the customers of Siloam Water Association, the Clay County Board of Supervisors is completing construction of a 300 gallon per minute water well. Grant funding for this endeavor was provided by a \$426,700 Mississippi Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a \$75,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and \$92,771 provided by Siloam Water Association. Implementation of this project would not have been possible without the financial assistance of these grant funding opportunities.

Application preparation and project administration were provided by GTPDD staff.

**THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.
SENIOR ENRICHMENT CENTER**

JEWELRY, KNITTING, CROCHET & CRAFT GROUPS

INVITE YOU TO

THE 4th ANNUAL SHOW AND SELL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016

10:00 am-6:00 pm

1522 GARDNER BLVD.

COLUMBUS, MS 39702

AMAZING ONE-OF-A-KIND CREATIONS

BRING A FRIEND OR TWO AND GET SOME GREAT GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS, BIRTH-DAYS, SECRET PALS, CO-WORKERS, BOSSES, TEACHERS OR EVEN YOURSELF!!!

**REGISTER FOR DOOR PRIZES!!!
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT CARLA GUYTON
(662) 386-0001 or cguyton@gtpdd.com**

Staff Anniversaries

Staff members that have served at least
5 years at the GTPDD.

JULY

Lucille Booth 08 years
Tammy Castle 16 years
Kim Mills 16 years
Mitzi Phelps 17 years
Regina Rambus 09 years
Shanda Rupert 07 years
Lashanda Stevenson 06 years
Queen Wiley 07 years
Latanya Williams 06 years

AUGUST

Mary Boatman 06 years
Spencer Brooks 13 years
Latasha Carr 06 years
Angel Coggins 12 years
Queen Kidd 14 years
Mitzi Lawrence 16 years
Angela Reed 08 years
Angelia Sansing 10 years
Teresa Shumaker 07 years

SEPTEMBER

Ruthie Colter 14 years
Tim Heard 07 years
Amy Sanford 05 years
Lisa Stallings 16 years
Santreena Triplett 13 years



Jimmy Cole joined the GTPDD Family on March 8, 1994 as Loan Officer. Jimmy has been a wonderful asset to the Loan Program at the GTPDD. He has assisted with creating 1,856 jobs as well as retaining 1,319 jobs within the workforce. In 22 years of service, Jimmy has supervised 166 loans and has administered over \$17,000,000 of loans for local businesses within the GTPDD area.

On August 25th, family and friends joined in celebrating Jimmy's retirement.

Congratulations, Jimmy, on your retirement! May God Bless you and your family!



*Congratulations on
your Retirement*

Jimmy Cole

March 8, 1994—August 31, 2016

GTPDD



WIOA

Continuing to Serve. . .

Thank you for your
Eagerness to teach
And
Care for your young people,
Helping to
Educate them to be
Responsible, respectable people.

Anonymous

Retirement is something that most people look forward to. Anxious to be relieved from the stress and demands of the job, they dream of the carefree days. That is not the case for the Counseling to Career Case Managers. According to these teachers, their genuine love for teaching and students keeps them active in their local communities: teaching, supporting, and guiding young people to become productive citizens and future leaders. Take a minute to learn about the teacher in your area and when you have the opportunity, thank her for giving her time and heart to help your local young people.

Choctaw & Winston

Teresa Shumaker is a graduate of Ackerman High School. She attended Holmes Community College where she received a Child Care Technology Degree. She later attended Wood Community College before transferring to Mississippi State University where she received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Upon attaining her degree she worked six years in Christian-based schools before returning to her alma mater, Ackerman High School. She was certified as Highly Qualified Teacher in all core subjects and was designated as the Intervention Coordinator to work collaboratively with the administrator to create and lead an Intervention Team to help all struggling students succeed in their education. Teresa shared, "During my twenty-five years I taught a variety of subjects which left me with an understanding of needs of a wide range of students."

Teresa is actively involved in Chester Baptist Church and for the past twenty-nine years has sung with the Southern Gospel Group, The Spokesmen. For leisure activity she enjoys spending time with her family and riding the motorcycle with her husband Bill. Teresa and Bill have two daughters, Jamie McHan and Hannah Reeves

Birchfield, and four grandchildren.

After leaving the school system, she began her employment with the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District as a Counseling to Career (C2C) Case Manager. She said that this new opportunity allows her to work individually with youth who need a helping hand to enter the workforce or to continue their education. Teresa's message to potential applicants is, "Does this program work? Definitely! There is an application and interview process to see if you qualify and are a match for program services. I can guarantee if you follow through with everything you are taught, you will find success in the employment world and for some of you, get that second chance for which you have been striving. This is an opportunity for you to grow and begin living your dreams. I encourage you to join us in helping your dreams become a reality."



Oktibbeha & Webster

Monica Cummings is an honor graduate from Eupora High School. She received her Bachelor's degree from The University of Mississippi and Master's from Mississippi State University in school counseling. After earning her degree, she returned to her alma mater where she taught social studies on the secondary level. In 2002, she accepted the counselor position at Eupora High School. In her position as social studies teacher, she earned national board certification and also earned national board certification as a school counselor. She was the counselor at Eupora until she retired in 2015. In addition to her school career, Monica also works with the Mississippi Alcohol Safety Educational Program. She has been a facilitator through the MASEP program for ten years.

Monica has also owned and operated a business with her husband, Pat Cummings. They co-owned Walthall Quick Stop for many years. Monica and Pat have two children, Patrick Scott Cummings, Jr. and Wesleigh Cummings.

Since Monica has been in the helping profession her entire life, she says she saw the Counseling to Career

opening as a brand new and exciting opportunity. She states, "What better way to influence young people and the community by helping to mold young workers and easing them into the workforce while encouraging them to continue their education journey? Getting to know these young adults and finding out where their interests lie is challenging and rewarding." Several of the young people who have gone through the Counseling to Career Program have found their first success job! Monica says, "I love being a part of that."



Thanks, counselors, for the positive impact you have on young lives in this community!

CAN I BECOME A PARTICIPANT IN THE COUNSELING TO CAREER PROGRAM?

Yes, if you.....

Meet program requirements:

- ◆ 16—24 years of age
- ◆ Out-of-school
- ◆ Seeking employment, continued education or military enlistment
- ◆ Reside in Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster or Winston counties

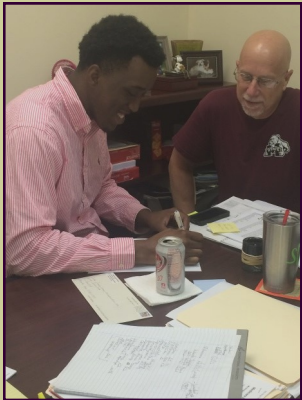
Call 662-324-7860: Choctaw & Winston, ext. 1125: Oktibbeha & Webster, ext. 1115 to see if the C2C program meets your personal needs.

Request an application and get YOUR success story started.

Golden Triangle
Planning & Development District
P. O. Box 828
106 Miley Drive
Starkville, MS 39760

Phone: 662-324-7860
Fax: 662-324-7328
E-mail: gtpdd.com

**We're on the
Web:
www.gtpdd.com**



Interested in having a
FREE WILL written?

North MS Rural Services
teams with the GTPDD to
help older adults prepare
wills. If you are interested
in this service, call Bobby
Gann at 662-320-2001,
ext. 1104.

Coffee with a Cop

Golden Triangle PDD Staff hosted "Coffee with a Cop" on August 25th. Police officers from the City of Starkville and MSU attended as well as GTPDD Staff and local citizens. This occasion brought police officers and the community members they serve together-over coffee-to discuss issues and learn more about one another. This event provides feedback to help law officers in serving their local community.



Post office Box 828
Starkville, MS 39760

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