

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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The Cathryn Rivers Johnson Award

(Award Description)

The Cathryn Rivers Johnson Award was established in 1995 by the Memphis “Beat the Odds” Awards Committee as a way to honor and remember Cathryn Rivers Johnson. Ms. Johnson was a loving, kind, humble, dedicated, loyal, spirit-filled, compassionate, vivacious, charismatic, innovative, intelligent, influential, dynamic, resourceful, and motivational person who dedicated her whole life to serving people, especially children. She never met a stranger and was always a positive factor in each life she touched. She served young people through the WDIA Teen Town Singers, where she served as musician, through her employment for 35 years with Memphis City Schools, and through her many church activities at Salem Gilfield Baptist Church. She dedicated time and energy in molding and preparing young people to become productive citizens. Ms. Johnson taught at Booker T. Washington High School for 32 of her 35 years. Upon retirement from the Memphis City Schools, she worked as an educational talent search counselor with Girls, Incorporated.

Do you know anyone who would be deserving of this recognition? If so, please consider nominating him or her for the 2017 Cathryn Rivers Johnson Award. **Nominations must be postmarked by Friday, March 31, 2017.** Like Ms. Johnson, the recipient of this award must:

- Significantly influence and impact the life of a young person or young adults;
- Provide service to youth and the Memphis/Shelby County community;
- Assist youth in their career development; and/or
- Assist youth in their educational endeavors.

Previous recipients of this prestigious award include Cassandra Hughes Webster (2016), Tony Nicholson (2015), Mario Hendrix (2014), Peggy Russell (2013, posthumous), Charles (Mr. Chuck) Scruggs (2012), Tracy White (2011), Dr. Audrey Elion (2010), Nick Green (2010), Yvonne Pulliam (2009), Eloise Silmon (2009), Lovell Cartwright (2007), Armella Becton Smith (2006), Edward Redditt (2005), Angela Thomas (2004), Aretha King (2003), Rene Friemoth Lee (2002), Marene J. Austin (2001), Dr. William “Will” Shadish (2000), Sarah Lewis (1999), Freda Martin (1998), Delois Davis (1997), and Jackie Littlefield (1996).

Submit completed application, postmarked by March 31, 2017, to:
Memphis “Beat the Odds” Nominations Committee
P. O. Box 111242
Memphis, Tennessee 38111

SAVE THE DATE

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**Memphis "Beat the Odds" Recognition
Cathryn Rivers Johnson Award**

2017 Nomination Form (Must be Postmarked by **March 31, 2017)**

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # : _____ (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____ (other)

Place of Employment _____

Title _____ E-Mail: _____

I. Describe how the nominee has used his/her expertise/training, time and/or influence to significantly benefit youth and young adults. Use additional paper, if necessary.

II. Describe how nominee provides service to youth, particularly in the Memphis/Shelby County (Tennessee) community. What activities, programs, special projects, etc. is this person involved in?

III. Describe the impact that the nominee has had as a role model/mentor in the life of a youth and/or young adult during the last five (5) years.

IV. Describe how the nominee assists with/in the educational endeavors of a young person or people.

SAVE THE DATE

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

- Supporting the positive potential of young people -

V. Describe how the nominee assists or has assisted a young person or people in their career development.

VI. Comment on why or how the nominee's involvement with a youth or young people distinguishes him/her from others who have also worked on behalf of a young person or youth.

VII. 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 individuals. 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.

(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

Signature of the Nominator _____ **Print Name of Nominator** _____

Address of Nominator _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone # : _____ (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____ (other)

E-Mail Address: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

Submit completed application, postmarked by **March 31, 2017** to:
 Memphis "Beat the Odds" Selection Committee
 P. O. Box 111242
 Memphis, Tennessee 38111

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, May 18, 2017 Memphis "Beat the Odds" Awards Program
- Supporting the positive potential of young people -