



MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Connection Series Features SEEED Knox

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Stan Johnson, executive director of SEEED Knox, a local non-profit that focuses on creating and sustaining jobs for young inner-city residents, as well as ensuring that clean energy technologies are available for low income residents.

SEEED stands for “Socially Equal Energy Efficient Development.” The operation, through an 8-week training program, offers classes on green technology highlighting weatherization, solar panel installation, community gardening and recycling.

“We want to make sure people get put in the right job at the right time, so they can actually plant a good seed, so they can grow,” said Johnson, adding that roughly 200 students have attended the program.

The interview is part of Community Connection—a spinoff from the Mayor’s small business series that provides owners the opportunity to talk about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their families and employees and helping them share any plans they hold for the future.

For the next couple of months, Mayor Jacobs will focus on local charities and non-profits. A new vignette will run each week on the county and Mayor’s various social media platforms.

The Mayor and Johnson talked about the effects of COVID-19 on the operation, the major problems facing the local community and what hurdles young inner-city youth face in the job market.

“With many of our young people, they just don’t know of all the opportunities and career pathways that there are out there,” Mayor Jacobs said. “You try to show them that there’s all these other pathways open to them that can really make their dreams come true.”

Johnson agreed.

“Most definitely (and) we want to break that cycle of poverty,” he said. “Nothing stops a bullet like a job.”

To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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