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**Shelby County Trustee announces Greater Memphis Financial Empowerment Center
Clients Have Paid Off Over \$7,000,000 in Debt**

*Regina Morrison Newman, Shelby County Trustee, announces milestone met by the Greater Memphis
Financial Empowerment Center Clients*

09/09/25 – Regina Morrison Newman, Shelby County Trustee, in partnership with non-profit service provider RISE Memphis, announced today that the clients of the Greater Memphis Financial Empowerment Center (GMFEC) have paid off over \$7,000,000 in debt. The GMFEC opened its doors a little over six years ago.

The GMFEC provides free, professional one-on-one financial counseling as a service to any County resident. It has now served over 2,300 clients and those clients have jointly paid off their non-mortgage debt by over \$7,000,000 as of the end of August 2025. On average, clients receive at least 2 hours of free financial counseling each but are entitled to receive counseling as long as they need it. This milestone was reached only four months after the previous milestone of \$6,600,000 in debt reduction!

“Clients continue to amaze us with what they have been able to achieve through counseling with the GMFEC! The Trustee’s office is thrilled at their continued dedication to improving their financial stability.” -
Regina Morrison Newman, Shelby County Trustee

The GMFEC is an integral part of Shelby County’s efforts to support individuals on their pathway out of any financial hardship that has resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic or other reasons, and toward financial stability.

” Our average client is a single African American mom working full time, renting, and making \$38,112. In Shelby County, a family of four who rents should be making \$59,000 to live comfortably. The fact that our clients have been able to achieve such an amazing debt reduction milestone despite being behind the financial eight ball is a testament to their focus on improving their lives” – **Karen Madlock, GMFEC Operations Manager**

To schedule an appointment with the GMFEC, visit <https://fecpublic.org/appointment-greatermemphis> or call (901) 390-4200.



About the Greater Memphis Financial Empowerment Center

The GMFEC offers **free, one-on-one professional financial counseling** to all Shelby County residents. Certified financial counselors are available for personalized and confidential guidance and can help you deal with a wide range of personal financial issues including budgeting, debt reduction, credit improvement and increasing savings. Services are always free and available to all Shelby County residents regardless of income. For more information, please visit www.gmfec.org or find us on Facebook (Greater Memphis Financial Empowerment Center.) The GMFEC is essentially grant and donation funded, with initial funds from the CFE Fund, and is sponsored by the Shelby County Trustee.

About RISE Memphis

RISE (Responsibility. Initiative. Solution. Empowerment.) is a 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to improve the community by providing financial literacy tools and incentives to help families build assets and make better financial choices. For more information, visit www.risememphis.org

About the Shelby County Trustee's Office

The Shelby County Trustee collects County property taxes and handles delinquent property tax collections for all municipalities in Shelby County. By law, the Trustee is the banker for Shelby County Government. In addition, the Trustee coordinates banking services for approximately fifteen different county offices, including various elected officials and the Shelby County Board of Education. The Shelby County Trustee's duties include maximizing interest earnings and streamlining banking costs. The Trustee offers a number of community outreach programs including Tax Freeze, Tax Relief, Quarterly Tax Payments, Wheel Tax Rebates, Project HOME, Bank On Memphis, On My Own Financial Simulation for young people, Adulting 101 Showcase, and the Greater Memphis Financial Empowerment Center. For more information, please visit www.shelbycountytrustee.com.