



THE CSLC COMMUNITY VOICE

"In relentless pursuit of perfection in education and knowledge"

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From the Executive Director's Desk



Voices United – Grateful Reflections

Throughout this newsletter, you'll hear directly from parents, entrepreneurs, homeowners, and community members whose lives have been touched by CSLC programs. Their words remind us that every workshop, loan, repair, literacy pop-up, school supplies distribution, and food pantry distribution is more than a service; it's a story of resilience, hope, and transformation.

Together, these voices form the chorus of CSLC's mission: to break cycles of poverty, expand opportunity, and build stronger communities across Holmes County and beyond. With renewed support and continued collaboration, we can ensure that even more families experience these life-changing improvements.

From the Books & Bonding Family Literacy Pop-Up Series made possible by the Community Foundation of Mississippi, to the Christmas Food Pantry partnership supported by generous donors, every gift strengthens our ability to serve.

Thank you for standing with us, listening to these voices, and helping us carry their stories forward.

Beulah Greer
CSLC Executive Director

CSLC HIPPY proudly promotes school-ready scholars



On May 3, 2025, CSLC proudly hosted its 14th annual HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) graduation. The theme, "My Five Senses," was beautifully highlighted by guest speaker Ms. Zenobia Cockrell, librarian at William Dean Elementary School. This year's program guide was Mrs. Sherri Reeves. CSLC extends heartfelt thanks to both of these ladies for their outstanding contributions.

We also send a special thanks to BankPlus for their continued support each year, which makes this program possible! This year's graduating class included 10 HIPPY students. (*Two are not pictured above.*) The program was truly inspiring. Children sang songs, recited rhymes and fingerplays, performed poems, and presented their parents with crimson roses. Each student received a lovely basket filled with educational materials, with additional baskets thoughtfully prepared by Ms. Cockrell.

"Seeing my child sing, recite poems, grow academically, and present roses at graduation was unforgettable. CSLC gave us memories and tools that will last a lifetime." — Porche Frizell Dixon

(See more HIPPY success highlights on Page 2.)

Two non-profits partner for big community food giveaway



On August 13, 2025, CSLC partnered with Boss Lady Economic Planning and the Molina Healthcare Community Foundation to coordinate a Healthy Food Community Giveaway, serving over 200 families. Each bag included fresh fruits and vegetables. In addition, school supplies from the CSLC Community Luau Fundraiser were also distributed to local students.

"The fresh fruits and vegetables helped my family eat healthier this month. CSLC truly cares." — B. Brown

"We were grateful not only for the food but also for the school supplies. It made back-to-school easier." — Shirley Stewart

Thank you, BankPlus and FHLB-Dallas!

CSLC extends heartfelt appreciation to BankPlus and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas for their ongoing commitment to improving housing conditions in our communities. Through this partnership, we have assisted 248 families via \$2,171,397 in grant funding for rehabilitation projects—providing essential repairs, improved safety, and greater housing stability.

Your investment has made a lasting difference in the lives of eligible residents. We are deeply grateful for your dedication, leadership, and the positive impact your support continues to bring to our service areas.

"Thanks to CSLC, our roof no longer leaks, and our children sleep safely at night." — E. Matthews

"The repairs gave us peace of mind. We can finally focus on our future instead of worrying about our home." — R. Dixon

BankPlus

FHLBANK
DALLAS

Parents and children enjoy Third Annual Community Luau Fundraiser



Children, parents, and staff are enjoying a dance.

On July 12, 2025, CSLC hosted its Third Community Luau Fundraiser, filling the air with fun and excitement! Activities included a talent show, dancing, delicious food, Hawaiian-themed costumes, prizes, and games both indoors and outdoors.



Organizer Rosalind Greer

Funds raised are used to help secure supplies for children in Holmes County, from Pre-K through high school. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated, organized

celebrated this important cause.

We extend a special thanks to Mrs. Rosalind Greer for coordinating this event each year. Her dedication ensures its success and impact. Greer, who is currently pursuing a doctoral program, is a teacher and content lead at a school in Georgia.

“I look forward to the Luau every year. It brings our community together in joy and generosity.” — Lolovone Williams



CSLC youth posing for a photo

CSLC's Lula Early Literacy Program invites you to celebrate a holiday sing-along

Early literacy program undergoes a name change

Recently, CSLC's Board of Directors voted to rename the HIPPY program as CSLC's Lula Early Literacy Program as a memorial tribute to Ms. Lula Friar's lifelong commitment to early childhood learning.

CSLC's Lula Early Literacy Program

Currently, 21 students are enrolled in CSLC's Lula Early Literacy Program. We invite you to join us for our Christmas Sing-Along on December 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at 333 Yazoo Street, Lexington, MS 39095.

“The Lula Early Literacy Program has helped my child fall in love with reading. We are grateful for the support and encouragement.” — Adrian Clark, HIPPY Parent



More highlights from the 2025 CSLC HIPPY graduation ceremony...



ZENOBIA COCKRELL
Guest Speaker

SHERRI REEVES
Program Guide

The theme, “My Five Senses”

CSLC joins HEED in hosting a Community Fair Housing Seminar

Fair Housing: Partnering for Equal Opportunity



HEED Director Charles Harris explains fair housing.

On November 5, 2025, the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) hosted an important Fair Housing Meeting in partnership with community leaders and residents. The session was led by Charles Harris, Director of Housing Education and Economic Development (HEED), who traveled from Jackson, Miss. to share his expertise and guidance.

Key Highlights

- Participants gained valuable information on Fair Housing rights and protections.
- Discussion addressed common housing needs and barriers affecting families in our community.
- Strategies were shared to increase access to safe, affordable housing locally and in surrounding areas.
- Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, share concerns, and engage directly with CSLC's ongoing Fair Housing initiatives.

Harris provided clear guidance on fair housing laws, discrimination prevention, and community responsibilities, helping residents better understand their rights and the resources available to them.

Looking Ahead

CSLC will continue hosting Fair Housing Information Sessions to keep residents, homeowners, renters, and local leaders informed. Upcoming meeting dates will be announced publicly and shared through our website, social media, and community networks.

Together, we are working to promote equal housing opportunities for all residents and strengthen the foundation of safe, affordable housing in Holmes County.

“I learned my rights as a renter thanks to CSLC’s Fair Housing session.” — Charles Harvey

“The meeting gave me confidence to speak up about housing issues in my neighborhood.” — Vera Harmon

USDA Rural Development Programs – Now Accepting Applications!

The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) is excited to share that USDA Rural Development is now accepting applications for the following programs:

USDA 502 DIRECT HOME LOAN PROGRAM. Helping families in rural communities achieve affordable homeownership. Program benefits include: **No down payment required | Low-interest rates | Flexible credit guidelines | Affordable monthly payments | Homebuyer support from CSLC every step of the way**

USDA 504 Home Repair Loan & Grant Program. Helping eligible homeowners make essential home repairs. Program benefits include: **Funds for critical home repairs | Grants for low-income seniors | Improved safety, accessibility, and quality of life**

CSLC CAN HELP YOU APPLY! Our certified USDA Loan & Grant Packager will: **Check your eligibility | Assist with completing the application | Guide you through each step | Keep you updated during the waiting period**

Voices of Impact

“CSLC helped us buy our first home. We never thought it would be possible.” — Lillie Williams

With renewed support, more families can achieve homeownership and make essential repairs that improve their quality of life.

COMING SOON! Three new brick homes to be built in CSLC’s Faith Hill Subdivision!



START YOUR JOURNEY TODAY!

For assistance or to begin your application:

Call: Kalandria Newman – (662) 834-0905

Visit:

**COMMUNITY STUDENTS LEARNING CENTER
333 Yazoo St., Lexington, MS 39095**

Learn more: communitystudentlearning.org



CSLC is thankful for the success of the T.I.M.E. Violence Reduction Program



The Community Students Learning Center would like to thank the Holmes County School District as well as all stakeholders in Holmes County. Although we expected great outcomes, the Transforming and Investing in Mississippi Education Act (T.I.M.E.) Violence Reduction Program (VRP) exceeded our expectations. According to the data collected, the implementation of this grant was very successful, and it was one of the best opportunities to transform our schools and community we have had. Using Mind Matters and Positive Action curricula, the goal was to reduce youth violence through social-emotional learning (SEL) and resilience-building among K-12 students. We served approximately 1600 students across the school district and look forward to continuing this upward trend.

CSLC receives a \$2,500 anonymous donation to support a big food giveaway



CSLC is also grateful to announce a \$2,500 donation to support food security in Holmes County.

In partnership with a local food pantry, **CSLC will distribute food in conjunction with Durant Baptist Church, Durant, Miss. on December 16, 2025, at Durant Baptist Church from at 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, to help families celebrate the holidays with nourishment and joy.

This generous gift ensures that families across our community will have access to essential food during the holiday season.

Together, we are making sure no one is left behind during this time of giving.

CSLC receives a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Mississippi

The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) is honored to announce that we have received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Mississippi (CFM) to launch the Books & Bonding Family Literacy Pop-Up Series. This three-event initiative will promote early literacy and strengthen family engagement in underserved areas of Holmes County. Each pop-up will feature:

- Interactive read-aloud
- Culturally relevant children's books
- Parent-friendly literacy resources

The project will create joyful reading experiences while equipping families with tools to support literacy at home. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Community Foundation of Mississippi for investing in the future of our children and families.

Both of the above announcements highlight CSLC's commitment to literacy, family engagement, and food security—made possible through the generosity of our partners.



Participants of the ROAD's program are on the 'road to' success!



Holmes County.

During the third quarter of 2025, three Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training sessions were conducted, reaching a total of 32 individuals across law enforcement, social services, education, and community sectors. Each training was held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., reflecting a full-day commitment to mental health awareness and intervention skills. Across all sessions, participants gained foundational knowledge in MHFA principles, with an emphasis on reducing stigma, improving referral pathways, and enhancing early intervention for individuals experiencing mental health challenges. The diversity of attendees underscores the community-wide commitment to strengthening mental wellness support across

Highlights from the CSLC 2025 HIPPY Fund Fest & Bike, Car and Truck Show

The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) is always grateful for the support area Mississippi and out-of-state bikers, car, and truck enthusiasts have shown to help our early learners each summer in memory of "Ms. Lula's Legacy. Below are highlights from this year's event:

