



P. O. Box 111242  
Memphis, Tennessee 38111

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

For more than 26 years, the Memphis "Beat the Odds" Foundation has shared some uplifting and remarkable stories about youth and young adults in our community. This contrasts with the barrage of negative headline news stories we hear 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 difficult circumstances that even an adult would find hard to overcome, these young people are triumphing through adversity. Help us share how, amid their troubles, such as broken homes, mental, emotional and sexual abuse, homelessness, severe health problems and a multitude of other catastrophic situations, these very youths 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 share the stories of over 125 youth by honoring them with the Memphis "Beat the Odds" Award. On May 16, 2019, another group of young people will be recognized at the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 15, 2019**. 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](mailto:Okwumabuat@gmail.com) or visit us at [www.memphisbeattheodds.org](http://www.memphisbeattheodds.org).

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Thursday, May 16, 2019 Memphis "Beat the Odds" Awards Program**  
**- Supporting the positive potential of young people -**



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26<sup>th</sup> Annual (2019)  
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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**26th Annual (2019) Memphis  
"Beat the Odds" Recognition  
Student & Youth Award Nomination Form**

**Application Must be Postmarked by Friday, March 15, 2019**

Please complete the following background information and, separately, describe why you think this student/youth should be honored at the 2019 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](mailto:Okwumabuat@gmail.com) or visit us at [www.memphisbeattheodds.org](http://www.memphisbeattheodds.org).

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"Beat the Odds" Recognition

## Student & Youth Award Nomination Form

Tell why you are nominating \_\_\_\_\_ for recognition  
(Nominee's Name)

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

***Application Must be Postmarked by Friday, March 15, 2019***

For more information about the Memphis "Beat the Odds" Foundation and the "Beat the Odds" awards program, call Dr. Theresa Okwumabua at (901) 428-0073, [Okwumabuat@gmail.com](mailto:Okwumabuat@gmail.com), or visit us at [www.memphisbeattheodds.org](http://www.memphisbeattheodds.org).

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26th Annual (2019) Memphis "Beat the Odds" Recognition

## Student & Youth Award Nomination Form

**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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## **The Cathryn Rivers Johnson Award** (Adult Award Description)

The Cathryn Rivers Johnson Award was established in 1995 by the Memphis “Beat the Odds” Awards Committee 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 2019 Cathryn Rivers Johnson Award. **Nominations must be postmarked by Friday, March 15, 2019.** 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 Rev. Colenza Hubbard (2018), James D. Robinson (2017), Cassandra Hughes Webster (2016), Tony Nichelson (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 Friday, March 15, 2019, to:  
Memphis “Beat the Odds” Nominations Committee P. O. Box 111242  
Memphis, Tennessee 38111***

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

**2019 Nomination Form (Must be Postmarked by Friday, March 15, 2019)**

**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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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 15, 2019 to:  
Memphis "Beat the Odds" Selection Committee  
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