Mental Health & Developmental Services

connections
news & updates

2026-3Q

First MAPs Enrollee Completes Program!



Deana Shephard, LaTonya Whiteside, Katie, Brandon Scarmardo, Nora Buckley & Jumaira Hill celebrated with Katie as she completed her 3 year program!

Katie started the MAPs program in August 2023 and finished recently. She has always excelled at being a social butterfly. She's become more responsible around her home. Some of those responsibilities includes her doing her laundry, taking her medications, and helping in the kitchen. She was the first West TN MAPS graduate and helped shape the program at MHDS. If you are interested in learning more, visit our website under MAPs Services.

Honoring the Legacy of Johnny Shaw



It was a privilege to shine a spotlight on State Representative Johnny Shaw who faithfully served District 80 for 25 years. He represented each of the counties we have programs in and always took an active interest in our services to the community. We wish him well in retirement while acknowledging he will be missed. Johnny's years of dedicated effort have made a lasting impact on the lives of those you have faithfully served

EmpowerWorks Graduates



Ericka earned her certificate from Vanessa Ferguson, Job Developer.



Barry achieved his certificate from Rance Thetford, Supported Employment Manager.

EmpowerWorks is a multi-class educational program to help those wishing to seek employment do so prepared. Emphasis is on skills like applying for jobs, interview readiness and following instructions. The program strives to Build Skills & Empower Futures!

Need To Know

Sept 7 - Labor Day Holiday
Oct 2 – Golf Tournament – Humboldt Country Club
Nov 26-27 – Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 24-25 – Christmas Holiday

CEO Focus



Nora Buckley

As we celebrate National Direct Support Professional (DSP) Appreciation Week September 13 - 19, I want to recognize the extraordinary individuals who stand at the heart of MHDS.

Over the past ten years, MHDS has experienced remarkable growth. In 2015-16, we employed 468 dedicated team members. Today, we have grown to 588 employees while reducing our overall turnover rate from 27.6% to 22.8%. Our workforce has become more experienced, more mature, and more diverse in the ways our employees choose to work, including a significant increase in part-time team members. We have also expanded our services, opened and supported additional locations, and added professional and specialized roles to better serve the people who depend on us every day.

While these statistics tell an impressive story of growth and stability, the most important part is: **None of this would be possible without our Direct Support Professionals.**

DSPs provide far more than help with daily living tasks. They offer encouragement, dignity, companionship, advocacy, and opportunities. They help individuals achieve greater independence, pursue their goals, engage in their communities, and live lives with purpose & meaning.

A caregiver is often described best by this quote:
"Caregiving is not what we do. It is who we are. It is the act of helping another person live with dignity, purpose, and hope."

Our DSPs embody this spirit every day. Whether supporting someone in their home, helping them participate in community activities, assisting with employment opportunities, teaching new skills, or simply being a trusted friend and advocate, your work changes lives.

You are the reason families find comfort.
You are the reason individuals achieve goals once thought impossible.
You are the reason MHDS continues to grow, evolve, and fulfill its mission.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, leadership team, and the individuals and families we serve, thank you for your unwavering commitment, compassion, and professionalism. We are honored to celebrate you during National DSP Appreciation Week and throughout the year.

Your dedication makes a difference every single day.

Nora

MHDS
Mental Health & Developmental Services

Direct Support Professional
RECOGNITION WEEK
September 13 - 19, 2026

ANCOR | RELIAS



Jackson



Brownsville



Bolivar



Selmer

National Disability Employment Month/NDEAM in October



Arts In McNairy











Golf Tournament on Friday, October 2

21st Bob Brown Memorial Scramble
Humboldt Golf & Country Club
Download a brochure here.

Sponsored by

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Summer Fun



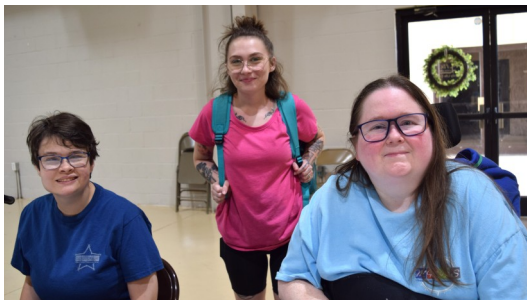


1st Baptist Bethel Springs Cookout

Our friends provided a wonderful afternoon of great food & fellowship for those supported in Selmer recently! Thank you!













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Mental Health & Developmental Services

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