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FROM YOUR  
**VENDOR**

# A Family Ignored



Courtesy of NEW YORK CITY RESCUE MISSION

**MAKE THEM VISIBLE:** A screen shot from the video shows a woman ignoring her family, who are disguised as homeless individuals.

**BY KAT MILLIS**  
Staff Writer

The Huffington Post, a popular online news aggregator, recently explored a study done by the non-profit organization New York City Rescue Mission. The study revealed that the average individual would not recognize a family member or loved one in passing if they were dressed as a homeless person on the streets. This phenomenon is shown in a video advertisement where family members of New York residences were disguised as homeless people sitting on the side of the street. Their mother, brother or wife would then walk by. Not a single participant in the study recognized their loved ones. These shocking results were quite sobering for both the individuals who failed to recognize their family members and friends for the faux-homeless people.

According to psychological research, there are two ways that humans think. We have both a controlled and an automatic thought process. Controlled thinking is deliberate, intentional thinking. We can choose which ice cream flavor we want to buy at the grocery store or what college to attend. However, we also have an automatic thought process, which occurs unconsciously and involuntarily, but it is still a vital component in many of our everyday decisions. We use automatic thinking when we meet someone new for the

first time and form an initial first impression. The novel *Blink*, by Malcolm Gladwell, analyzes the human unconscious and how we come to make decisions in the “blink” of an eye. Gladwell hypothesizes that we become very good at making accurate assumptions about other people because, from an early age, we start communicating with people and learn to make accurate judgments about others around us. However, practice does not always make perfect. When we see someone sitting on the side of the street, we make dozens of automatic assumptions. In the New York study, the family members walking along the street most likely made the assumptions that the people they saw were indeed homeless, someone they did not know, and definitely not someone they were related to. Therefore, this compulsory thought process led them to walk by their family members without recognizing them.

A major part of our automatic thought processes is the formation of schemas, or mental structures, which we use to organize our knowledge about the world around us. They help us understand new situations by relating to our past experiences. This way of thinking goes hand-in-hand with stereotypes and forming assumptions about people, places, and social roles. For example, if we see some-

one sitting on the side of the road wearing muddy clothes and looking a bit disheveled, we often assume they are homeless because, in past experiences, most people who fit this schema were indeed homeless. However, this way of thinking forces us to exclude important information that may be right in front of us so that we maintain our pre-existing beliefs. Our automatic thought process is prone to pitfalls and it is our responsibility to try and recognize them. However, making accurate inferences about people can become increasingly difficult when we have pre-existing stereotypes ingrained in our brains.

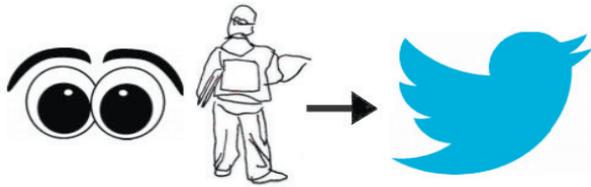
For years, the homeless community has been victim to extreme stereotyping. Many people hold assumptions that homeless people are often dangerous because they are mentally ill, using drugs and alcohol, or are criminals. Many people perceive African Americans as being more dangerous or more prone to violence. However, many of the stereotypes linked with homeless individuals are false. If we stereotype homeless people as being dangerous, we might end up avoiding eye contact in an unfound fear confrontation. This is one reason the participants in the study did not recognize their relatives and friends as they walked past.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Do you want to be featured in the paper? Tweet a picture with a vendor!

If you see a *The Bridge* vendor around Memphis, take a location-tagged picture of them and tweet it to us @thebridgepaper

We'll print your submission in the next issue of *The Bridge*!



Courtesy of **HOLLY WHITFIELD**/ILoveMemphis Blog

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## Editorial Policy

*The Bridge* is a monthly publication dedicated to issues of homelessness in Memphis, TN. It is run by volunteers and is unaffiliated with any religious or political organization.

All articles in *The Bridge* are approved by the Editor-in-Chief and directors. However, specially-labeled pieces from outside groups or contributing writers may appear and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Bridge* editors and staff nor do they constitute an endorsement.

*The Bridge* welcomes feedback from all members of the Memphis community. Letters to the editor should be sent to [editor@thememphisbridge.com](mailto:editor@thememphisbridge.com) and may be copy-edited for clarity.

## Want to know more?

*The Bridge* is a publication by the Memphis Street Newspaper Organization. The Memphis Street Newspaper Organization is a non-profit and exists purely to provide reliable income for those with experiences of homelessness and also to raise awareness about issues of homelessness in the larger community.

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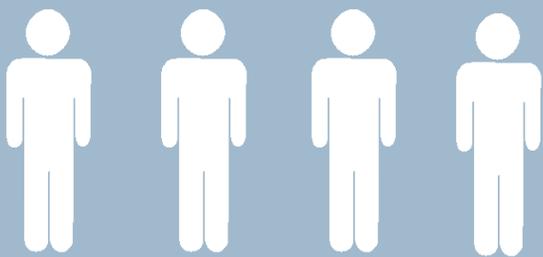
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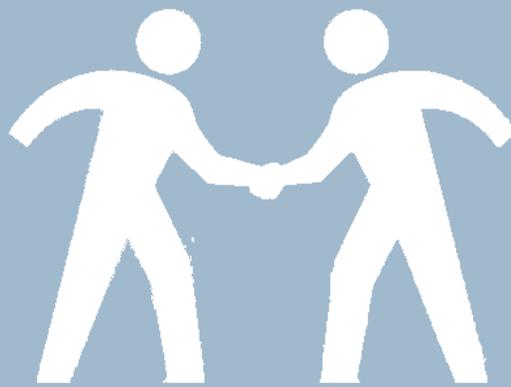
## HOW IT WORKS: VENDOR TRAINING



People who have had an  
**EXPERIENCE WITH  
HOMELESSNESS**



Each vendor  
then receives a  
**BADGE &  
20 FREE**  
papers



After a brief interview,  
they learn skills needed to  
**SELL THE BRIDGE**

Papers can be sold at  
local events and on  
**THE STREETS \$1**  
FOR ONLY

*Additional papers are purchased for \$0.25 apiece.  
Vendors that spend certain amounts on papers receive incentives such as  
messenger bags and all-day bus passes.*

# Vendor Spotlight: Isaac Bryant

BY MADDY McGRADY

Staff Writer

Meet Isaac Bryant, one of our new vendors and author of “Flashes in the Night Sky” (page 7). Read Isaac’s musings on Memphis, homelessness, literature, and more:

**What is your name?**

Isaac Bryant.

**How long have you been homeless?**

Off and on for about 10 years.

**Where did you grow up?**

We lived in Whitehaven. I went to Hillcrest High School.

**What was it like growing up in a big family?**

I have three brothers and four sisters. I was the sixth child. When it was dinnertime, it was dinnertime. It was ok; it helped me maybe interact with other people. I’ve got a friend who was an only child and he was introverted. But being from a big family, it was easy to go out and talk and meet with other people.

**When did you first move out of Memphis?**

When I turned 18, I went to Chattanooga and then I went to Atlanta.

**What’s your process for moving?**

I would leave here to go to Knoxville and I’d work for six, seven months and I’d have money saved up. And then I’d go on the Internet — when the internet got big enough — and find somewhere where they were hiring in another city. Then I’d take time off of work and go down there and fill out an application. When they’d called me for an interview, I’d go back and if I got the job, I’d leave that city and go to the next city. I’d do that whether it was Miami, Florida, or Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or Jackson, Mississippi; wherever.

**Which is your favorite city?**

My favorite place to stay was Atlanta, Georgia. It’s like a small New York. But there are not as many people in Atlanta as in New York. There’s always something going on, but without the millions and millions of people crushing down on you. You can breathe. But Memphis was always the best place to come back to. Because there’s no place like Memphis. They asked Elvis Presley one time what he missed about Memphis and he said, “Everything.” I feel the same way—everything.

**And you worked in the restaurant business?**

Yes, mostly. Most of the last, probably, fifteen years I’ve

worked, I’ve worked in the restaurant business. But before that I did a bunch of forklift operating work and construction. I sold computers one time for a couple of years. Just a lot of stuff.

**And now you have arthritis in your right hip?**

Yes, I need a hip replacement.



**How has that had an impact on your life?**

I can’t work. Because in 1994, this hand—my right hand—was cut off at work. And then with [my hip], I can’t even reach down to put my shoe on. It would take me three minutes just to take this shoe off and put it back on. And I can’t lift anything anymore because my hip is worn out. I can’t stand up for a long time or sit down for a long time. It’s just been a burden.

**With your hip injury, are you still able to sell *The Bridge*?**

Yes, because I’ll go somewhere and I’ll sit down—like at a bus stop somewhere—or I’ll go somewhere where there’s a

lot of people and I’ll walk around for awhile and talk. Then I’ll sit down sometimes and people will talk. I’ve had no problem selling *The Bridge*.

**How did you first learn about *The Bridge*?**

I read an article in the newspaper — I can’t remember if it was *The Commercial Appeal* or *The Flyer*.

**What first interested you about *The Bridge*?**

It has stories about people who were homeless or their experiences on the street or poems. But there were no short stories. And I came here wanting to expand it.

**Can you tell us a little bit about your short story published in this issue?**

It’s called “Flashes in the Night Sky.” Something happens here in Memphis — they don’t know if it’s a meteor or a spaceship or whatever — but something happens in Memphis. They are trying to figure out what’s going on. The guy that’s the main character in the story wants to get out of the city of Memphis before anything happens because of his past with the government. He wants to leave but he’s trapped because the National Guard comes in and cuts the city off. It’s sci-fi, comedy, drama — it’s a mix. It’s not one anything. Once you read it, you will see. It’s going to come out in June, and will be in eight issues.

**Have you been writing your whole life?**

Yes, I started out writing poems when I was a kid. As I got older, I started spreading out. But this is the first time I will be published.

**What’s your favorite book?**

My favorite book is *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It’s my favorite book because it deals with a lot of issues and they’re told through the eyes of a little child. I was 12 or 13 the first time I read it and it has always stuck with me. I’ve read it once a year since I was twelve or thirteen and I’ll be forty five in May.

**Who is your greatest influence?**

There are a lot of people, but I’d have to say my mom.

**Any words of advice for someone also experiencing homelessness?**

Stay positive. And mind your own business. And just because you’re homeless, doesn’t mean that you’re heartless. There’s nothing wrong with helping somebody, but it’s always best to stay out of trouble and to mind your own business.

## Letter from the Editor A tribute to Chloe Bryan

BY NICOLE HUGULEY

Editor-in-Chief

When Chloe Bryan, *The Bridge*’s supremely dedicated Editor-in-Chief of the 2013-2014 school year first asked me to take her place on the Executive Board, we weren’t sitting in a dimly-lit restaurant or at a hardwood conference table. We weren’t wearing two-piece business suits, and we hadn’t planned a formal meeting time. In fact, it was about 8 p.m., and we had just been released from a weekly sorority meeting.

And as many *The Bridge* staffers have previously noted, that’s how a student-run non-profit tends to operate.

We’re all overcommitted, driven students. We juggle classes and career plans, extracurriculars and social

events, and are generally desperate for just a few hours of peace. I’ve been writing for *The Bridge* since August 2013, and I continue to be blown away by the sheer amount of passion and energy that drives each Bridge volunteer, sheltered or unsheltered, to produce and sell a monthly newspaper full of dynamic stories, articles, art, and poetry. It’s a collaborative effort, to be sure, but I can vouch for one person whose tireless efforts made the difference between a sloppy, thrown-together issue and a neatly organized, professional newspaper.

Despite taking on what most newspapers divide into several individual jobs, Chloe always kept a calm countenance as she steadily churned out writer’s

prompts, edited all content, and tied up loose ends involving photography, interviews, homeless writing, and more. Her ability to balance her own work and the questions or concerns of her writing staff was the glue that held all content together.

Though she has recently graduated from Rhodes, Chloe’s legacy lives on in both the publications she has crafted and in the hearts of each volunteer, vendor, and supporter with whom she worked. To an inspirational leader, mentor, and friend: we will miss you dearly. I am so honored to take over the role of Editor-in-Chief, and am thrilled to continue pushing *The Bridge* toward new heights in its second year of publication.

## A Family Ignored cont.

*Continued from Page 1*

One of the most prevalent beliefs about homeless people is that they suffer from mental illness. Many people from low-income families who have mental health problems do not have the financial support available for health care and are pushed out on the streets by their family. However, there is a major misconception that people suffering from mental illness are violent. Historically, deinstitutionalization laws have pushed people suffering from mental disorders back into society and often into homelessness, which has increased their interactions with law enforcement. This has consequently increased opportunities for the mentally ill to fall victim to stereotypes held by the police, thus, the media coverage of such reports increases as well. Seeing these news reports about individuals with mental illness leads us to believe that most people with psychological problems are violent. However, individuals suffering from mental disorders only account for fourteen percent of all violent crimes (Angermeyer & Schulze, 2001). In fact, only a few psychological disorders, such as schizophrenia, show an increase in violent behavior.

Another common stereotype is that homeless people are alcoholics or drug users. Although many people suffering from homelessness have suffered from or are dealing with substance abuse, these problems are classified as a mental disorder and should not affect the way we treat them as individuals. An equally

prevalent, but false belief, is that homeless people are criminals. Many homeless individuals who have been arrested have only committed status crimes. These include activities such as loitering, trespassing and sleeping or residing in public spaces, none of which cause direct or intentional harm to anyone. Many of these stereotypes are exaggerated and emphasized by media reports and through Hollywood films. It is not necessarily our fault that we buy into them so easily; however, it is our fault if we act on these preconceived notions.

Although you may be aware of certain stereotypes that you acknowledge, almost all of us hold unconscious prejudices. Unconscious or implicit stereotypes can have just as much of an impact on the decisions we make towards people we encounter every day, such as members of the Memphis homeless community. A well-known example of this concept is the Amadou Diallo case, which demonstrated how implicit prejudices are activated and the horrible repercussions they may create. Diallo was shot 41 times by four New York City police officers that saw him as a threat when he reached for his wallet, which the police misinterpreted to be a gun. Many people suspect the police officers responded more rapidly because of his race, and they associated the African American man with danger. Obviously, not all implicit actions toward people of other races or socio-economic status are as severe. However, if a person shows high levels of implicit prejudice, they are more likely to spend less time looking

at them because eye contact is a measure of positive regard. If the participants in the New York City Rescue Mission study had implicit prejudice against homeless people, they most likely did not look at them long enough to recognize them as a family member.

The most commonly-used model of stereotyping in the world of psychology suggests that, when we interact with people of another race or social class, automatic processing takes over and a stereotype is involuntarily activated. If we discriminate against individuals, we cannot blame these actions on automatic, involuntary thinking; discrimination is part of our controlled, deliberate thought process and we are responsible for it. If the family members of the “homeless” people had not let their stereotypes about homeless individuals lead their actions, they may have paid more attention to the people they passed by on the streets and been more likely to recognize them.

Studies have shown that our ability to override our unconscious stereotyping decreases drastically when we find ourselves in busy distracting situations, such as walking down a busy street in New York City. This is something we should all be aware of; we cannot afford to let our unconscious take over next time we are walking down a busy street in Midtown and encounter a homeless person. We can all start practicing ways to consciously curb our behavior and increase our sensitivity toward the Memphis homeless community.

## Hard Working Man

BY VEYSHON HALL

*Contributing Writer*

My face is plastered to the window, my eyes opened wide. I see him, he's coming, I yell! I race to the door as it opens. I jump in his arms as he spins me around. I laugh and giggle as my face brushes his rough beard. I snuggle into his neck and smell that day's dirt all over him. He's stinky, sweaty and such a mess. He puts me down and I feel his dry, cracked hands as he rubs my face. I stand, absorbed in the joy of being daddy's little girl.

Hello daddy, even though I have never met you, I still hope for the day when I can be daddy's little girl. To all the hardworking, dusty, sweaty daddies, Happy Father's Day.

## Thank You!

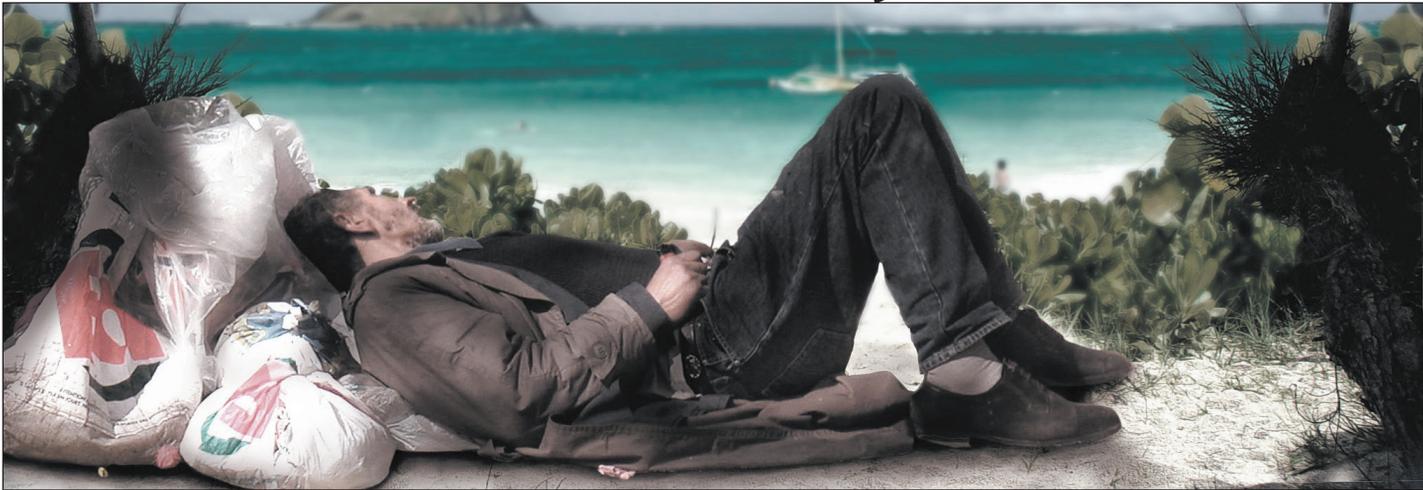


# Rhodes College

—1848—

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# “This is not a lifestyle choice.”



**LIFE IS NO BEACH:** Debunking the myth of the causes of lifetime homelessness

Courtesy of **DAVID BLACKWELL**

**BY NICOLE HUGULEY**

*Editor-in-Chief*

As if the struggles of locating proper shelter, staying healthy, and finding reliable sources of food aren't enough of a challenge for the homeless, men and women on the streets will inevitably find themselves engaging with yet another major obstacle: negative stereotyping. Numerous misconceptions surround the topic of homelessness; the average American often assumes that the homeless are lazy, greedy, mindless, dangerous, prone to alcoholism and drug abuse, heavily medicated, or a dismal combination of all of these traits. Another illusion held by those unfamiliar with the plight of homelessness is that homelessness is a lifestyle, and in some cases, a lifestyle choice. This particular stereotype has disturbing effects on the way that the sheltered interact with the homeless.

Here's an example: a person sees a homeless man sleeping with his dog under a blanket on a street corner. The man holds out his hand and asks for spare change. The sheltered person assumes that this man has been living in this desperate way for many years. Based on that assumption, the sheltered person is significantly less inclined to offer help or some form of donation, and may refuse to acknowledge the homeless man entirely. The sheltered person believes that he cannot possibly give enough money or bus tickets to eliminate years of this homeless man's debt accumulation, declining mental and physical health, and alienation from friends and family. In the face of such dire circumstances, the sheltered person goes on his way. If that sheltered individual had known the truth about the duration of homelessness, he or she would have perhaps responded more positively. Homelessness is not a lifestyle choice. The little donations one can give to those on the street do indeed have the potential to make a difference.

In reality, the time a homeless person spends on the streets is, on average, about six to eight months. The TKOH Foundation found the average lengths of time people remained homeless in various cities: 10 months in Boston, Charlotte and Trenton, 9 months in Charleston and Denver, 7 months in Chicago and Kansas City, 5 months in Portland, 2 months in Salt Lake City, and one month in St. Paul. The result of a study that focused solely on the homeless in New York City demonstrated similar results. According to the study, the median duration of homelessness was 190 days.

However, the duration of homelessness can vary greatly. Interestingly, many researchers remark that the vast majority of people who experience homelessness are without food or shelter for a few days, maybe a week or two. This short-term homelessness usually occurs when a person is moving from one apart-

ment to another, evicted by the landlord, or kicked out of a living space by an ex-partner. Yet these are the “unseen” homeless – those lucky individuals who can avoid begging for money at traffic intersections or seeking shelter at a public facility. This category of the homeless remain uncoun- ted by surveys that determine the average length of homelessness.

Thus, there remains several types of homeless individuals that can be divided into categories based on the duration of time they spend on the street. 60 to 80 percent of the homeless are considered “temporarily homeless,” which means that the majority of the “visible” homeless gain access to permanent shelter in under a year. This group can include any demographic or age. Some of these temporarily homeless individuals may also be chronically homeless, meaning that they bounce from sheltered to unsheltered as they struggle to make ends meet. Still, the average duration of homelessness for this category remains at six to eight months.

A very small percentage of homeless individuals can be categorized within “long-term” homelessness. Again, although this category is so small, passersby tend to think that most of the homeless have been living on the streets for a year or more, or that they have no real determination to regain adequate housing. Now that we have established that not all homeless people are the same, we can further investigate what keeps people on the streets, and how that duration of time varies among different age groups, sexes, and races. A national survey conducted and compiled by Sam Allgood and Ronald S. Warren, Jr. from the Department of Economics at University of Nebraska and the University of Georgia respectively, reveals some fascinating data that illuminates the complexity of the varying durations of homelessness.

The study aims to analyze the determinants of the length of a homeless spell using a large-scale, comprehensive, microeconomic data set. This data set is national in scope, and contains extremely detailed information on the socioeconomic, demographic, and behavioral characteristics of almost 3,000 individuals whose most recent episode of homelessness occurred either in a shelter or on the street and was either on-going or complete at the time of the survey.

Allgood and Warren came to several conclusions. First, their results confirm that white men are at risk of remaining homeless for a longer duration than their non-white, female counterparts, and this risk increases with age. This statistic breaks apart another racist stereotype that assumes that middle-aged black, latino, or other non-white homeless individuals are destined to spend an above-average amount of time on the streets. Second, they found that individuals who have recently lost a job are more likely to experience an increased

duration of homelessness. In fact, having been asked to leave the last residence, or having the residence condemned or sold, actually decreases the length of a homeless period.

Results of the study also indicate that a history of mental health problems or having received government benefits in the past decreases the average duration of homelessness. On the other hand, homeless spells are longer, on average, for those with a history of both drug and alcohol abuse, but their length is unaffected by the presence of only an alcohol problem or only a history of drug abuse.

This study, among others, uncovers a previously ignored facet of the problem of homelessness in this country: that certain demographics, age groups, and sexes are especially at risk for long-term homelessness. Therefore, it is clear that prevention efforts, such as assisting those at a high risk of long-term homelessness to retain existing housing or to obtain more stable housing, must be a part of a comprehensive strategy to avoid chronic homelessness.

Advocate and non-profit programs throughout the country are shifting their focus to address this problem. The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing program in Arlington, VA began in October 2009, and part of their mission involves quickly re-housing the homeless as to reduce exposure to risk factors such as deteriorating health. This effort decreases their chances of becoming chronically homeless. The National Alliance to End Homelessness promotes a “Housing First” approach that they state “is critical to ending homelessness.” Housing First approaches address immediate barriers to housing so that homeless people can move into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Providers are encouraged to serve people who have the most barriers to permanent housing and are most likely to be homeless for the longest period of time.

By limiting the duration of homelessness, communities can reduce the negative impacts of living on the streets. Likewise, by helping the homeless return to permanent housing as quickly as possible, the community shelters may open more beds for those who need them while minimizing the public and personal costs of homelessness. Equally as important are the measures taken to prevent chronic homelessness. Targeted prevention policies can utilize the data available from national surveys to connect people who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Spreading awareness of the complexity of the state of homelessness can only improve the general public's opinion of those living on the streets, which will in turn improve the homeless' chances of returning to a stable sheltered lifestyle.

## Memphis Farmers Market Offers Food and Fun



LAURA BONDS/Staff Photographer

**BY LAURA BONDS**  
Staff Writer

As the seasons change and flowers bloom, Memphians welcome the return of farmers markets all over the city. There are eight farmers markets in the Shelby County area, and while some are larger than others, each market strives to provide the Memphis community with fresh, local produce in an environment that helps sustain local producers and businesses. At these farmers markets, one can find fruits and vegetables, artwork and jewelry, pet adoptions, live entertainment, and much more.

The biggest farmers market in Memphis is the Memphis Farmers Market. This market operates between 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from April to October and can be found in downtown Memphis on S. Front Street. The Memphis Farmers Market is a non-profit organization that is funded by donations, fund-raising, grants, and vendor fees. There are fifty-five vendors who supply an extremely large and varied supply of products that include dairy, meat, fruits, vegetables, desserts, crafts, and other goods. The variety of products allows buyers to try new, organic, homegrown, and unique foods.

The goals of Memphis Farmers Market are to give back to the Memphis community through the distribution of local products. By purchasing fresh produce, consumers support small farmers in the Memphis area while simultaneously benefiting themselves from the healthy and delicious options of fresh foods that come straight from the gardens of caring and loyal producers. It is more sustainable to eat food that is locally grown; not only do consumers save on food

costs because of the lack of shipping, but resources are conserved. In addition, local food is delivered to the buyer at its freshest, most nutritious condition, unlike foods that are shipped from distant sources that withstand the wear and tear of transportation. Further, consumers have the opportunity to visit with the farmers who produce their food at local farmers markets, and as a result have the opportunity to learn and understand how the products that they purchase and eat are grown.

Not only is a healthy lifestyle a benefit of farmers markets, but they bring additional traffic to surrounding businesses and areas. The enriching communal atmosphere and promotion of a better Memphis community are added bonuses to all the other wonderful things that come from Memphis Farmers Market and other farmers markets in the Memphis area.

By having a variety of activities for guests, Memphis Farmers Market is greatly involved in the community. It strives to unite the Shelby County population by allowing people to gather in a common place and enjoy special entertainment groups and activities. Every week, a special live-entertainment group comes to visit

Memphis Farmers Market. Other activities include local bands, book readings, on-site chefs, artists, and children's entertainers. The Memphis Farmers Market is constantly seeking new entertainment groups and looks for fun, quirky ways to bring many people from all areas of Memphis together. Not only are there special events held for people, but the Streetdog Foundation, a local organization dedicated to helping the homeless animal population in the Memphis community, is on site with dogs for patrons to play with and take home. Those seeking a new pet can adopt a furry friend or provide a temporary foster home for a homeless animal.

Only through the support of Shelby County, however, will farmers markets such as Memphis Farmers Market flourish. Because this is such a large operation, volunteers are needed for multiple jobs in order to keep it running smoothly. People can help by volunteering on committees, helping fundraise or by spending time on Saturdays working at on-site venues. Volunteer opportunities are always available. To learn more, visit each farmers market's website.



Courtesy of MEMPHIS FARMERS MARKET

## Going Back to School

**BY PONYTAIL BOB**  
Contributing Writer

Greetings Friends! Who says you can't teach an Old Dog? I'm here to tell you that if an "Old Dog," such as myself, has the desire and passion, there is nothing that you want to achieve or learn that is out of reach.

Folks, Ponytail Bob is going back to school! Yes, you heard right. I admit there are things that even after all these years, I still do not know. As a matter of fact, something I have come to understand is "the more I learn, the more I realize how little I know." Also the more I see, the more I realize how little I've seen.

Weren't we supposed to know these things at a much younger age?

As we move through this world, sometimes this thing called Life gets in the way. A formal education (college, etc.) gets pushed aside while we deal with times and situations that are all a part of growing. (Family, relationships, war, medical problems, etc.).

All of these things can play a part in not completing things that we start in the time frame that others do.

Well, finishing my college degree is something that I have put off long enough. My life lessons have given me a thirst for knowledge that has not wavered through the years. So guess what! Ponytail Bob is a College Student again!

The Lord has allowed me to live through so many violent, traumatic, and extreme situations. I now intend to take advantage of the fact that I am still with you today. I plan to complete my formal education. I plan to share this journey with you and hopefully inspire others to take that first step out of your comfort zone, and explore new possibilities, even at our later stages of life.

I will keep you informed of my progress as time goes along. I also intend to keep a journal of my travels through this land of higher education for those of you

that may be sitting on the fence of indecision—I will try to create an "Old School" GPS navigation system. Ha!

People of my generation will understand as I hopefully design a "New Compass" and a "Rand McNalley Style Map" to follow. I will try and leave visible markers along the way!

As Jimmy Buffett would say, "Let's try and keep it between the navigational beacons."

Although I will continue to work with and visit the many Rhodes Lynx Cats in my life, I will now do so as a Bengal Tiger.

Look out U of M, here comes Ponytail Bob! Here's hoping both the U of M and myself survive!

May God Help us All!

Keep Smiling!

# From Boston to Memphis

## The foundation and spread of the Boys & Girls Club

BY ALEX BOSS

Staff Writer

Driving down Union Avenue in Midtown, it's difficult to miss many familiar stores and restaurants: Walgreens, Starbucks and Chick-fil-A, among others. But down a side street next to Chick-fil-A, you may also notice a medium-sized brick building: the administrative offices of the non-profit Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis (BGCM). The BGCM focuses on creating opportunities for children through different after-school education programs like Character & Leadership Development, Education & Career Development and more. BGCM's successful emphasis on preparation for the future is demonstrated through the statistics on their website, which state that their programs have helped reduce drug involvement by 22 percent, teen pregnancies by 50 percent, and school absences by 87 percent. Clearly, BGCM is making a difference — but how did it become what it is today?

As a national organization, the Boys & Girls Club started over a hundred years ago in the Boston area. Originally a boys' educational group, it became one of the first after-school programs in the country. In Memphis, the beginnings of the organization came about thanks to the 3020 Club, started by Buddy Thompson. Later becoming the Phoenix Club, the group consisted of young men

just starting in the entrepreneurship business who were looking for non-profit organizations with which to get involved. In 1962, entrepreneurs from the Phoenix Club helped the Boys Club of America obtain its first property in Memphis off Bristol Street, taking the place of an old, run-down police station. In 1996, the club became known officially nationwide as the Boys & Girls Club. Now in its fifty-second year, BGCM has grown extensively throughout its history to become what it is today.

As a non-profit organization, there is a lot of multitasking to be done in BGCM. On top of this all is Charles Griffin, Vice-President of Operations. In this position, Griffin oversees all six of Memphis's club sites, the Technical Training Center, the resident camp during the summer months and Redefine Programming. The technical training center trains 16 to 21-year-olds and "gives them the tools to be successful in life," according to Griffin. The resident camp offered in the summer months is held in Mississippi and allows the kids to get more involved and get out of "the concrete jungle" of Memphis and experience more of the outdoors. Redefine Programming oversees the process of admitting volunteers and background checks.

When asked how he became involved with the BGCM, Griffin responded, "Once I graduated from school, I needed to volunteer at different organizations, and the Boys & Girls Club happened to be next door." Although he may have stumbled into BGCM,

after staying longer and getting more involved with the club, Griffin eventually gained his current position. Reflecting on the importance of working with BGCM, Griffin says, "Working with the children, you can see the impact you can make, which is very rewarding. If I had to go back I wouldn't change a thing."

As for the future goals of BGCM, Griffin says that redefining the programming is the most important task at the moment. Other goals are maximizing the space available, increasing transportation to the different sites, bringing in more children and becoming technologically savvy. Griffin says the BGCM must be in tune with what the young people need. "Everything now is a teachable moment, and we need to prepare ourselves for a paperless society," states Griffin.

The best way to become involved with BGCM is to volunteer. By going to the website or calling a specific site, anyone can fill out a volunteer form, which is followed-up with a drug screen and background check. In terms of what the club wants in volunteers, Griffin states, "We want volunteers at the BGCM to be flexible, but we want the volunteers to really want to work with the children. The more engaged you are, the better you are at accomplishing what you want with the children." With the help of volunteers like this and generous support from those in the community, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis has found much success in the past and will surely find more in the future.

## Fiction: *A Flash of Light in the Night Sky*

BY ISAAC BRYANT

Contributing Writer

9:50 p.m.

The first time it happened, I thought it was a flash of lightning. When it happened again, I thought maybe a transformer in the distance had exploded. After the third flash, I pulled out my iPhone to snap a picture. My iPhone was dead. Funny, last time I used it the charge was at 92%.

I turned around on my balcony to go back into my condo (pitch black). Nothing was on. I looked down thirty-one stories from the building where I live. I saw that all of east Memphis, as far west as I could see, was black.

I walked through my condo and out the front door. I was almost blinded by Ms. Green's 1000-watt flashlight. She was rotating the light from left to right. I could see flashes of my neighbors on either side of me. They were all asking the same question I was thinking, "How in the hell is the Clark Tower, the place to live, out of power?"

I went back into my condo, into the kitchen, to open the emergency drawer. I got my Maglite out and turned it on. I then went to get my house phone, with no such luck, Comcast internet, Wi-Fi, and phone lines were not working.

I put the beam of light on my wall clock and saw the hand stopped at 9:50 p.m. I looked at my trusty old Fossil wristwatch and it mirrored the clock on the wall. Not possible, my nephew put a new battery in my wristwatch almost three weeks ago.

That is when I felt the cold shiver run the length of my body, and said aloud, "OH FUDGE!" I had read enough sci-fi novels, and saw every episode of Warehouse 13, and watched enough X-Files back in the day to know, when all the electrical appliances, mobile devices, and battery operated watches stop, there can only be one thing that is responsible... electromagnetic pulse (EMP).

I ran back through the living room, down the hall to my office/library. Opened the closet, and thanked God my mom was a survival enthusiast. On the top shelf sat the battery powered broadband radio she had bought me twenty-five years ago, when I rented my first roach-infested efficiency. I took it down and switched it on but got nothing but static, yet the backlight was strong. Again, thank you, God. Now I could find out what was going on. I wish I would have gotten a ham radio like mom advised, but hey, it's the 21st century. At least I could hear what was going on, only if somebody out there was

talking.

10:08 p.m.

BAM! BAM! BAM! "Who the hell is banging on my front door?" I put the radio gently on my desk and ran down the hall. Just before I touched the doorknob, BAM! BAM! Before the third BAM! I snatched the door open only to shine my Maglite into the face of Jonathon Winstone. Formally, Jonathon Wienstein. He tried everything he could to shed himself of his Jewish ancestry. Forgetting how small and accessible the internet has made our planet and the people on it.

Jonas, the Renter's Association President, was at first standoffish and racist toward me in a fearful type manner, like I was a high-ranking drug dealer, or a con man. That's the only way a black man can afford the Clark Tower. He was forever cowering in the elevator and holding onto his \$5000.00 Fuji mountain bike or clutching his Rolex, like I was going to jack him. Calling me Brandino (or B.W.) like he knew me. I corrected him saying my name is Brandon Walker, and slight acquaintances address me as Mr. Walker.

Ms. Green about busted a gut cackling.

"That shmuck is more Jewish than I am. He called you an uppity and you know what and I told him, watch it idiot, you don't wanna go upsetting one of the owners." She said his skin went almost white as snow. Since then, he has been like an annoying little mutt, always begging for crumbs. Mr. Walker this and Mr. Walker that, every time he sees me.

"Jona, what the hell is wrong with you? The building ain't on fire, just black!"

"Sorry Mr. Walker, I was just..."

"Jona, you are the R.A.P., you should be checking on your elderly associates first."

"Well Mr. ..."

"Bye Jona!" I slammed the door in his face, guy acts like I'm Mr. Whittendale and he is George Jefferson. I turned to get a bottle of Remy from the bar. Another knock, this one softer, Ms. Green, she asked in her heavily-accented Brooklyn voice, "Brandino, you don't have one of your strippers in there? I would hate to make her jealous!"

Ms. Green is barely four-foot-ten, seventy-ish, and a blue hair of pure energy. Her hazel eyes have pierced the truth out of me on more than one occasion. She is a big basketball fan. Over the years, I gave her enough Tiger and Grizzlies apparel, that she slowly stopped rooting for the Knicks and the Orange-men, and now loves all things Memphis.

When mom died two years ago, two weeks after the funeral,

Ms. Green brought over a bottle of Signor Martinelli's grappa, and she only refers to her Sicilian husband as Signor Martinelli. She set the bottle in front of me and said, "drink." We drank and I cried in her arms. The next morning she brought over omelets, italian sausage, and rolls. After I ate, she said, "Stop moping and get back to work!"

"Yes ma'am but today is Saturday."

"Monday, Signor Martinelli will drive you to work."

"Ms. Green, you know I work from home."

She stared me down, clicked her teeth, then turned to go, but looked back and said, "Your mother God bless her soul, gave me your extra key before she passed. Monday you get back to work." She held up the key, shook it in my face, then left. She must always have the last word.

"No ma'am Ms. Green, I was out watching the sky when everything went all Warehouse 13." I said this as she followed me down the hall. Her mini lighthouse cast a giant shadow ahead of me.

"No time for that," she said while tapping my bottle of Remy. "You got to get on the computer of yours to see what is happening."

"Can't, Ms. Green. Look at that Timex of yours" as I tap the watch on her wrist.

She looked down. "10:08, I had to wind it this morning."

I looked at the ancient watch and thought it was maybe at least fifty or sixty years old. I tapped it and said, "Ebay."

Ms. Green, always ready with a comeback, tapped me on the butt and said, "Hickory switch."

I chuckled and asked, "Where is Signor Martinelli?"

"Damn fool pulled out his Vietnam era M-16 and .45 and says he is waiting for looters. He was a clerk in the army for God's sake; he will probably shoot himself in the foot. Guns and drunks."

"Ms. Green, I got a broadband radio that is battery powered. I was going to see if some hammers are on and try to get a fix on what's happening."

"Some drunk fool probably hit a transformer or the power grid might have crashed like it did back east a few years ago."

"I don't think so Ms. Green," and I told her in the simplest terms I could about electromagnetic pulses. With her eyes as wide as saucers, she said, "God in heaven, I gotta get Tomas." She saw the bewildered look on my face and she said, "Signor Martinelli." She was off down the hall with her portable lighthouse but not before she took a sip of my bottle of Remy. Guess there was time for a good stiff drink after all.



Courtesy of UNKNOWN

## AN OASIS IN THE HEART OF MIDTOWN

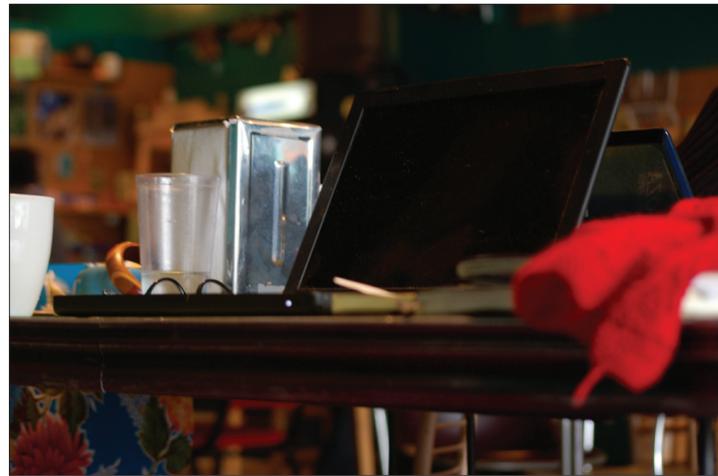
BY KATIE BUTLER

Staff Writer

Is there a Starbucks near you? Definitely. Are more and more of your friends sticking Keurigs on their kitchen counters? Probably. As coffee becomes more commercial, we tend to forget about the good old coffee shop: the plush chairs, the regulars, the assortment of colorful chipped mugs. Luckily for Memphians, there remains one such hidden — or not so hidden — gem: Otherlands Coffee Bar. Situated in a square, bright blue (yes, blue) building in the Cooper-Young neighborhood, Otherlands is one of Memphis' most quirky and idiosyncratic businesses. Its objective? To give back to Memphis and contribute to the city's flourishing individuality, one cup of coffee at a time.

Walking into Otherlands, a sense of community is abundant and the sound of laughter is immediately heard, filling the sweet-scented air. Not only do the colorful abstract paintings of local artists adorn the walls, but the shop itself is filled with authentic furniture of all shapes and sizes, plants with large blooming branches, and trinkets and knick-knacks of all proportions. Eccentricity fills the room; blue, green, and yellow walls smile down on customers who type on their computers or chat with colleagues. Stepping through the worn wooden doorframe, I found myself walking toward the bar, where scrumptious, homemade treats lined the shelves. I took a moment to soak up the atmosphere. Not only were the countertops lined with spiced breads, cookies, and muffins, but I was surprised to see a full menu with many options, ranging from salads to entrees, just waiting to be ordered. According to their menu, Otherlands has the "Best Cinnamon Toast in the South," and a wide range of other breakfast items including "Heidi's Breakfast Special," a mouthwatering plate of vegetarian sausage with melted cheese. Amongst the items on the lunch menu, I was enticed by the "Gourmet PB & J" and the "Bagel Sandwich Thing," a bagel topped with cream cheese with tomato and a "secret sauce." Much to my dismay, as a gluten-free individual, I was unable to try these concoctions, yet I was delighted to see that not only does Otherlands pride itself in using natural ingredients, but they have gluten-free, kosher, and vegetarian options available as well. My mouth watered. After getting my coffee and wandering around the many rooms of the coffee shop, I found myself in a brightly-lit store, chock-

full of pieces of art, homemade jewelry, gifts, and other paraphernalia for sale. It was all I could do not to buy every beautiful item in the store, which were made by local Memphians. Practicing self-restraint, I tore myself away, amazed that this small store had such a strong flair and flavor.



Courtesy of MEMPHIS CVB

As I wandered through the pastel-painted rooms, I saw a friend of mine, Maddie Izard, sitting at one of the tables, furiously typing on a paper due the next day for her religious studies class. After plopping down next to her, I asked how she saw Otherlands as a part of the Memphis community, and why she thought Otherlands is viewed as such a key organization in the promotion of a better Memphis. Her answer, both profound and simple, describes Otherlands perfectly. "Otherlands brings a

lot of people together," Izard said. "Because it is such a unique place, a bunch of people from different areas and backgrounds around Memphis are able to come together. It is a great gathering place because of all the events, and you can come eat, drink, and enjoy." She continued typing, stopped, and simply stated, "It gives people a space to be free and independent while also bringing a community together. It is a really great place to come to meet people or be alone and block out the world or find something new." She put her earphones back in and returned to her work, leaving me with a smile and a new appreciation for what I previously viewed to be only a humble little coffee shop.

Walking up to the bar and ordering yet another drink, I asked the barista, a man named Ryan Harrison, what makes Otherlands a key part of the Memphis community. "We are known for being environmentally friendly and recycling," he replied while effortlessly making my Café Americano. "We promote the locally-bought initiative and get a lot of our food from people who grow and make it themselves." He carefully chose a green mug with polka dots on it for me. "Further than that, we support the community through arts by having showcases and events at all times. We have music here on the weekends and promote local artists. In these ways, we have become part of the growing Memphis community."

Before leaving, I took one last look around the room and was grateful that a place like this still existed. Real Lamps. Non-uniform chairs and couches. Multi-colored coffee cups and plates. Real silverware. Real Food. A larger than life bulletin board promoting local businesses and events. These were the things missing from chain coffee shops, where the objective is to get its customers in and out as fast as possible. I downed the rest of my café Americano, smiled, and walked out of Otherlands.

After my first Otherlands experience, I decided to ask my friend Monica Bushong, known for her obsession with Otherlands, why she loves it so much. "I think Otherlands is a special place because it's not just a place to grab a coffee and maybe pass some time on your laptop. There is a distinct environment; the staff is fantastic—friendly, funny, energetic, and they make an effort to interact with the customers. Though you may just want to buy some coffee, it's hard to not end up dropping a few more bucks on their great food menu, a hilarious greeting card, or the jewelry and knick-

knacks from their little store. They promote local artists and musicians, in addition to having a great bulletin board for local events and news. Otherlands better Memphis because it is a place anyone can go — Rhodes and U of M students, professors, businessmen, 'hipsters,' single moms, homeless guys who need to use a computer — and feel like you're in a friend's living room (all of those listed, I've seen at Otherlands). It's simple to see why I love it so much."

This is obviously not a typical chain coffee shop, but a place that promotes community, individuality, and a better Memphis. Any passerby can see that the customers are devoted to the shop as much as the shop is devoted to its customers. Even if you are simply stopping by to grab a snack, sitting there for hours writing papers and doing assignments, buying a gift for another, meeting a friend, or just taking a break, there is something at Otherlands for everyone, no matter who you are.



# "I Love Memphis"

BY SEHRISH KHAN

Staff Writer

Perhaps now Memphis's most iconic, the "I Love Memphis" mural was painted on a formerly-graffitied wall in Cooper-Young in May 2011. This display of public art would become the first of a series of murals jointly commissioned by UrbanArt, the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the City of Memphis. Historically, murals have been used to beautify urban settings, engage local artists and residents and foster community pride. Murals also have the power to define the cultural identity of a neighborhood and to become landmarks, creating something recognizable for residents and tourists alike. Memphis' own anti-blight murals, created around the theme "I Love Memphis," seek to give Memphians a chance to share their love and pride for their city while creating something that is distinctly theirs.

The idea for the "I Love Memphis" mural came from Kerry Crawford, the first blogger for the Memphis Convention and Visitor Bureau's I Love Memphis blog. Crawford made a handwritten paper sign reading "I love Memphis" in order to promote her blog. During a conference with CEOs for Cities, the group noted that there were rarely any photos of people online in recognizable Memphis locations. Instead, they found pictures of people holding the same sign Crawford created for her blog. This discovery sparked a conversation that would change the public art scene in Memphis and lead to the creation of the first mural in the "I Love Memphis" series.

In order to engage the community in the process of creating the mural, Crawford asked readers to submit potential mural designs to her blog. Local artist Brandon Marshall created the winning design and UrbanArt's Siphne Sylve organized the production. Marshall based his design off Crawford's original paper sign, but proposed a red background for the mural due to the condition of the wall after its long history of graffiti.

The original "I Love Memphis" mural has been an integral part of the city for the past three years. Today, this mural serves as a local hotspot and tourist destination, as well as a fun place to take pictures for any occasion. Since 2011,



Courtesy of Sehrish Khan

two other murals in the "I Love Memphis" series have been created. The second mural went up along the Shelby Farms Greenline. Previously an abandoned and frequently vandalized railroad tunnel, this location now serves the entire community by providing a rest stop for walkers and bikers along the Greenline. The mural itself features a family biking with a child on a scooter, painted in bright colors with the words "I Love Memphis" underneath. This piece of public art was also designed and produced by Sylve. The third mural, on Vance and Allen, is another design from the contest that Crawford began on her blog. Called "Love in Red," this design by local artist Matthew Ladner features an outline of the state of Tennessee with the words "I Love Memphis" surrounded by a red heart. Volunteers from UrbanArt and the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA) helped to create this mural.

Though the murals have mostly elicited positive feedback, there have also been negative comments. Some people feel that the murals are too commercial, seeking to promote the I Love Memphis blog, while others feel that they're not creative enough. A select few also feel that the murals are

trying to force people to love Memphis. However, advocates of the murals argue that they were not created for any of these purposes. Rather, they were created so that people could share their love of Memphis. Ultimately, these murals have fulfilled the creators' initial desires by becoming distinct landmarks in Memphis.

Apart from the "I Love Memphis" series of murals, Memphis is also home to a number of smaller and lesser-known murals scattered throughout Midtown and Downtown. Each of these murals has a different story and plays a significant role in shaping our city. Here at *The Bridge*, we are familiar with the concept of "bridging the gap." While we aim to bridge the gap between homeless and sheltered, the murals of Memphis have a similar goal: to bridge the gaps, whatever they may be, among the people of Memphis and allow us to come together as one community in order to appreciate our city. With new murals planned to appear in neighborhoods like Cooper-Young soon, the future of Memphis looks bright and colorful.

## To Overlook

BY MINISTER TA ROBERTSON

Contributing Writer

And want it all joy when the trying and testing of your faith is tested. Allow Patience to have her perfect work. This is a paraphrase of something that I've studied and looked at. Once I eternalized this lesson, it hit me as "We learn to overlook" a lot of things so that we can grow up and mature. Each and everyone of us are given a measure of faith to carry us to next level of life on life terms. What takes a long time to understand is that other people are not going to think the exact same way as you. And how we learn to understand to overlook certain situations, is applying Patience and a basic understanding to anything that exist. Especially

When it's a negative situation. For example; a benefit of "Road Rage", is simply the results of basic anger. If anger while Driving can cause you to risk the lives of

- 1) School buses
- 2) Elderly people
- 3) Truck drivers
- 4) People on their way to work

Once anger is triggered while in a mass movement, can only cause disaster. People's lives will change simply because basic application of "reason" is not being displayed. First of all life is too short to allow your destiny to be cut short because of the absence of self control, that is only a choice away.

You have to train yourself to not allow other people's words to affect you directly. We belong to the individual who possesses them and when you're able to detect what the intentions are behind the words being used towards you, you can learn to overlook the person who is using their words inappropriately. In our intimate relationships with the people that we are close to such as; husband and wife- best friends and close associates- church members- co-workers- teammates- in relationships we have a tendency to have our thoughts, rules, and suggestions to make as superior. When our so-called principles are violated, we feel just cause to get out of character and address an issue, which could be overlooked. Some main principles have to be addressed, and they cannot overlook them. Such as breaking the law. Law breaking is violation of the laws set forth to govern. You cannot overlook things that are set forth to establish and continue order. If this were the case there would be no need to overlook any issue. What I'm having you to ponder on is this, yes we have the capacity to judge and reason with any given situation.

In a marriage or a prospective marriage, or in any close relationship compromising has got to be your foundation while having a meaningful relationship with this individual. The reasons for, and why we decide to compromise is because somewhere in involved in what's going on we have a caring mechanism inside of us that causes us to humble ourselves and show our patience. When we humble ourselves and exercise our patience we show that way we think

and address a situation, that we have a higher standard when it comes to conflict. When you're about to see that a close friend is having a bad day, we don't take what they say or do too seriously because we understand that something is difficult. So he or she may snap on you, or you may get ignored or brushed off. It won't matter to you, because you've placed your standards higher than they would expect us to. The word overlook has a simple compared meaning to it. 1. "over": above; beyond.

2. "look": to see; to observe; to notice. Before I end, to overlook a situation, you've got to have some growth. When things happen that we cannot control, overlook the problem, and address the source by responding differently to it. To have a higher mind set than what the world suggests is a good thing. Continue to look up above and beyond the problem. Observe, notice and apply good measures of for to it. Always address the problem, but learn to overlook the situation. Be a good example for someone else to decide to follow.

As I write the words I'm realizing that I've had to overlook a lot of situations to get to the point that I can submit these words to public view. To overlook means, more than what really saying. It's showing who you are as a person. It shows value and rewards in your life. The value of caring brings the rewards of a quality life. And once we can accept that we care- the rewards of living a caring life is tremendous. It's tremendous because you end up connecting with someone else and a lot of other people just like you that care!



## Pals with Paws

BY LAURA BONDS

Staff Writer

The Streetdog Foundation is a local organization in Memphis whose mission is to “rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home stray and abandoned dogs” in the Memphis area. By giving dogs temporary foster care and working to find them long-term homes, the Streetdog Foundation allows these animals to make connections with humans. Further, the foundation works to re-orient animals with domestic life and rid them of dangerous or non-domestic behaviors. Unlike other shelters in Shelby County, the Streetdog Foundation never says “no” to any dog. Not only is every dog accepted, the Streetdog Foundation adamantly refuses the euthanasia process, claiming that by giving medical aid, providing stable emotional environments, and by finding permanent homes, all dogs can have a fulfilling life. Essentially, the foundation serves as an orphanage. Additionally, the Streetdog Foundation adheres to a “rigorous adoption process” for the parties involved, ensuring that both the family and dog adopted are comfortable with the circumstances of the adoption.

Founded by Kent and Melanie Pafford, on August 7, 2009, the Streetdog Foundation will be celebrating its fifth anniversary this year.

While it began with only three dogs, this organization has expanded rapidly and has become the largest in its field, now caring for roughly 129 furry friends. When asked about her favorite part of Streetdog Foundation, Mrs. Pafford explained that “seeing the dog’s face when he realizes that he is safe and that someone loves him... is humbling and tearful.” Pafford is additionally appreciative of the friends she has made as she watches the organization grow, grateful for both her human helpers and pals with paws.

The organization’s adoption process begins as estranged dogs are brought in from a myriad of locations around the city. Because the Streetdog Foundation does not have a permanent facility, these animals stay with willing volunteers and foster parents until the organization is able to give them a stable, permanent home. During this fostering process, the dogs are rehabilitated and are being given limited medical attention. The organization acknowledges that caring for a pet is a lifelong commitment, and those who wish to adopt a dog must go through a careful screening process before given a dog. In other words, the organization must ensure that every animal receives the best care possible.

By nurturing these dogs with rocky pasts, humans give otherwise abandoned animals a new future. The Streetdog Foundation overlooks even the toughest histories of its

animals and strives to give each individual dog the care and love it deserves and requires. Twenty-three-year-old foster mom, Kimberly Pollard, emphasizes that giving the animals a “fun vacation spot” for a weekend, a week, or longer, makes a significant difference in their lives. Some of these animals have never positively interacted with humans; the fostering process teaches dogs that not all humans are harmful or filled with negativity. “Some of the worst cruelty cases still have some of the most forgiving hearts,” Pollard, who makes everlasting differences in the lives of dogs, asserts. She encourages others to get involved because “being able to give love back to [abandoned or abused dogs] is such a great feeling.”

The next step in Streetdog Foundation’s routine is to host adoption events on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. This gives potential owners a chance to meet the dogs, talk with the foster parents, and learn about the goals and objectives of the Streetdog Foundation. The adoption process begins with a potential owner filling out an extensive form, which encourages them to share about their individual situations and how they can be a permanent, nurturing household for these animals. A house visit and additional references are checked following the completion of the form. Only after these important steps are complete is the dog allowed to live with the possible adopters for a two-week trial period. This crucial test period gives potential owners the chance to see if the dog they wish to adopt has the ability to work within their family and cope with specific situations. If both the dog and the family are happy after this trial, adoption processes proceeded normally. However, if the family finds after the trial period that the dog is not the right fit, the family is encouraged to continue the process with another animal that might be more suited to the individual condition of the family. The ultimate goal of the Streetdog Foundation is to make the perfect match between home, adopters, and pet.

Foster parents and volunteers have the last say in the adoption, and if they notice any red flags during the process, they are encouraged to speak up. Pollard explains that a “gut feeling often says more than what [the potential adopters’] answers on paper do.” After fostering these dogs, those connected with the dogs up for adoption genuinely want the best for their animals and work to make sure that every dog finds the right home.

## “Unsheltered: Unseen” Art Project Recap

BY LIZZIE CHOY

Staff Writer

Unsheltered:Unseen is a large art exhibit and project that was started five years ago by Justin Deere, a Rhodes College Bonner Scholar. This art show gives members of the Memphis homeless community a chance to become artists and share their work with everyday Memphians as they photograph events and sights from their daily lives. Recently, I had the privilege of sitting down with Rhodes student Megha Fernandes, one of the student coordinators, to learn more about the project and the event.

### What did y’all hope to achieve with the project?

MF: It’s really cool because through pictures, we are able to achieve this dual purpose of really getting to see what someone’s life is like who has a different life than you ... but kind of the same. So it’s just gaining perspective and breaking down that wall that people build up between the homeless community and those outside it.

### Because people don’t understand how homelessness really is.

MF: Exactly! It’s just like the people we see on the side of the street, but that’s not it. I think people also regard the homeless community as just these neutral beings that are just kind of there, but that’s not it. They contribute to our society if you let them. If you just think of them as this mass of the population that’s just there, then of course nothing will happen. Through our project, through giving them a camera, they are able to contribute to art and to so many different things, so I think that’s it. It’s the dual purpose of empowering them and gaining insight.

### Who coordinates Unsheltered:Unseen?

MF: Our team for this past year has been Meg Doolin, Jenna Sullivan, Evan Deere, Justin’s brother, Kate Morrison, Hannah Lewellen, Ellery Ammons, Dianne Loftis, and myself. Each of us has a different role in the whole puzzle of putting it together, but then we all do some of the same things — we were all there distributing cameras at the soup kitchens and setting up the gallery.

### How does it work?

MF: We have partnerships with a few different soup kitchens and shelters, and we go to those places at specific times with cameras and forms and we’ll talk to every person there and tell them about our show, then ask if they want to participate, and if they do, they get a camera. Then we leave a drop-off box, and two weeks later we go and pick up the box. That’s the process of getting the cameras out. Then, in the weeks leading up to the show, we’ll go back and let the people who turned in a camera know that some of their work [or their friend’s work] might be in the show... and talk to them about coming to the event.

### After getting the photos, what goes into setting up the gallery?

MF: This year, we wanted to do something different. Normally we have our 8’x10’ photos that fill the gallery, but this year we wanted to blow some of them up to help weave a narrative throughout. This year we worked with a local artist to place the pictures in a way that tells a story as well as aesthetically goes together. The days leading up to the show, Meg, Jenna, Dianne, and the artist were out there planning it. (Laughing) Evan Deere did all the math; I’m not good at that. Apparently there’s

a lot of math that goes into a gallery.

### How did the event go?

MF: It was fantastic. We actually changed locations from Crosstown to Marshall Arts, which is by Sun Studios, which is more central to where a lot of our artists normally reside. We were able to have so many of our artists come, as well as Rhodes students and people from the community. Honestly, it was so successful, which is just great because even though it’s been five years there’s always that apprehension about how it will turn out. It’s always a toss-up, but it all works out.

### How has this impacted your thoughts on homelessness in Memphis?

MF: It’s so humanizing. This project is different from a regular fundraiser that just gives [donations] to a homeless shelter. It’s something where we are not only helping these people, but helping them grow and define themselves, and to give them an identity. These identities are what we hold as well. All these artists have a story and so much to give back to us. Like I said when I talked to the *The Grind*\*, it’s awesome to see this cycle of help because our galleries would be white walls if it wasn’t for these artists. It’s really easy to look at our world, and especially in our country, as series of tiers with the 1 percent up top and the homeless at the base, but that’s not the way life works, because everyone has something to contribute and we all do it together. It’s a cycle that keeps everything continuously growing. This project has shaped all of our mindsets to be that way.

\* *The Grind* is an online newspaper that covers stories about Memphis as a whole - <http://www.thegrindmemphis.com>

# A Summer of Service and Selflessness

## SOS Interns to Repair Roofs in Inner-City Memphis Areas

BY CAMILLE SMITH

Staff Writer

As the school year ends and summer approaches, many high school and college students celebrate freedom from papers, tests, and other assignments as they lounge on their sofas and catch up on the latest episodes of *Game of Thrones* and *Pretty Little Liars*. I know I can't be alone when I say that is what I'll be doing for at least the first week of my break. But while we are at home, diving into a second bag of Sour Cream and Onion chips, sixty college students from all over the U.S. will spend ten weeks of their summer repairing roofs on houses in inner city Memphis areas, including Binghamton and Orange Mound. Hailing from areas as close as Midtown and as far away as Virginia, college students from a myriad of backgrounds who study a variety of disciplines will come together for a common purpose; serving their neighbors and building a better Memphis. This challenging, yet enriching internship program is coordinated by Service Over Self (SOS), a non-profit founded 27 years ago that works to improve impoverished areas of Memphis. With a total of sixty interns who all value humility, service, and their relationship with the Lord, summer 2014 is bound to be a great season for service.

One thing is for certain about the SOS summer internship program: it is challenging. Beginning at 6AM, the daily schedule for interns and campers is filled with strenuous work and peaceful time with the Lord, two things SOS believes to be extremely important for a holistic service experience. Equipped with harnesses, bandanas, and baseball hats, these on-the-go volunteers devote multiple hours a day at their designated worksite, spending most of their day on a hot roof, working to improve the homes of their Memphis neighbors. The two primary areas where SOS volunteers work are in Binghamton and Orange Mound. The latter is also known as SOS 114, named for the Bible Verse, John 1:14. Every summer, SOS's goal is

to repair about 45 homes, and the program has been able to achieve this goal in the past. In addition to the workday, the staff ensures that everyone makes time for prayer, worship, and devotion. Campers typically eat their lunches on the worksite, and the interns who serve as team leaders facilitate discussions and pray for their campers. They also encourage them to ask questions about serving others, Jesus, their lives at home, and how all of those factors intersect with their service work. The religious portion of the summer program also includes a nightly chapel during which worksite teams convene for a time of worship. Oftentimes, this will include a talk from a local Christian speaker. The goal of these prayer times is to equip campers with knowledge of the Bible and help them understand the "why" behind their service. It is the responsibility of the interns and staff to help instill in young campers the model of SOS — God loves us, so we love others. Both interns and campers grow significantly in their spiritual lives because of these daily devotions and the conversations between one another that these times catalyze.

There are multiple positions that interns can fill during the ten weeks at SOS. Most of the interns are team leaders, overseeing the campers at their worksite. They lead prayer groups and often become role models for the younger volunteers. Other positions include construction managers, photographers, and support staff. Interns can apply for any position, and they must specify during the interview process that they would like to be a photographer, volunteer coordinator, or serve in another position. The intern positions are paid, including room and board, and although the Summer 2014 positions are currently full, applications are available in mid-October for the summer of 2015.

So, what qualities does SOS look for in interns? Kelly Pitts, SOS Summer Program Director, recruits hardworking, service oriented individuals who are committed to their relationship with the Lord. Pitts elaborates on a series of attributes that should be true

of every SOS intern: "Are they willing to put others before themselves? Do they have a heart for being a servant? Are they truly interested in changing the direction of their lives?" The idea is that interns will not only show commitment and selflessness at their worksites, but also in their relationships with other interns, staff, campers, and the homeowners with whom they will be working. These qualities are likely to build better relationships in addition to better homes. In short, SOS interns should truly embody the name of the program by putting their service above themselves. Although sixty college-aged individuals who possess these qualities could be difficult to find," Pitts says, "we have a crew this year that we are really excited about investing in." With a group of interns like this, the inner city areas of Memphis are bound to become a better place this summer.

Beyond the goals of this summer, SOS as an organization continues to grow through its service. Pitts, who has served as a staff member for about a year and a half, is excited for this summer and sees the program growing in future years. As the overarching leader of the summer staff who walks with campers and interns throughout the program, Pitts has great goals for the upcoming months. She and her team plan to repair 45 homes in Binghamton and Orange Mound. Her favorite part of the program? The recognition that the interns are truly giving one hundred and ten percent of their effort. From their time spent on hot roofs to investing in spiritual growth, each intern truly offers his or her whole self for the benefit of others. According to Pitts, each intern's ability to practice both urban ministry and relational ministry during their ten weeks with SOS is a truly unique experience. Her favorite part of the summers at SOS as a whole is that "it really changes the trajectory of lives." Difficult, yet totally enriching, the SOS summer program offers interns a great opportunity to serve others and to grow spiritually. The organization has a lot to look forward to in the upcoming months as well as in future years.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Camille Smith

BY EMILY CRENSHAW

Staff Writer

Although I'd heard several wonderful things about Camille Smith, I had never had the chance to meet her until the evening we decided to meet in the Middle Ground and interview each other for a volunteer spotlight. Right when I saw her, she instantly reminded me of Zooey Deschanel with her quirky personality. She had a calming voice, and was just an all-around interesting girl. Camille, a sophomore at Rhodes College, started working for *The Bridge* her second semester of freshman year. She heard of *The Bridge* at a Kappa Delta meeting, and decided that *The Bridge* would let her get outside of Rhodes and see a new perspective since she wasn't doing anything before that had given her the opportunity to get out into the Memphis community. When talking about *The Bridge*, she said the message the paper conveys has inspired her: "*The Bridge* brings awareness, and helps solve the problem of homelessness by providing jobs, so in addition to bringing awareness they are providing a solution." Camille is involved in several organizations, and keeps herself busy. She is a member of the Kappa Delta Sorority, in Rhodes Singers, is a double-major in English and Psychology, and

is involved in research in the Psychology department. At *The Bridge*, Camille is a writer, and is soon planning on writing for the blog. In her spare free time she has between all of the activities she is involved in, she enjoys watching Netflix, taking BuzzFeed quizzes (I mean, who isn't addicted?), playing piano in Haskell Hall, and creative writing. She loves writing short stories. As an English major, as well as a staff writer for *The Bridge*, she must really love writing. One thing she has truly appreciated after becoming a part of *The Bridge* is that, "it has helped me in my writing, instead of just writing creative writing pieces, I can write about important information which has helped me see a new side of the Memphis community." *The Bridge* is lucky to have Camille Smith as a volunteer, and I was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to interview her as well. She is creative, unique, and passionate. When describing *The Bridge*, you could tell how dedicated she is to the organization, and that she enjoyed opening this other creative side of herself. Camille, you deserve a huge shout-out for all the work you do in supporting *The Bridge*, bringing awareness to the community, and fighting for a solution.



Courtesy of WESLEY SHAW



Courtesy of MARK O'ROURKE

## A Fruitless Search

**BY THEODORA BROWARD**

*Contributing Writer*

I was sleeping, but my heart kept vigil;  
 I heard my lover knocking:  
 "Open to me, my sister, my beloved,  
 my love, my perfect one!  
 for my head is wet with dew  
 my locks seek the moisture of the night."  
 I have taken off my notes  
 am I then to put it on?  
 I have bathed my feet.  
 am I then to soil them?  
 my lover put his hand through the opening,  
 my heart trembled within me  
 and I grew faint when he spoke.

## Connection

**BY CYNTHIA D. CRAWFORD**

*Contributing Writer*

Step by step, I climb the mountain.  
 Sweat beads up on my forehead.  
 Muscles aching as I struggle to avoid the overgrown  
 shrubs, weeds and vines  
 that choke out the path.  
 I stop mid-way, glance  
 Around and take a sip  
 From my water bottle.  
 It's a beautiful day not a  
 Cloud in the sky.  
 Birds chirping as they soar  
 Overhead.  
 I push on carefully selecting  
 Each foot fall  
 Now I can see the summit  
 About a dozen feet up ahead  
 Reaching the top I take a few  
 Relaxing deep breaths.  
 Looking out across the expanse  
 Of the landscape I see the  
 Sun beginning to set.  
 I can smell honeysuckle and  
 A hint of BBQ grill from a nearby home.  
 Walking around the field  
 I come across a slab  
 Of concrete. And sit down,  
 Legs crossed Indian-style.  
 Glancing towards the west I  
 See glints of blue, purple,  
 Pink and orange as the sun is half gone.  
 It catches my breath the splendor and beauty of His  
 Creation.  
 The slab of concrete takes  
 Me by surprise as to just  
 How soft and comfy its  
 Warmth is touching my bare  
 Skin.  
 I lay down completely flat in the supine position.  
 Taking in all my surroundings I seem to melt into the slab.  
 Each breath and heartbeat  
 I felt at one with mother  
 Earth, connected, and naked  
 Feeling.

## In Due Time

**BY DELORES WASHINGTON**

*Contributing Writer*

In due time  
 When the seasons change;  
 And the winters die,  
 You learn/yearn,  
 And receive what is thine.  
 For God is merciful  
 To those whom He claims.  
 For your praises, obedience and honor.  
 Whatever is your due,  
 God is always on cue.  
 No pain, no gain;  
 No cross, no crown.  
 To reap what's on your mind, and in your heart,  
 Live the will of God.  
 Your pain, your sacrifice gains weight;  
 As the sands of time  
 Washes into the sea, you shall see  
 Your seasoned fruits,  
 Produced in He.

# Interview with Marco Pavé

## Up-and-coming Memphis Rapper Dedicated to Bettering the Memphis Community

BY EMILY CRENSHAW

Staff Writer

If you did not see Marco Pavé's interview with Holly Whitfield in the *I Love Memphis Blog*, he shares his story as to what inspired him to become a rising Memphis rapper and, more importantly, give back to his community. Fortunately, soon after his interview with Holly Whitfield, I was able to contact Marco Pavé and ask him a few questions myself. He was very kind and helpful when I asked to interview him for *The Bridge*.

**Q: What's your story?**

MP: I'm North Memphis born and raised. I've been rapping for ten years, but professionally, one-and-a-half, going on two years now. My real name is Tauheed Rahim II. It's my government name. It comes from my Islamic background. My parents are Muslim, and I was raised a Muslim child, and that influences a lot of my music because I saw two different sides [of life] growing up in North Memphis. I could go inside and get in trouble for doing something bad because my dad always stayed on me. Or I could go outside and see drug deals, dead bodies and anything else that North Memphis offered ... I wouldn't say it was great, but it really molded my future, because I could see both sides of the fence. I went to elementary school at Vollintine. I went to middle school at Cypress right down the street. I went to high school at East High. I went to Southwest for a semester and a half, and then I was like, 'Music. I gotta do it.'

**Q: What makes Memphis special to you?**

MP: Memphis is a beautiful place. It is home of some of the most historic elements in American history. Memphis has great food, great people, great music

and great drivers (LOL). Memphis is home to me and home is where the heart is.

**Q: Do you have any experience working with the homeless?**

MP: Yes I do have experience working with the homeless. A few months back we had a peaceful march downtown to City Hall and we performed what is known as a cypher ... It was all in support of homeless people in Memphis

**Q: What are your favorite places in Memphis?**

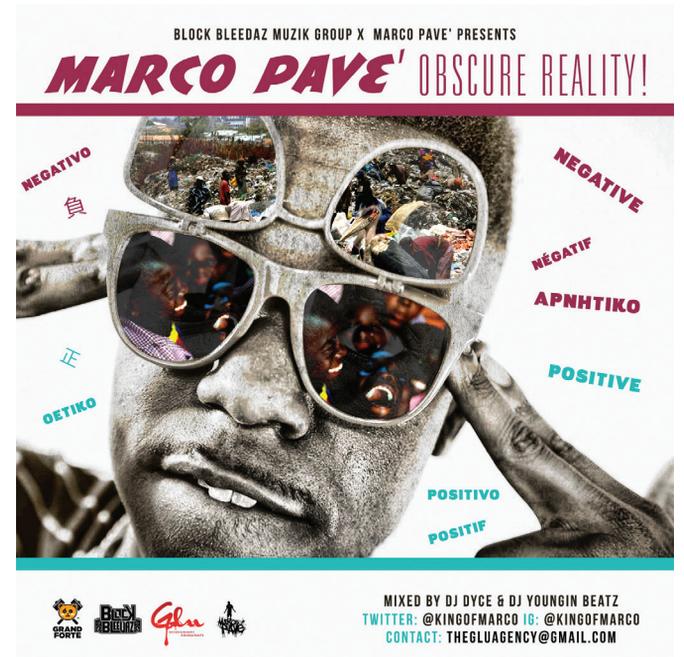
MP: here are so many places in Memphis that I enjoy. I would have to say Shelby Forest is a great place that I go to clear my mind and get away from the crazy life of music...you can catch me a lot at Brinson's on Madison Avenue (live music, great food, and amazing drinks.) Monday nights I go to the Rumba Room. I can go on forever – last I will say is K'Presha on Main Street is a great place to shop and buy local designers' clothes.

**Q: What has been your favorite gig so far?**

MP: Man, I have so many great gigs that I am so proud of: opening for Waka Flocka, opening for Skewby, SXSW, Beale Street Music Fest, the list goes on. But my absolute favorite performance would have to be DreamFest by CLE Events. That performance touched home.

**Q: What are your aspirations with music? How would you describe your sound?**

MP: My aspirations with music? Mmmmm ... Like I say, music is my first avenue to revenue, quote me on that. I plan on having my own publishing company



in the near future. I want to help independent artists reach new audiences by allowing them to get placements in major opportunities. I want to eventually become a talent manager after my career is over and I have all the Grammys, Oscars, and any other award that God allows me to win. As my bio would say, "triple crown of rap enthusiasts: the purists, the radio lovers and the eclectic hipster. With a laid back demeanor that contradicts his energetic music and performance style."

**If interested, here are some places you can see Marco Pavé this year:**

**September:** *Performing at MEMFest Memphis Electronic Music Fest at Levitt Shell*

**Every Thursday:** *Part of HypeLife's The Melting Pot open mic night at Brinson's*

# Remember Me Lord

BY EARTHA WOODS

Contributing Writer

Remember me, Lord  
because I was once a sinner

Remember me, Lord  
because I was once lost in sin.  
but, now I'm saved through my lord Jesus.

Remember me, Lord  
because I was once homeless  
moving Place to Place, but no more.

Remember me, Lord  
because once without employment  
but look at me now. I'm bless not street,  
nor distress, nor depress.

Remember me, Lord

Because, you are working off all my praises

Remember me, Lord  
because sometimes I cry tears of  
Pain and Joy, to be near you more and  
more each day

Remember me, Lord  
In the midnight hour

Remember me, Lord because, I need you. You are  
my  
desire in all my ways, and sing to you  
songs from my heart and the depth  
of my soul

Remember me, Lord

because sometimes I act lonely, no friends, nor  
family around. Thanks be the glory of God  
Remember me, Lord  
because I love you. Men denied me, but you  
accept me and created me wonderfully and fairly  
made.

Remember me Lord  
because my soul need a healing  
because my heart need changing  
because my strength act weak  
because my mind got lost

Don't forget me lord  
you are my life and my hope...

Thank you for the love that never dies.

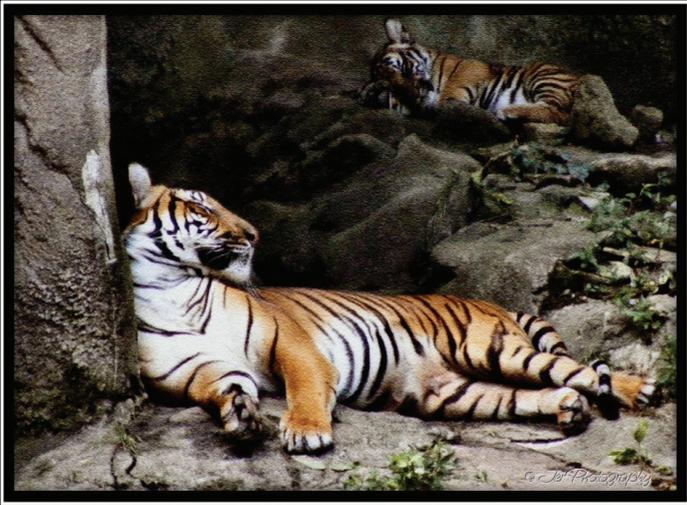
# Go WILD at the Memphis Zoo

Lions, and tigers, and bears! Oh, my! The Memphis Zoo in Midtown's Overton Park houses over 3,500 animals from 500 different species. Take a summer day trip and see how many of these special creatures you can spot. All-day admission for children is only \$10.00, and the zoo is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through October. (Check [memphiszoo.org](http://memphiszoo.org) to plan your day and check the calendar of events; special feedings and talks happen daily.) Use this checklist to keep track of the animals you see:

- Electric Eel
- Vampire Bat
- Alligator
- Tiger

- Penguin
- Pelican
- Zebra
- Orangutan
- Toucan
- Ostrich
- Komodo Dragon
- Polar Bear
- Sea Lion
- Flamingo
- Hippo
- Grizzly Bear
- Python

- Elephant
- Panda
- Lion
- Giraffe

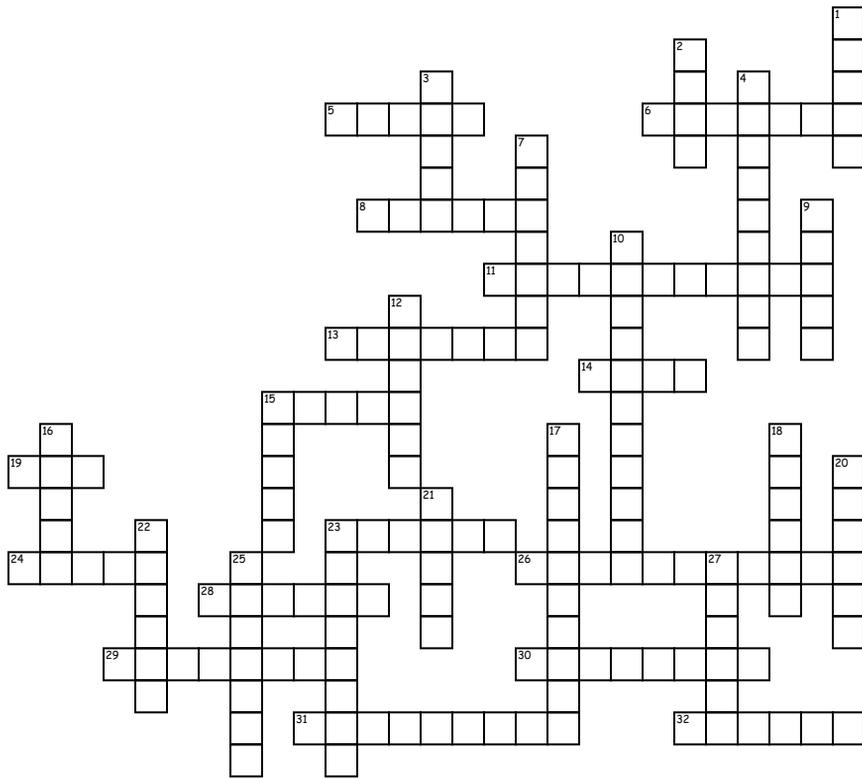


Courtesy of JERRY



Courtesy of TAMBAKO THE JAGUAR

## Crossword



- Across**
- 5 Memphis music
  - 6 The mayor of Memphis
  - 8 Franklin born in Memphis
  - 11 Tennessee's state bird
  - 13 A mode of transportation on Main Street
  - 14 Civil rights leader
  - 15 The country of the original Memphis
  - 19 "Memphis in \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 23 "\_\_\_\_\_ in April" festival
  - 24 The month in which the first issue of The Bridge was published
  - 26 The open-air amphitheater in Overton Park (2 Words)
  - 28 Museum of art in Overton Park
  - 29 A resident of Memphis
  - 30 A Memphis food staple
  - 31 The capital of Tennessee
  - 32 Term for someone who sells The Bridge

- Down**
- 1 "We \_\_\_\_\_ here."
  - 2 "Walking in Memphis" singer
  - 3 The most famous street in Memphis
  - 4 The basketball-playing bears
  - 7 Where the ducks reside
  - 9 A global courier delivery service company headquartered in Memphis
  - 10 The second longest river in the USA
  - 12 A Southern crop
  - 15 The king of Rock n' Roll
  - 16 A special animal at the zoo
  - 17 A former 'N Sync member from Memphis
  - 18 Sam \_\_\_\_\_ Boulevard
  - 20 The name of the county
  - 21 The University of Memphis' mascot
  - 22 The college many Bridge volunteers attend
  - 23 One of Tennessee's neighbors
  - 25 The theatre built in 1928
  - 27 The children's research hospital in Memphis (two words) (2 Words)

## "Summer" Word Scramble

- USNINSEH \_\_\_\_\_
- OLSCPEPI \_\_\_\_\_
- MINWIGMS \_\_\_\_\_
- LVEATR \_\_\_\_\_
- ICNIPC \_\_\_\_\_

## Word Search



- |            |           |              |
|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Career     | Smile     | Skill        |
| Goal       | Income    | Vendor       |
| Newspaper  | Article   | Poetry       |
| Art        | Community | Location     |
| Friends    | Integrity | Kindness     |
| Compassion | Hope      | Independence |



**"My name is Ron. I'm a salesman for *The Bridge*. Thanks to the great team of whom I am a member of, *The Bridge* has given us opportunities of fulfilling our dreams that we could have never imagined. So I will continue to work hard and give my best to this unit."**