

Deadline for Applications Extended to 3-31-2017



P. O. Box 111242
Memphis, Tennessee 38111

It's time to nominate deserving youth and committed adults for Memphis "Beat the Odds" Awards

During the last 24 years, the Memphis "Beat the Odds" Foundation has shared some uplifting and remarkable stories about youth and young adults in our community. This is in contrast to the barrage of negative things we hear about them each and every day. What makes the sharing of these stories most incredible is that they are told about the lives of youth and young adults who are "beating the odds" and finding success, despite facing the daunting conditions in which many of them live.

We are ready to kick off another year in celebrating the lives of young people. We invite you to help us tell their stories; To share with others how, despite facing some of the most difficult circumstances that even an adult would find hard to overcome, these young people are triumphing through adversity. Help us share how, in the midst of their troubles, such as broken homes, mental, emotional and sexual abuse, homelessness, severe health problems and a multitude of other catastrophic situations, these very youth persevere. They do more than survive; they thrive and make life better for themselves and others by the courage they exemplify. Somehow they find the means to make great things happen and to accomplish even greater things. Seldom do we hear about these young people.

To date, the Memphis "Beat the Odds" Foundation has helped to share the stories of close to 120 youth by honoring them with the Memphis "Beat the Odds" Award. This coming May (2017), another group of young people will be recognized at the 24th Annual Memphis "Beat the Odds" Awards Program. The youth recipients will be presented with a monetary award, trophy and other prizes in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments. We will also recognize an adult who has made a positive impact on youth and young adults with the *Cathryn Rivers Johnson Award*.

We need your help to identify deserving individuals for these awards. Application packets and selection guidelines are enclosed with this correspondence for both awards. To be considered, applications **must** be postmarked by **Friday, March 31, 2017**. Please send your application to:

Memphis "Beat the Odds" Foundation
Attn: Selection Committee
P. O. Box 111242
Memphis, TN 38111

We look forward to receiving your nominations. Thanks in advance for helping to celebrate remarkable youth in our community who have once again beat the odds. For additional information about the Memphis "Beat the Odds" Foundation and the "Beat the Odds" program, call Dr. Theresa Okwumabua at (901) 428-0073, Okwumabuat@gmail.com or visit us at www.memphisbeattheodds.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, May 18, 2017 Memphis "Beat the Odds" Awards Program

- Supporting the positive potential of young people -

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P. O. Box 111242
Memphis, Tennessee 38111
24th Annual (2017)
Memphis "Beat the Odds" Recognition

Selection Guidelines (Student & Youth Award)

Listed below are guidelines to consider in determining whether to nominate a young person for this year's award. More than one student may be nominated by an agency.

Nominees should be:

- Enrolled in school or a special training program
- Between the ages of 13 and 21 years
- Maintaining a grade point average showing marked effort, improvement, or success
- Succeeding despite, but not limited to, hardships such as poverty, poor health, disability, homelessness, addiction, personal/family tragedy, cultural/language barriers
- Participating in activities involving, for example, volunteerism, extracurricular school, religious, or civic activities helpful to others
- Achieving non-academic goals within his/her school and/or community
- Not a previous "Beat the Odds" Award Recipient

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24th Annual (2017)
Memphis "Beat the Odds" Recognition
Student & Youth Award Nomination Form

Application Must be Postmarked by Friday, March 31, 2017

Please complete the following background information and, under separate cover, describe why you think this student/youth should be honored at the 2017 Memphis "Beat the Odds" Celebration. You may refer to the attached outline of suggested criteria as a guide in completing your application. Students/youth are encouraged to submit their own statement (one page) and respond to a question regarding their contribution(s) to the community (community service). Letters of support from their peers or others who know about their challenges and accomplishments are encouraged as well. In addition, please provide the names of three (3) adults who would be willing to be interviewed by a member of the Memphis "Beat the Odds" Selection Committee about the nominee. These individuals will be contacted regarding the nominee. It would be very helpful to us if you would include information regarding the best time of day and means (i.e., telephone/e-mail) of contacting individuals who can provide a reference for the nominee.

Please type or print

Nominee's Name		Nominee's Birth date/ Age	
Nominee's Address		City, State, & Zip	
Gender _____	Social Security # _____	Ethnicity _____	
Nominee's Home Phone _____	Preferred Contact# (Cell) _____	E-mail Address _____	# in Family _____ Family's Income Estimate) _____
Name of Nominee's School		GPA	
Name of Person or Organization Submitting Nomination		E-Mail Address	
City, State, & Zip			
If Organization, Name of Contact Person/ Title/		Address/Phone #	E-Mail Address
Signature of Person Making Nomination			

Please give the name and contact information (i.e., telephone numbers – daytime, evening, cell) of three individuals who can be interviewed about the nominee. We will contact these people. Please let them know about your nomination. **Also please tell us the "best" time to contact the individual and the "best mean" (number/email) to reach them.**

(1) _____	(Person's Name)	(Daytime #)	(Evening #)	(Other #)	Best Time/Mean	E-Mail Address
(2) _____	(Person's Name)	(Daytime #)	(Evening #)	(Other #)	Best Time/Mean	E-Mail Address
(3) _____	(Person's Name)	(Daytime #)	(Evening #)	(Other #)	Best Time/Mean	E-Mail Address

Please Mail Application to: Memphis "Beat the Odds" Selection Committee; **Attn: Selection Committee, P.O. Box 111242, Memphis, TN 38111.** For additional information about the Memphis "Beat the Odds" Foundation and the "Beat the Odds" program, call Dr. Theresa Okwumabua at (901) 428-0073, Okwumabuat@gmail.com or visit us at www.memphisbeattheodds.org.

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Memphis "Beat the Odds" Recognition

Student & Youth Award Nomination Form

Tell why you are nominating _____ for recognition

(Nominee's Name)

by the Memphis "Beat the Odds" Foundation. Use additional paper, if needed.

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Student Nominee Comments: Please respond to the following questions. You may use additional paper if needed but limit each response to one page. Include this response in the application package.

Question #1: *What difficulties or obstacles have you had to deal with in your lifetime?*

Question #2: *How have you dealt with these difficulties and to what extent do you feel you have successfully dealt with them?*

Question #3: *What are you currently doing or have done in the past year to "give back" to your community? (If you are not currently doing anything or have not done anything in the past year to "give back" to your community, what could you do now to "give back" to your community?) (Community is broadly defined and can include your home, school, church, surrounding neighborhood, the Memphis community, etc.)*

Question #4: *How do you think other youth might benefit or be helped by hearing about you and the difficulties in your life?*

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