SHELBY COUNTY RELATIVE CAREGIVER PROGRAM
“Supporting Families Raising Relative’s Children”

MISSION

The Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program is a comprehensive public/private collaboration designed to support children whose parents are not able to raise them. These children may be cared for by a grandparent, aunt, uncle or other extended family member. Program staff respects what is unique and special within each family and provides easy accurate, easy-to-follow information about existing resources available to families. The staff works to eliminate gaps in service. The Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program provides support to children who are being raised by relative caregivers to promote family stability.

Providing support and service to 3,379 children and 1,512 caregivers since inception in 2001.

Primary Eligibility Requirements
The Relative Caregiver has primary control of the child through custody or non-custody. The Relative Caregiver is related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption. The child is age 18 or under.

“I think this is one of the best programs available for people like myself who need help in being the best we can be because many of us don’t know what to do when we get our kids.”

“The staff at UT provide the total package.”

Relative Caregiver Program Services
- Caregiver support groups
- Information and referral
- Groups for children and teens
- Education and informational workshops
- Respite and recreation
- Family Advocacy
- Emergency financial and/or start-up assistance
- Ability to link services to families who have children with disabilities.

This program is in partnership with the TN Department of Children’s Services.

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