



Fifty Years of Finding a Way

Chronological History

- 1961 Chartered by State of Tennessee as “**Senior Citizens Center**”
Began providing older Memphians with social, health-related, and recreational services.
- 1965 Changed name to “**Senior Citizens Services**”.
Joined Shelby United Neighbors (SUN), which evolved into the United Way of the Mid-South.
- 1969 Received the first state grant award in Memphis to begin a Homemaker program offering assistance with personal care, meal preparation, light housekeeping, and errands.
- 1974 Under Title V-Older Americans Act began providing employment services placing seniors in not-for-profit and public community agencies.
- 1977 Certified and licensed as a home health agency.
- 1978 Established South Memphis Senior Center.
- 1982 Opened the first of three Gramma’s Daycare, providing intergenerational early childhood education center opens.
- 1986 Implemented “H.O.M.E.”, Tennessee’s first alternative to nursing home care under the Medicaid program.
- 1991 Opened “Stepping Stones”, a foster care program for medically-fragile and special-needs children.
- 1992 Changed name to “**Senior Services**”
Implemented Community Information and Referral program.
- 1993 Created the “**We’ll Find a Way**” motto.
Relocated to 4700 Poplar Ave.
- 1994 Expanded “Stepping Stones” foster care throughout Tennessee and to Mississippi.
- 1995 Expanded “Stepping Stones” foster care to Arkansas.
Broadened “Stepping Stones” program focus to address the needs of emotionally-fragile foster children.
- 1996 Expanded H.O.M.E. to Nashville.
Merged the Alliance for the Blind and Visually Impaired with Senior Services.
- 1997 Expanded H.O.M.E. to Knoxville and Chattanooga.
- 1998 Expanded “Stepping Stones” foster care to Georgia.

Started "Home Share", a community-based care option for adults with developmental disabilities began.

1998 Began "*Get Fit, Stay Fit*", a senior exercise program.

1999 Began the "*Midnight Classic Bike Tour*", an annual event for both avid and casual cyclists.

2000 Acquired a skilled nursing facility which we renamed Senior Services Healthcare Center.

2003 Began to offer personal care and independent living skills training began for adults with traumatic brain injuries.

2005 Earned accreditation by Council on Accreditation and became one of the first three Memphis organizations to do so.

Began a medication management program for seniors under the direction of a licensed pharmacist.

2006 Renamed Memphis Senior Center as Ruth E. Tate Senior Center in honor of its long-time director.

2007 Changed the agency name to **Meritan**.

Began Silver Bells for Seniors, a community supported program to provide Christmas for homebound seniors.

2008 Received a national award for innovation given by Senior Service America in recognition of accomplishments by Meritan's senior employment program.

Expanded "Stepping Stones" to North Mississippi.

2009 Earned renewal of accreditation.

Received the 2008-2009 *G. Bradley Wanzer, Jr. Award For Excellence* from United Way of the Mid-South

Began homemaker services for low income individuals with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or related diseases

2010 Achieved licensure in Mississippi as an adoption agency.

Honored by the Memphis Federation of Blind for services to the visually impaired.

Achieved top-tier ranking by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services for documented improvement in home health patient care.