

The SeniorTrust/ElderTrust Settlement

October 18, 2018

The Settlement

A long, long time ago....



The Settlement

More like five years ago, Part III of the Chancery Court of Davidson County started a process of trying to determine how to distribute funds (over \$40 million) that had resulted from the settlement of two cases that had come through her Court.

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The Chancery Court, after initially making a determination that the funds would be used to help older Tennesseans, requested recommendations from entities and organizations about how to use the proceeds.

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After reviewing the various ideas, the Court issued an Order on August 17, 2016 doing two things:

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First, it provided \$5,000,000 to the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee which was then, in turn, to grant those funds “(1) to be used for the specific population of the elderly in Tennessee, (2) to make grants statewide, and (3) to address not only current, short-term needs but also long-term needs of the elderly of Tennessee.”

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Second, it ordered the remaining funds to “be distributed based upon a Plan to be proposed by a Consortium....The Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability (“TCAD”) shall assist the Consortium in the work it is being assigned by the Court.”

The Consortium was made up of five philanthropic entities from across the State.

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The funds were to be “used to sustain and improve the quality of life for the elderly of Tennessee,” had to be “for the elderly on a statewide basis with local impacts” and were aimed at four specific areas:

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1

Senior
Affordable
Housing

2

Senior
Transportation

3

Senior Dental

4

Senior Legal
Assistance

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Through the efforts of the Court and the five Consortium members who provided their expertise, a process was developed to accept and then carefully vet statewide proposals in those four specific areas for innovation, ability to implement, and sustainability. The process took almost two years to complete. In the end, the Consortium made recommendations to the Court.

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The Court was the ultimate decision-maker.

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After review, an Order in SeniorTrust/ElderTrust was filed on January 3, 2018 awarding approximately \$36 million dollars to six organizations and entities.

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Our role (the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability) is to provide administrative support to help make the Court's Orders happen. The focus is on direct services (home modifications, actual rides to the doctor, actual dental visits) so we will be providing program assistance to help make that happen, handling the technical requirements—contracts, invoicing, etc., and monitoring to make sure the work happens.

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This has the potential to help over 85,000 older Tennesseans in the next three years in counties all over the State of Tennessee.

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Senior Affordable Housing--\$14 million is being granted to two entities to provide home modifications to 1,778 Tennessee senior homeowners.

Senior Legal Services—through a first-of-its-kind alliance, entities from across the State are to provide direct legal assistance (accessing benefits, avoiding elder abuse, core housing issues, and estate planning) to approximately 8,500 older Tennesseans.

Senior Transportation—the creation and implementation of thirty new volunteer senior transportation projects across the State estimated to serve approximately 7,500 older Tennesseans.

Senior Dental—through education, transportation, and care, the “Smile On” program will utilize a statewide network to provide services to an estimated 20,000 older Tennesseans.

Senior Trust Statewide Consortium

