

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

(<https://www.attendanceworks.org/>)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10% of school days (18 days) can make it harder for children to learn how to read.
- Chronic absences can impact the whole classroom due to the teacher having to slow down learning to help children who've been absent to catch up.



Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Subsidy Phase and Early Registrations

Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services' LIHEAP Program is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to help low-income residents pay utility bills. The Subsidy component of LIHEAP will begin November 5, 2018.

Applicants must be Jefferson County residents within 130% of the federal poverty guidelines and willing to provide the documentation below.

- Proof of all household income for the preceding month (Food Stamp award letter, Social Security Award letter, pay stubs, etc. or proof of \$0 income. Note: Zero Income forms are available at the Community Services office at 701 W. Ormsby Ave., Suite 201.)
- Proof of Social Security Number or Permanent Residence card (Green Card) for each member of the household.
- Most current heating bill; or statement from your landlord if heating expenses are included in your rent; or statement from your utility company if you participate in a pre-pay electric program. Please bring the account number and name on the account for all heating fuel sources and electric.

The Beecher Report

Community is the foundation for the bigger picture

USI IS GROWING

USI is growing and we are excited!!! We are working hard to serve Beecher Terrace and the Russell Community by adding to our already amazing team of staff. We have recently added TWO New Case Managers to our USI Louisville family - Nakia Ashford and Jamal Love – who are already reaching out to their new caseloads of families. You can learn a little more about Nakia and Jamal below.

Nakia Middleton-Ashford

Nakia L. Middleton-Ashford is a native of Jeffersonville, Indiana, but currently resides in Louisville. Nakia graduated in 2009 from Spalding University with a bachelor's degree in Social Work. During that same year, she received the Social Justice award from Spalding University and began her career with Louisville Metro Government as a Senior Social Worker.

Throughout her career, Nakia has made it a priority to work with diverse individuals across socio-economic, cultural, ethnic, and educational backgrounds. She has a history of collaborating with a wide range of professionals, while simultaneously facilitating services to individuals and families. Nakia began with USI in August 2018. In her short tenure, she had demonstrated a strong commitment to meeting the needs of her clients.



Jamal Love

True to his name, Jamal Love is a compassionate, caring man who dearly loves his family and his community. He was born in Louisville, Kentucky and graduated from Louisville Male High School before going on to Knoxville College where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Marketing.

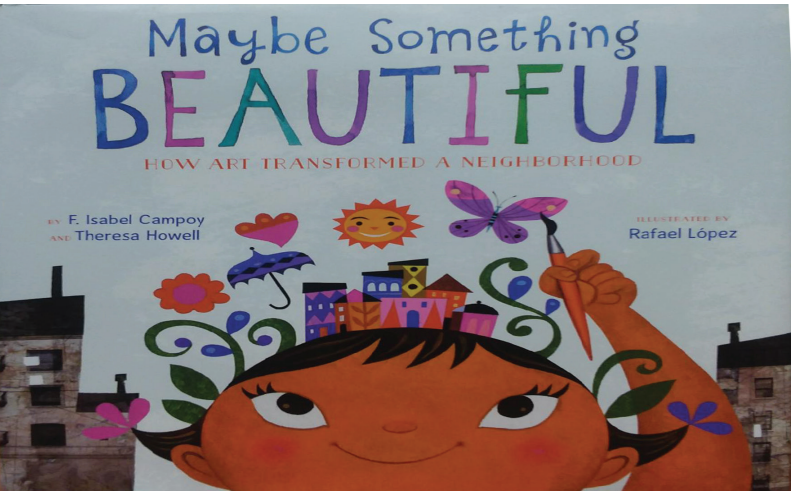
As an avid team sport participant, Jamal understands the importance of connection in supporting success. Being a four-year letterman in football and basketball in high school, he went on to do the same in basketball in college, even earning "Freshman of the Year" in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Jamal joined the USI team in late October. Professionally, he has over 25 years of youth development, education, residential treatment, and social services experience working with families and children. Past employers include Jefferson County Public Schools, Metro Government, Home of the Innocents, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the YMCA of Greater Louisville. A key part of Jamal's efforts in his prior roles was increasing employment and employability; a skill that he hopes to utilize while serving the families of Beecher Terrace.

Personally, Jamal loves to sing in the choir, travel, cook, read, watch sports, and attend concerts. He is looking forward to working with the families of Beecher Terrace.



READ FOR THE RECORD



USI Louisville staff recently participated in Jumpstart's annual *Read for the Record* campaign. Launched over a decade ago, this national initiative brings together millions of people each year in classrooms, libraries, community centers and homes across the U.S.

The goal of *Read for the Record* is to highlight the importance of building early literacy and language skills for EVERY CHILD, so that all children have the opportunity to enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. Increasing

kindergarten readiness is also a key goal of our Russell Choice Neighborhood Initiative

Partnering with Jefferson County Public Schools and several child-care centers, USI Louisville staff read to over 300 Beecher Terrace and Russell youth and adults on October 25, 2018. This year's selection, "Maybe Something Beautiful" by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, is based on a true story of neighborhood transformation through artwork. The book seemed like a perfect story to share with Russell community members, given the revitalization efforts currently underway within the neighborhood,

Urban Strategies Inc. would like to give special thanks to JCPS and other dedicated partners who took part in this initiative including Byck Elementary, Maupin Elementary, Brandeis Elementary, MiniVersity, Wright Place, Lil Angels, Lil Genius', Munchkin Manor and Rushem' On In Child Development Centers.

Reading aloud with young children builds language skills and provides positive experiences that can foster a love of learning for life.

RUSSELL READS

Who reads? Russell Reads!!! In partnership with JCPS and our many supportive education partners, USI is embarking on a year-long literacy initiative entitled *Russell Reads*. The mission of *Russell Reads* is to foster equity through family literacy, community engagement and life-long learning opportunities. This new reading initiative will emphasize parents and other adults as childrens' first teachers and focus on increasing learning beyond the traditional school setting.

As part of Russell Reads, ongoing literacy events will

be held throughout the community including scheduled story hours with guest readers and authors, book clubs and poetry slams. An Ambassador Leader Network will also be established as part of the initiative, along with a passport system to incentivize reading.

USI is seeking volunteers and Ambassador Leaders for the *Russell Reads* initiative. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information about the program, please call USI's office at 502-384-0786 and/or email TaLonda Holland, Senior Project Manager at talonda.holland@urbanstrategiesinc.org.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



Like many others in today's rapidly changing economy, Marissa Austin suddenly and unexpectedly found herself unemployed. After years in the workforce - most recently as a cook at a

local restaurant - her life changed instantly when this line of work was no longer an option. Not willing to give up, Ms. Austin worked closely with her Urban Strategies' case manager to ensure that she would soon be gainfully employed. When she was first approached about case management, Ms. Austin reported "I was hesitant and unsure of how it could benefit me." She initially agreed only because she thought that she could potentially use some extra support during the moving

process. When Ms. Austin turned to Urban Strategies for assistance finding employment, she found herself exploring entirely different paths with her case manager. She decided to become a security officer, as it appeared to be a good fit with her strong and direct personality. After researching several security firms, Ms. Austin set her sights on Securitas Security Services and the rest is history. She landed the job and started in September. Ms. Austin loves her current assignment at the Presbyterian Church USA, and interacting with the many people she comes in contact with there daily. She was also excited to learn that Securitas pays for employees to take classes at the Devry Institute, and is interested in taking full advantage of this benefit by enrolling in informational technology classes.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

DRESS FOR SUCCESS has a NEW HOME!!! The new location is 913 E. Main Street, Suite 101B, Louisville, KY 40206, in between City Space Storage Units and Clayton & Crume, on the north side of Main Street.

Dress For Success is an international non-profit organization that works to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing professional attire and a network of support that will help women thrive in work and in life.

SUITING

Dress For Success wants you to feel your best while you are job searching, and during your first few weeks of employment. If you find that you have clothing needs for employment, accessing their services is as easy as a referral and a visit. Once you have a scheduled interview with a perspective employer, you can obtain a referral from your Urban case manager to visit your local *Dress For Success* boutique. *Dress for Success* volunteers will work with you to choose an outfit and provide guidance and support for the upcoming interview, if you think that might be helpful. *Dress For Success* also provides women with development tools like the workshop listed in the next column.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP on FRAUD and SCAMS & CREDIT

FREE to WOMEN

TUESDAY EVENINGS
913 E. Main Street, Suite 101B

DINNER PROVIDED

BUS TICKETS AVAILABLE

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE
if requested in advance

For more information, please call
502-584-8050 or
email: roxanne@dfslo.org

For referrals to *Dress For Success*
please reach out to your Urban
Strategies' case manager.