



**Child Welfare &
Supportive Housing**
RESOURCE CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION – Friday, May 6

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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Invitation-Only Event

Memphis Strong Families Updates Community Leaders on Progress
To Share Success of Keeping Parents & Children Together in Stable, Safe Homes

MEMPHIS, Tennessee – This coming Tuesday, civic leaders, providers and advocates will gather in Memphis to chart the progress of families unified and reunified through stable housing and services designed to address the challenges that can lead to children being placed into foster care because their parents are homeless or otherwise unstably housed. Homelessness in Memphis is too often a pathway to foster care. More than 22% of all substantiated maltreatment cases cite unstable housing as the primary concern and data shows 25% of the children receiving emergency housing assistance are at high and very high risk of child maltreatment. The Tennessee Department of Children’s Services routinely struggles to find families affordable housing, which could enable parents to reunify with their children or prevent family dissolution. The Memphis Strong Families Initiative (MSFI) is a comprehensive response to these circumstances. Through a public-private initiative overseen by federal agencies, MSFI is connecting up to 100 of our most vulnerable families to permanent, stable, affordable housing coupled with intensive wraparound services. Families build a home together in 69 apartment and duplex housing units managed by Promise Development Corporation. Service delivery is guided by evidence-based models that specifically address trauma experienced by the adults and children, and other barriers impeding family stability and self-sufficiency. *Come see and hear how families are healing and moving forward together,*

WHAT: Memphis Families Strong Initiative Community Symposium

WHO (Main Speakers):

- Cheré Bradshaw, Executive Director, Community Alliance for the Homeless, Memphis
- Kevin Solarte, Special Assistant, Homeless Policy, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
- Sherri Hale, Deputy Commissioner for Child Programs, Tennessee Department of Children’s Services (DCS)
- The Honorable Mark H. Luttrell Jr., Mayor of Shelby County
- Merlene Hyman, DCS Regional Administrator for Shelby County
- Cornelius Sanders, Executive Director of Promise Development Corporation
- Judith Meltzer, Deputy Director, Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)
- Deborah De Santis, President & CEO of CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing)

WHEN: Tuesday, May 10am – 3pm (Invitation-Only Event)

WHERE: Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 North Second Street, Memphis ([Directions](#))

Press credentials required and can be obtained by emailing robert.friant@csh.org