

# INTRODUCTION

## Mission Statement

***The Mission of the Community Health Council is to determine the health needs of the community and develop a plan of action for improving the health status of people in Hardeman County, Tennessee.***

## COUNTY DESCRIPTION

### Land Area

Hardeman County, with an area of 665 square miles, is located in the upper plateau of southwestern Tennessee near the headwaters of the Big Hatchie River. The county was officially organized in 1823 and named in honor of Thomas Jones Hardeman, a veteran of the War of 1812. The county seat was first established one mile south of the present location and given the name Hatchie Town, a Chickasaw word for river. In 1824 town commissioners chose the present location and called the town Bolivar for the South American patriot, Simon Bolivar. The Courthouse is the oldest standing courthouse in West Tennessee. Hardeman County has nine incorporated towns: Bolivar, Grand Junction, Hickory Valley, Hornsby, Middleton, Saulsbury, Silerton, Toone, and Whiteville. The Hardeman County School System consists of nine schools serving eight regional zones with over 5,000 students.

## LOCAL ECONOMY

Hardeman County is known as the Hardwood Capital of the South. Much of the land is hardwood forest. Twenty-seven hardwoods are exported nationally and internationally. There are several operating sawmills in the county. High quality white sand for use in glass, golf courses and beaches is also abundant. Ball clay for the ceramic industry is found in abundance as are gravel and cert. Agricultural crops include corn, cotton, milo, okra, peppers, soybeans, squash, and wheat. Cotton and soybeans are the leading crops. Primary employers in the community include Dover Elevators, Harmon Automotive, Kilgore Corporation, Master Slack, and a federal prison located near Whiteville in northern Hardeman County.

### Hardeman Hardwood Exports

- ◆ Birch
- ◆ Cherry
- ◆ Cypress
- ◆ Gum
- ◆ Maple
- ◆ Oak
- ◆ Persimmon
- ◆ Poplar

