



WHY BE JUST SHEEP WHEN YOU CAN BE NINJA SHEEP!

IN THIS ISSUE

# What Type of Sheep Are You Part III?

Now that we have learned quite a bit about the characteristics of sheep, it's time to bring this baby home by showing the correlation between behaviors of sheep and behaviors of people (volunteers). I hope you are ready!

We are constantly looking for our "tribe," a group of like-minded individuals with the same goals and aspirations. People naturally gravitate towards groups of people that appear to be having fun and making impacts on the community. Fun and laughter needs to go hand in hand with hard work to be able to attract others and therefore increasing the size of your flock.

I want you to close your eyes and remember when you were child and you played "Follow the Leader" and "Simon Says." What is thought to be an innocent game is actually teaching not only leadership skills, but teaching you as a group (flock) to listen to only what "Simon Says" (shepherd) to do. If you made a move that wasn't said by Simon, you were OUT!

As an adult, I find that game particularly interesting. It's the same person giving the same commands. However, you have to be listening so closely that you only do what

Simon Says. So you are a volunteer in a group (flock). You are use to hearing the voices of leaders of either your individual teams within the flock or your overall flock leader. One day, things don't seem to add up. You are hearing a move that does not sound like it comes from "Simon.: What do you do? Do you make your move and end up with egg on your face and then be "out?"



As the leader (shepherd) of the group, it is your responsibility to foster your sheep in the manner that if they feel something is not lining up with RM protocols or Biblically, that they can come to you without offense. As the sheep, it is your responsibility that if you see or hear something that doesn't line up with protocol or Biblically, you go ONLY to the leader and the directors without making anything personal. It's a hard thing for all of us.

Being social creatures, we tend to form cliques. We tend to only be comfortable with other individuals that see eye to eye with us on any given subject. This is an unhealthy attribute to Volunteerism as new faces, different people are brought into the fold to

## Our Why...



## Kroger Rewards & RM



challenge us and make us come to a place of understanding and not exclusion.

Now that we have made the connection between these sheep/human behaviors, we will look at all the ways we can become **NINJA SHEEP**, ever sharpening each other and our skills!

# Our Why

## Why does Refuge Memphis do what they do?

You don't have to look far to find evidence of the issues plaguing our great city. Whether you turn on the television, radio, or open the morning paper, you will be faced with stories of poverty, heart ache, crime, and injustice. No matter your political

Refuge Memphis has a variety of programs that have three very specific natures. They are **Reactionary**, **Corrective**, and **Preventative**. To fully understand the nature of these categories, you must understand the **WHY**.

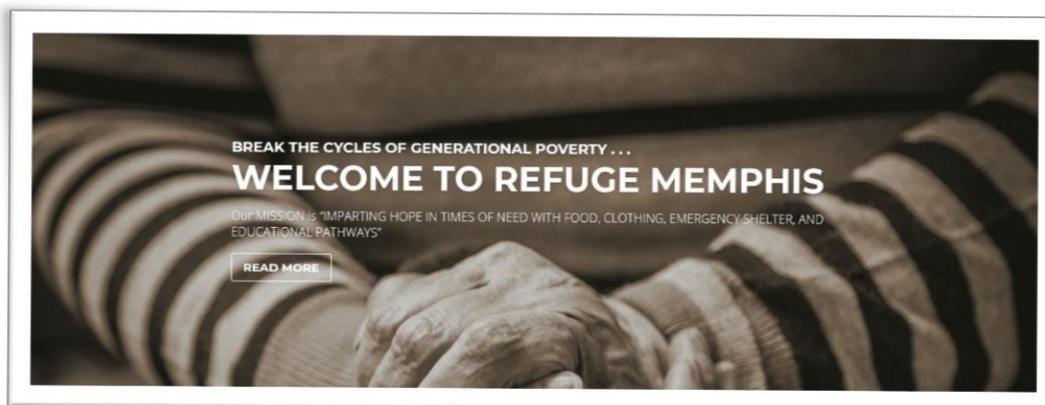
Our mission statement is "To impart hope in time of need with food, clothing, emergency shelter, and educational pathways."

Our goal is to break the cycle of generational poverty, crime, and social program dependence in Shelby County.

In our great city, there are 639,139 people living below poverty. Yes, poverty is on the rise, but to be able to fully assist, you must understand how poverty is defined. There are two different types of poverty.

Situational poverty is generally caused by a sudden crisis or loss and is often temporary. Events causing situational poverty include environmental disasters, divorce, or severe health problems. **Generational poverty** occurs in families where at least two generations have been born into poverty.

We address the situational poverty by meeting the immediate needs with food, clothing, and emergency shelter.



stance, as humans, we need to pull our heads out of either the sand or the clouds and look directly into the faces that are right in front of us. Behind

every statistic, is a person with feelings, dreams, and desires.

This fuels Refuge Memphis "WHY"

I want to focus on **Generational Poverty**. This is a very real epidemic in Shelby County. For example, if you are a grandparent that was raised by your grandparent and are raising your grandchildren, you are in a generational cycle. We have to focus on our **YOUTH**.

Looking at our foster care system, the statistics nationally are alarming. In an article written by Caroline Bailey, she addressed five very real statistics of children that have aged out of the foster care system. In 2017, 20,000 children aged out of the system. Out of that, 20% of those children became homeless instantly. Less than 3% will pursue higher education. Only 50% will have employment by the age of 24. 25% of these kids suffer from PTSD from their experiences. The most troubling of all to me, is 7 out of 10 girls who age out, will have or have had children while in the system, thus creating generational cycle.

These statistics should shake you at your core because these are **CHILDREN**.

Let's focus on Shelby County. As of September 30, 2017 there were 12,563 reports of maltreatment of a child. This is defined as behavior towards a child that is outside the norms of conduct and entails substantial risk of causing physical or emotional harm. It takes an average of 106 days from the time an incident is reported to

the time it is substantiated or dismissed. Of those reported, only 1,416 were confirmed thus forcing the removal of 748 children. Sadly 192 of the children were returned to the system after dismissal. Shelby County foster care system cared for 1,693 children in 2017.

Taking in those stats, looking at the generational cycles, Shelby County needs our programs. There are:

**Reactionary**: RFKC spending time reversing the thought of being "throw away children" and setting the example of a proper family structure.

Manna – Offering food and clothing.

Shower of Blessings/Shepherd's Inn – offering meals, shelter, showers, and clothing to the Homeless Community and linking them with services & programs.

Taking it 2 the Streets – building bonds with those that are destitute by providing sack lunches form relationships to gain trust.

**Corrective** – RTC – offering assistance in obtaining proper documentation, job training, counseling, and educational classes.

**Preventative** – All Star Sports – offering mentorship, alternatives to gangs, & tutoring.

Operation Perseverance – Youth led program linking elderly generations to young generations through mentorship, arts & crafts, and forming groups that address child stress and anti-bullying through community projects.

## UPCOMING EVENTS &amp; REMINDERS

March 17 –Taking it 2 the Streets

March 20 – Shower of Blessings

March 24 – Manna

March 27 – Shower of Blessings

WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Send content via email to Niki at [niki.schoggen@refuge-memphis.org](mailto:niki.schoggen@refuge-memphis.org)

When was the last time you shopped our online store? Head over to [www.refuge-memphis.org](http://www.refuge-memphis.org) and click the Store page.

Help Refuge Memphis by cleaning up with these University of Tennessee shower products! Check out our online store for other SEC Schools. Go Big Orange!



## Kroger Community Rewards

What is better than saving some money at the grocery store or at the gas pump? Being able to donate to your favorite charity, Refuge Memphis! Kroger is now making that possible!

Kroger is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches, and other nonprofit organizations will earn millions of dollars through the Kroger Community Rewards Program!

Kroger makes this transaction super easy by linking your personal Kroger Rewards membership to the Refuge Memphis Community Partner page.

Here's how you join:

Please visit Kroger's website: [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com).

From here, you will log into your Kroger account or register your Kroger account. Once you have signed in, you will use a key word search for the program you wish to donate, Refuge Memphis. Once you have selected it, that's it. Your account is now linked!

All you have to do is shop and save money. Kroger will do the rest. They will donate a percentage of your sale directly to Refuge Memphis.

Thank you for your continued support!



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To link your account, please visit:

[www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)

Keyword Search: **Refuge Memphis**

# Refuge Memphis The Ninja Weekly

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## Program Needs Lists

### RTC Program

Mentors

Skilled/Non-Skilled Laborers

Prayers

### Shower of Blessings

Short Sleeve shirts & t-shirts

New Underwear (both genders)

Rain Gear (ponchos)

Toothpaste

Shoes (all sizes, both genders)

Bath Towels

Bottle Water

Prayers

### Taking it 2 the Streets

Volunteers to assist in making  
sack lunches

Items for sack lunches

Prayers

