

AUGUST 2020 Literacy

My soul will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.
- Proverbs 23:16

According to Literacy Mid-South, 78.6% of 3rd graders in Shelby County Schools read below grade level, and 70% of incarcerated individuals read below a 3rd grade reading level. It is a tremendous problem in our community, and has far-reaching consequences. Additionally, literacy rates are proven indicators of future health outcomes in individuals and communities. As we move towards the start of a new school year, we are aware that children have been away from classrooms for months longer than ever before, and they need tools that can accelerate their progress towards their educational goals.

At MLH: Working together with our Methodist Healthcare Foundation, Shelby County Schools, and The Urban Child Institute, MLH has been running **BookNook** at sites all over Memphis for the past 12 months. BookNook is a cloud-based technology platform that improves literacy skills for children of all ages. **BookNook** has been implemented in after-school programs at churches and community centers, and the results have been incredible. This past summer, 95% of students who used **BookNook** improved or maintained their reading level, and during the school year, the average student gained the equivalent of 1.3 grade levels in reading aptitude.

To find out more about **BookNook** and how you or your church can get involved, contact **Jonathan Lewis** at **(901) 478-0545**.



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OUR FAITH-BASED MISSION

Our mission is to collaborate with patients and families to be the leader in providing **high-quality, cost-effective, patient- and family-centered care** in a manner which supports the health ministries and Social Principles of the United Methodist Church to benefit the communities we serve.

1,700+

free screenings and referrals for mental health in 2019.

Erased millions of dollars in medical debt and changed policies so more than

50% of Memphians

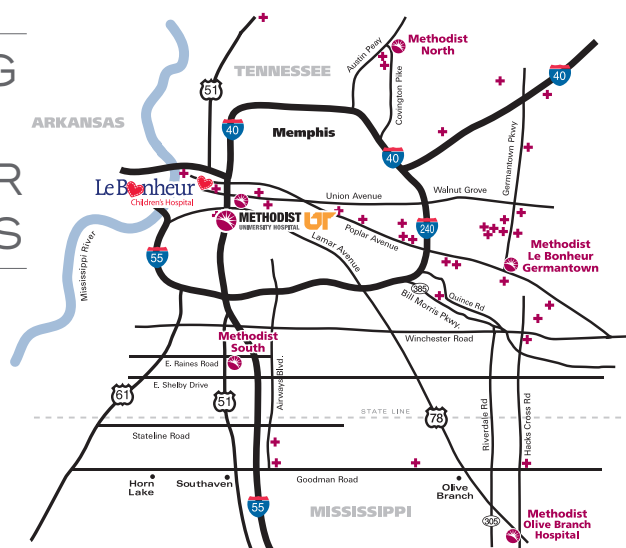
are now eligible for financial assistance.

In 2019, we provided over
\$225 million
in community benefit.

1,500+ hospice patients cared for



SERVING
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For more information, contact Jonathan Lewis, Program Manager in the Mission Integration Division, at jonathan.lewis@mlh.org or 901.478.0545.

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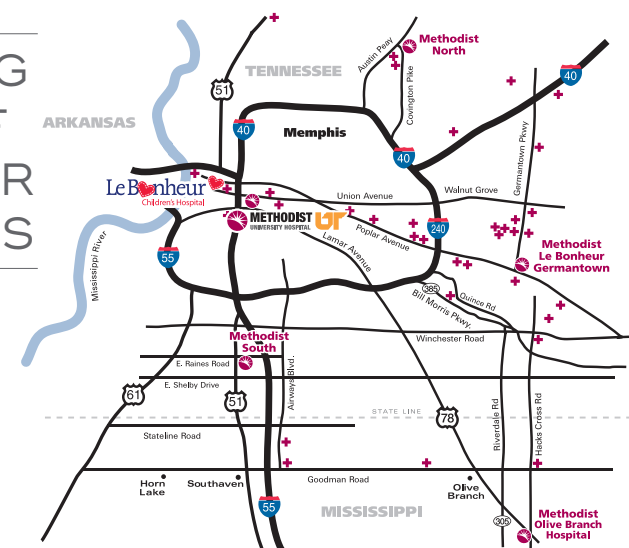
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