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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# The women of Manchester

## The foundation of centuries and centuries

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When I think of women, I think of bravery, determination, compassion, comfort, and strength. I could list a million different words to describe the power women have and deserve, but they all mean the same thing: a role model.

Because of women, we have many things that make our lives better.

Because of them, we have experienced the first fire escapes, bullet-proof fiber, word processing technology, and the first computer algorithm, to name a few.

Another thing that has made my life better is the opportunity to create this magazine in your hands. Women write our stories, conduct our interviews, take our photos, edit our words, proof our words, design our pages, and manage the complex process of getting an idea on paper and mailed to your home. If you're like me, this is a blessing that I never knew I needed but am forever indebted for having.

This issue celebrates women in our community. We are thankful and appreciate everything you do to make our lives better, our homes safer, and our world brighter.

Thank you. GN

  
**Wesley Bryant,**  
MANAGING EDITOR

## From our readers



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CHAPTER 1 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local positive news you may have missed.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◀ Laurie Campbell, Staria Davison, and Emily Campbell



## An executive assistant has a servant's heart

Carolyn Davidson has a passion for serving the public.

By Jeriah Brumfield

**S**ERVANTS' HEARTS significantly impact the community of Manchester, and Carolyn Davidson is just one of many citizens who became a shining light to those around her. Davidson's humility and passion for spreading joy are contagious and spread like wildfire throughout her job, community, and home.

Carolyn Davidson has been the executive administrative assistant to the director of schools and school board secretary of Manchester City Schools for several years. She hopes to continue to serve for many years to come.

She said, "I'm glad to say I've been in this same position for so long and never lost the love and joy for it."

One of the many lessons Davidson learned was to "leave work life at work and home life at home" because life is about balance.

Carolyn was born and raised in Manchester and married her husband, Jerry, with whom she has two children, Cisley and Jere.

She is grateful to have raised her family in Manchester because it is a unique small-town community.

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And I choose to have joy.”*

-Carolyn Davidson

She has served on many boards in Manchester since she was young, and she and her husband are active in church activities.

"I'm a strong believer in lending a helping hand, and any way that I can, I will."

Some of her best memories came from coaching and attending her kids' sports activities with her husband and volunteering where she could.

Carolyn learned quite a few lessons along the way and credited God and her loving upbringing for such a valuable and happy life. One important lesson her upbringing taught her was to have joy. "Don't let anyone take away your joy, no matter what. We have choices. It's my choice to be happy. It's my choice to be sad or angry. And I choose to have joy."

Carolyn's faith foundation and morals from childhood carried her through adulthood and have shaped who she is today.

God is the number one thing that strengthens her because her strong faith helps her tackle life's challenges. A strong support system also makes her stronger.

Carolyn describes a role model as a true friend who is there for you no matter what. Role models see the potential in you and pull it out of you. They want you to succeed even more than you do. She has between five and 10 people whom she calls her role models. These are people who support her and on whom she can depend.

"They just want the best for you in any way possible."

Her plans consist of working and serving the school board and community and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

"As long as I'm still healthy, competent, and efficient, I plan to be here."

She believes staying active is the key to a long and happy life.

Carolyn Davidson lives by the motto: Live each day like it's your last day. **GN**



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▲ Tiffany Hoyne

## Reese's Genes Boutique owner Tiffany Hoyne's journey as a local business owner

Tiffany Hoyne discusses entrepreneurship and the challenges she faced.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**N**OW, MORE than ever, women are walking through doors that were not opened for them before, breaking down barriers set before them in years past. As women step into paths like entrepreneurship, it is important to celebrate them and continue to inspire generations of young leaders.

Tiffany Hoyne opened Reese's Genes Boutique in 2016 out of her home. She named the boutique after her son, Connor Reese. Connor was born with a rare genetic disease called Galactosemia, which is where "Genes" in the business name comes from.

A few months after she started her online business, Hoyne was shocked by the responses of women interested in her clothes. Hoyne knew that the next step was to open a storefront boutique, and Manchester was the perfect place to do it.

Hoyne said she chose to continue her business in Manchester because of the supportive community. Reese's Genes is a one-stop shop that sells women's, children's, and men's clothing and a range of accessories, purses, and seasonal decor.

The business was booming for Hoyne until March 2022, a time she will never for-

get. She said, "In March 2022, my world as I knew it fell apart. My business was a total loss due to arson. Within six weeks, we had relocated and reopened to the public."

The tragedy the arson caused was nothing less than horrifying, but Hoyne's story was far from over. Thanks to the outpouring of love and support from the community of Manchester, her business is still thriving. "It was overwhelming and indescribable."

Hoyne said her future goals look different from before because of the fire.

"I have learned to appreciate what I have a little more because it can be taken

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away at any moment.” Her short-term professional goal for 2023 is to become more active in the social media world, using TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook to engage her customers. She also wants to grow and do more personally and professionally in the local community.

Hoynes said her experience as an entrepreneur taught her to set goals and celebrate when she achieves them.

Hoynes said her role model is her mother.

“My role model is my mom. She had me at the young age of 16. She gave up everything to make sure my siblings and I had a good life. I know it wasn’t easy on her, but she did everything she could to make sure we were taken care of.”

She said her mother’s push and motivation have always inspired her to be the best version of herself. Reese’s Genes Boutique helped Hoynes grow in many ways she never thought possible. She now volunteers, supports sports, clubs, school-related events, local businesses, and nonprofits, and serves as a leader, helping other women become more confident.

“It’s been an amazing journey over the past six years, and I look forward to seeing what 2023 has in store.”

Hoynes said she would never forget the outpouring of love and support, which has strengthened her. She said, “I truly believe there is beauty from ashes.” **GN**

---

Reese’s Genes Boutique won Finest Boutique from the Manchester Times and Small Business of the Year for 2022 from the Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce.

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▲ Staria Davison

## Storehouse Food Pantry serves thousands of pounds of food at their drive-thru.

Staria Davison and Laurie Campbell discuss the Storehouse Food Pantry.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**S**TARIA DAVISON, the founder of the Storehouse Food Pantry in Manchester, received the vision to open the Storehouse Food Pantry in 2018 to serve the community and “feed God’s people.”

Davison said Laurie Campbell appeared to her in her vision. Campbell now serves as the volunteer coordinator and wears multiple hats within the organization. She is a stats keeper and warehouse supervisor and has many other duties.

In the beginning, they served whatever food products they could find in grocery stores. And now, the pantry serves thousands of pounds of food at their drive-thru, which is open every Thursday from 10 a.m. until noon. Within those two hours, they serve approximately 750 to 900 people. The remainder of the week and on weekends, they help local groups like DCS, local court systems, local jails, churches, and anyone in need.

Davison left the medical field after 35 years, working at a nonprofit drug court over the veteran’s program. Campbell retired after 30 years of working in education.

Davison and Campbell both live in Manchester, which is why they decided to establish the organization, incorporated in 2020, in this city.

Campbell said, “This just happened to be hand-picked for us at the right time.”

Campbell’s daughter, Emily, helps her with stats, poundage, customer outreach, and connection. She

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▶  
Emily  
Campbell

Campbell said their future goals are to keep doing what they're doing. They plan to keep their doors open by participating in community outreach and bringing in more volunteers to do better and better."

Emily Campbell said helping struggling families keeps her going.

"I really enjoy helping my mom and Staria, so it's a blessing."

Davison and Campbell consider their mission to be much like Matthew 25:35:

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me in."

Davison said the organization is always in need of volunteers. **GN**

---

If you would like to volunteer at the Storehouse Food Pantry, contact Staria Davison at (931) 247-5272.

also helps her mom, Laurie Campbell, manage what food comes in and goes out.

Campbell said knowing that she's fulfilling a need strengthens her.

"That gives me strength every day just to keep doing what we're doing."

The organization helps "Tennessee Promise" and the court system, providing community service hours to young people who need them.

Campbell said, "They respect what we're trying to do and what we're trying to accomplish, and they abide by the volunteer rules."

Campbell said hearing community members' survival stories and meeting their needs strengthens her. "That's our purpose and God's purpose — to meet every need that we possibly can, whether that'd be prayer, food, or spiritual food."

Campbell and Davison said their role model is Jesus because of how he lived his life. In his short 33 years, he fulfilled the calling set before him, and he accomplished a lot.

Campbell said, "We want to be his hands and feet."



◀  
Laurie  
Campbell



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# Good News

## CHAPTER 2 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local people or businesses you need to know about.

- 30** Jinan Robison & the Beechgrove Community Group
- 36** Stacy Morales's Hispanic Services
- 40** Women of Manchester
- 54** A delightfully sweet one-stop shop
- 56** Faith: Carrying the torch for Mimi

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

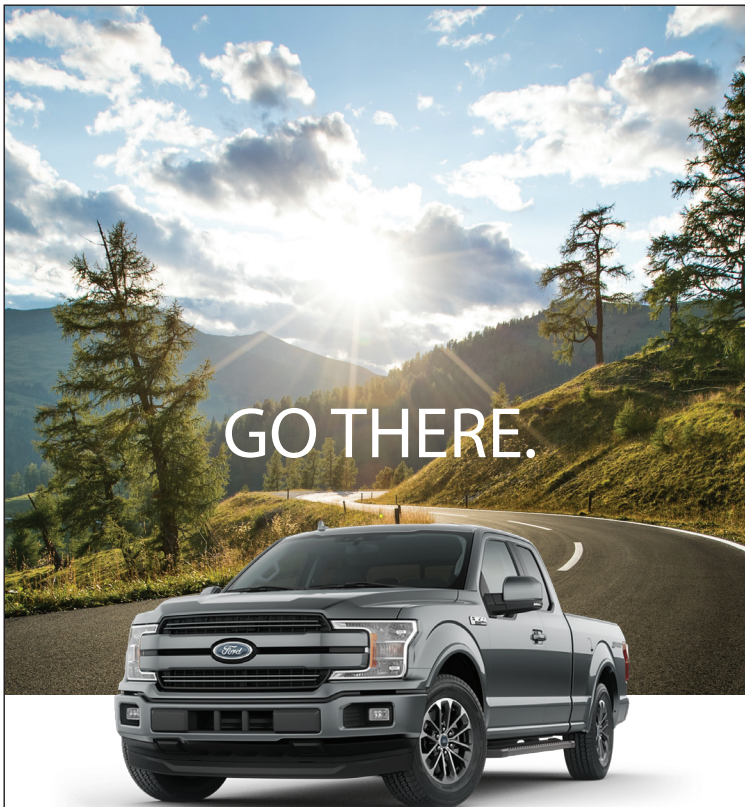
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◀ Regina Hickerson, Tom Bollard, RoseAnne Carden Smith, Jinan Robison, Kelly Hester



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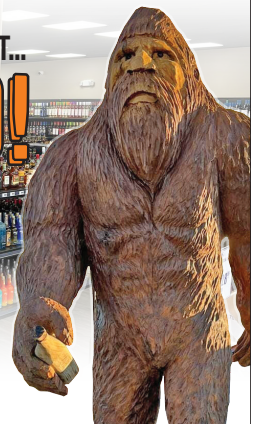
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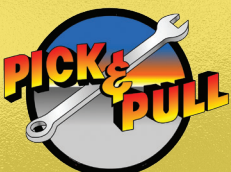
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# Jinan Robison

## & the Beechgrove Community Group

Jinan Robison discusses the Beechgrove Community Group.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

**F**RIENDS JINAN Robison and Kelly Hester met while working together in 2013. They originally formed Beechgrove Community Group for neighbors to find lost dogs and wandering pigs and to network with local businesses. Robison and her family had been small-scale farming and looking for land in Middle Tennessee, but Hester persuaded Robison to move to Beechgrove, a few miles from their family land. Robison homeschooled and homesteaded with her four kids for the first seven years.

Born and raised in Murfreesboro, Robison and her family settled in Beechgrove because she wanted a place for her kids to run wild and enjoy the land. The family lives on 8 acres in a 100-year-old farmstead. She said, “I can’t help but feel connected to the history here by merely existing on the land itself.” Robison said the feeling of “home” means so much more than just a house. It’s also about the space you create and how you connect to the people and land.

Robison owns a small e-commerce storefront and Etsy business and works as an insurance claims adjuster from home. A few years ago, news spread about some proposed zoning changes that would allow for a rock quarry within a mile or so of Robison’s home. She knew the 100-year-old home’s rock foundation would not withstand blasting long-term, and she was worried about contamination of the well water.





PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JINAN ROBISON



◀ Jinan Robison



▲ Jinan Robison & Kelly Hester



▶ Tom Bollard, Regina Hickerson, Jinan Robison, Kelly Hester, RoseAnne Garden Smith



After they discussed the situation with others who shared the same concerns, Hester and Robison immediately used the group to connect. It didn't take long for the news about the community group to spread. Over 1000 people joined within weeks.

The Beechgrove Community group pulled the community together, and after a year-long fight, they successfully warded off the zoning issues.

Robison said the quarry situation expressed the community's desire for a close-knit community. She said, "It showcased what could happen when we were all disconnected from the land and each other. So I believe that sparked a revival of community within the area."

The group has also allowed other leaders to bring their values and ideas of what community means to them to life. The planning team consists of Thomas Ballard, sitting school board member; RoseAnne Carden

Robison said her children are the reason she stays active in her community. She said she wants to set a good example for her children and raise them in a community with connections.

"I knew how important it was to feel connected to where you live and the people around you." Robison said the group's ultimate goal is to create a "domino effect" for people to get involved with their neighbors and celebrate together for generations to come.

She said her great-grandmother, Cooka, showed her what it meant to be a leader and nurturer.

"We always had a neighbor, church member, or strangers we just met join us for our Sunday dinners and gatherings."

She said witnessing the warmth and kindness her grandmother and aunts showed to others set the foundation for her to give back in this way.

**“There are so many areas where we are divided as a society, but I hope to offer a place where everyone belongs.”**

-Jinan Robison

Smith, Beechgrove District County Commissioner; Regina Hickerson; Kelly Hester; and Jinan Robison. These leaders have worked hard and stepped up in other leadership positions within the community.

Group Member Kourtney Austin formed the Homesteader's Alliance of Coffee County to better serve the needs of local homesteaders by hosting farm tours, sharing local resources and knowledge of the area, and hosting monthly gatherings for those interested in farming topics.

Other leaders in the group share their passions with the community, and the group provides a platform for neighbors to cheer them on. Beechgrove Community Leader Christie Conlee helped with the 'Wreaths Across America' event on December 17 to commemorate veterans and their families during the holiday season.

The community group is widely known for its large potlucks. Robison said many of their events have over 250 attendees and allow folks to cook something special and share good food and friendships. They welcome all community members, old and new, regardless of political preference, race, or religious background, to come together and enjoy each other's company.

"There are so many areas where we are divided as a society, but I hope to offer a place where everyone belongs."

Robison's favorite author, Wendell Berry, wrote, "Community only exists when we know each other's story."

Robison said she hopes her story can inspire others in Manchester and small towns across the state to get involved with their neighbors and bring back this sense of closeness and community. **GN**

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# Stacy Morales's Hispanic Services

**Local business owner  
discusses her services  
— a blessing to many.**

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



**S**TACY MORALES is a tax preparer, notary public, and business owner, but more importantly, she is a community leader with a heart for people.

When she was 10, Morales's family moved back to the U.S. from their home in Mexico, and Morales watched her mother navigate life as a Spanish speaker in Aurora, Colorado. At 16, her family moved to Manchester, and they've lived here ever since.

Morales said watching her mom struggle to speak and understand English made her want to do something about it.

"She got pregnant. She was going to her appointments and didn't know what was going on and what doctors were saying. That made me feel like I should help, but I couldn't because we didn't understand." After she realized other Hispanic families in the community went through the same thing her parents did, she was inspired to start her business.

Morales started helping the Hispanic community in Manchester translate important documents in 2011, one year after she graduated high school. She translated hospital files and court documents and also helped Hispanics in the community travel to and from Mexico to retain their passports.

"I saw a lot of need in the Hispanic community, especially because there are people who don't speak English or Spanish. They speak a dialect."

In 2018, Morales opened a small office in her basement to keep track of her workflow and became an official notary public. She helped clients from Shelbyville, McMinnville, and Manchester. With the high volume of clients traveling in and out of her home, she opened her official



office, Stacy Morales Hispanic Services, in downtown Manchester in 2021.

Morales gives back to the community by helping them get their Mexican passports, sort out legal documents, and translate documents.

Her in-office team helps six to eight people each week with legal documentation translation, job applications, court interpretation, police reports, making appointments for the Mexican Consulate in Atlanta, and taking clients to Atlanta for their Mexican passports.

They helped around 140 people get a new Mexican passport or get it renewed this past year. Morales said one of her favorite things to do as a business owner and tax preparer is to help others learn how to open their own business. She helps them gather the necessary documentation, learn how to be a successful business owner, and how to prepare their taxes. She has a tax preparation class once a year in July.

Morales said she sees the relief on her clients' faces after they understand their documents and court-case files. Helping them navigate challenges and bringing her clients relief makes her stronger. In February 2023, Morales began offering

English classes for beginners who speak Spanish to learn English after work hours, as her clients requested.

Stacy Morales's Hispanic Services is a full-service business that offers more than legal help to Hispanic community members. It is an environment where all Hispanic community members can feel free to thrive wherever their paths lead them. It serves as a bridge that connects the Hispanic community and the city of Manchester.

The business celebrated its first Hispanic Festival last June. They plan to continue with their second annual festival this year.

The business participates in community service by hosting the 'Trash Challenge' every year in March. This year will be the fourth year for them to participate. The group gathers early on Sunday mornings to pick up trash on the side of the roads.

"We try to participate in every event in town to bring out our Hispanic community." Morales said she hopes the activities will lead to a more beautiful community. Morales and her husband own a landscaping and concrete business that began in 2016. "We started from the bottom, and I always tell my clients, 'I am never going to say that I'm an expert, because I'm still learning. Every year is different, but the personal knowledge I have will help you to get started.'"

Morales said her goal for the future is to help bring Hispanic community members out of their comfort zones and understand that this is their community as well. She strives daily to be a better person for herself and her community.

"I always try to be better than the person I was the day before." **GN**

“

**I am never going to say that I'm an expert because I'm still learning. Every year is different, but the personal knowledge I have will help you to get started.**

-Stacy Morales





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**J**UST OVER 100 years ago, women finally received what other Americans, but not all, already had — the right to vote. Now, we have the opportunity to lift up and celebrate the groundbreaking women around us during Women’s History Month. From teachers, activists, scientists, athletes, doctors, entrepreneurs, and more — women bring with them ambition, intelligence, creativity, and resilience that will be essential for our future. Their presence in the workforce and leadership can also provide chances for other motivated individuals to rise

up into positions they may not otherwise have access to.

We must celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of these incredible women in order to build a better future. It’s important to remember that empowerment is a collective effort that starts with us. Let us use this moment in history as an opportunity to honor women for their strength, bravery, and determination — for without them, the world would be far less vibrant. We can draw strength from one another and continue to make progress toward a better Manchester because of these women. **GN**

# *Blessed beyond* **MEASURE**

CAROL BROWN ENJOYS LIFE AS A LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, NURSE EDUCATOR, AND MOTHER.

*By Jeriah Brumfield*

*Photography by Ashleigh Newnes*

**T**ULLAHOMA NATIVE Carol Brown is a licensed practical nurse (LPN) for Manchester Center for Rehabilitation, but more importantly, she is an educator and leader in her community.

Brown originally moved to Manchester because she likes the rural, slow-paced, small-country side of life.

She said Manchester is “a small, loving town” and a warm and welcoming area.

The LPN loves nursing and is very passionate about it. She is currently a nurse educator and encourager, teaches certified nursing assistant classes, handles all ed-

ucation, and enjoys guiding newer nurses. Brown uses her career to guide others through the most challenging times.

“To me, it’s about helping one another be better. We need encouragement within ourselves now more than ever before.”

She is a hands-on, patient-care nurse, but she also loves to help others become more self-sufficient. Brown’s role model is her mother, who made a difference in Brown’s life through her strength and perseverance. She taught her daughter morals and the value of working hard and pushing through difficult moments.



Carol Brown



“I want to make a difference and try to help people that I [oriented] and educate them. I want them to see my values.”

Brown finds joy in teaching others about how nursing was before COVID and before all of the rules and regulations were implemented. She enjoys teaching about compassion in the medical field.

Through working at a rehabilitation center, Brown understands now more than ever how difficult life can be for many people.

“I’m blessed beyond measure. I am so blessed because I get to go home, live my life, and come back and take care of these people and help them get better or give what’s left of their life some quality.” Taking care of people and teaching other nurses how to care for them strengthens Brown and helps her appreciate her life and maintain a positive mindset.

“Sometimes we get caught up in the little things that really don’t mean anything.

But we think at the time that this is [a] life-altering event, and it’s really not. It’s just a moment in time. Every day we wake up is a blessing [and] a chance to do better and make a difference.”

Her goal is to live happily and healthily, never lose sight of where she came from, and continue to be the best person she can be.

Brown said she has had to be strong and independent for her children because she was all they had. “I knew what I had to do, and I got up and did it every day.”

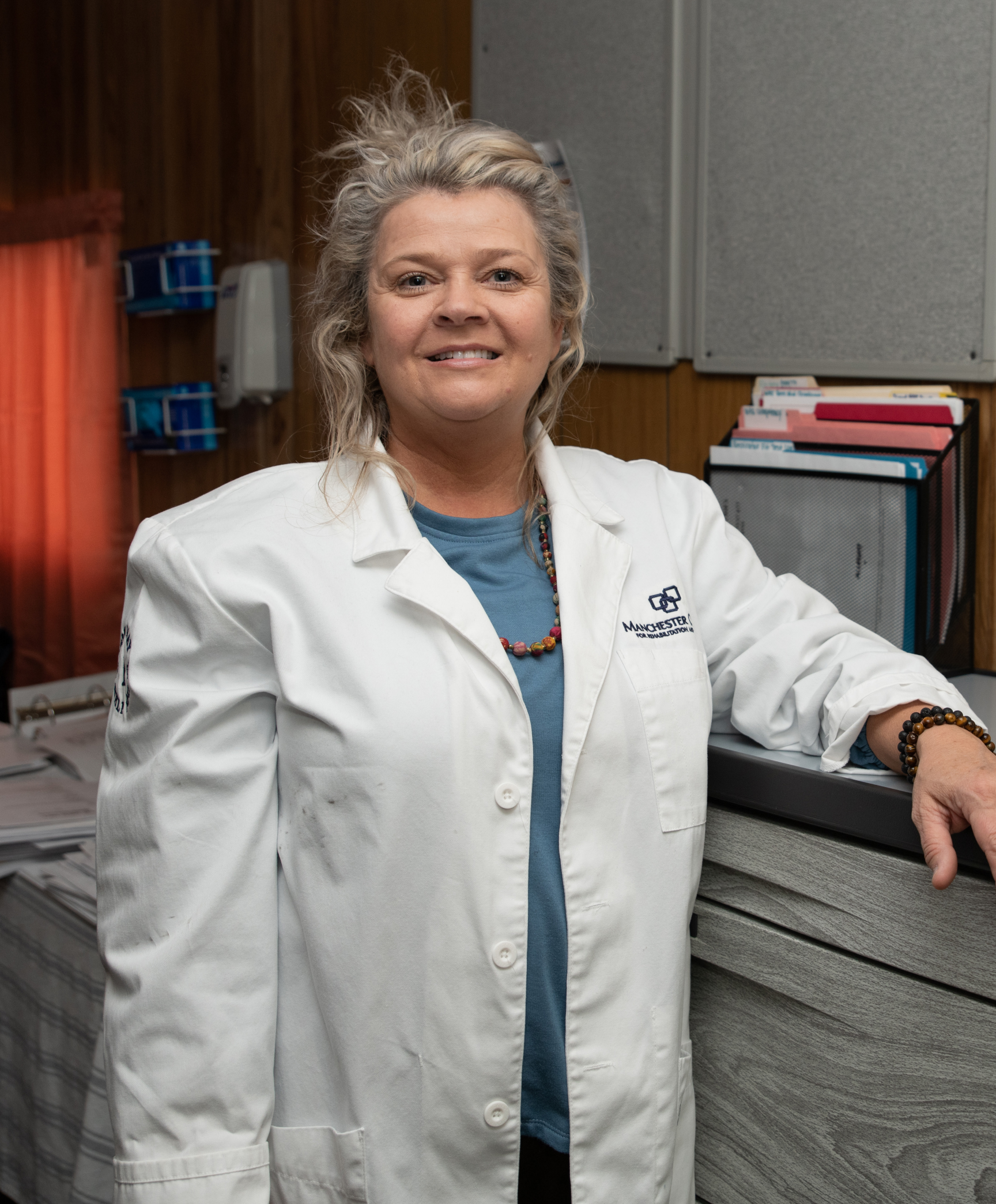
Brown took every opportunity to improve her children’s lives and gave them the encouraging upbringing she did not have.

Brown said a role model is someone you look up to — someone who has made you think about where you are in life. She said that Jesus is her role model, and she wants to be the person He wants her to be. **GN**

“

EVERY DAY WE  
WAKE UP IS A  
BLESSING [AND]  
A CHANCE TO  
DO BETTER  
AND MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE.

- Carol Brown





# *A musical* JOURNEY

BECKY BULLER FINDS PURPOSE  
THROUGH BLUEGRASS MUSIC  
AND FIDDLE PLAYING.

*By Jeriah Brumfield  
Photography by Ashleigh Newnes  
and provided by Becky Buller*

**O**UTSTANDING FIDDLE player Becky Buller has worked in music education for 25 years and has helped students all over Manchester learn about the beauty of bluegrass music. She was the first female to win the Fiddle Player Of The Year award, just one of many accomplishments.

She is also on the board of the International Bluegrass Music Association Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA). The board members give out scholarships, fellowships, and small grants to put bluegrass band teaching programs in schools.

Buller said, "It's a true American art form, and I'm passionate about passing it along to the next generation because if we don't do that, it's going to die."

The 10-time IBMA award winner watched her parents play bluegrass music as a child. She said she always wanted to play the fiddle with their band because the only thing the family band didn't have was a fiddle player.

She said, "In a bluegrass band, everybody plays something."

The traditional five-piece bluegrass band consists of the banjo, guitar, mandolin, bass, and fiddle. The bluegrass sound came together in the 1940s with Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys. Monroe played the mandolin, Lester Flatt played the guitar, Earl Scruggs was on the banjo, Chubby Wise was on the fiddle, and Howard Watts was on the bass.

Originally from Minnesota, Buller moved to Manchester after she married her husband, Jeff Haley, in 2009. They met at a bluegrass barbecue.



Becky Buller

“

THROUGH  
THE MUSIC,  
I HAVE MET  
WONDERFUL  
PEOPLE FROM  
ALL OVER THE  
WORLD, FROM  
ALL DIFFERENT  
WALKS OF LIFE.

– Becky Buller

“Through the music, I have met wonderful people from all over the world, from all different walks of life.” Buller said she is blessed by the breath of experiences she had. It has broadened her worldview and enlarged her heart for many different people. Now she shares her experiences with her students to help them achieve their musical goals.

“Being a girl from a small farming community in Southern Minnesota, I [got to travel] all over the world just because I learned how to play this little bitty instrument called the fiddle. And I [got] to meet these amazing people, and it’s enriched my life so much.”

From having dreams of joining her family band to creating her own, Buller is living the life she always wanted.

“I really enjoy my band. I work with an incredibly talented group of musicians.”

Buller’s band consists of herself; Ned Lubereki, 2018 IBMA Banjo Player of the Year and DJ on Sirius Satellite Radio,

Bluegrass Junction, on the banjo; Daniel Hardin on the bass; and Wes Lee on the mandolin. The band members are weekend players and have full-time jobs during the week. Hardin works at Jack Daniels, and Lee works for Springer Mountain Chickens in Gainesville, GA.

Buller said her main gig is happily raising her 9-year-old daughter, Romy.

Buller said her role model is Rhonda Vincent, the queen of bluegrass music and Buller’s fairy godmother.

“She has been so open and kind about mentoring me and being a band leader and female band leader specifically.”

Vincent was a guest player on a couple of Buller’s records.

Famous country singer Dolly Parton is another role model to Buller. She loves that at a Dolly Parton concert, you see people from all walks of life who get along and sing her songs. Buller said Parton brings people together, and she’s a quasar.

“I want to be that kind of light to people.”

She hopes people feel refreshed, rejuvenated, and hopeful when interacting with her or her group. Buller said a role model to her is someone we want to model our path after.

“Somebody that’s doing stuff the way we would like to do it and giving us wisdom and insight into how to walk that path better.”

Buller continues to navigate life as a self-employed artist.

“It can be rewarding and very exhausting all at the same time, but I’m gradually building a team around me and learning how to do things in different ways.”

She said it is important to change with the times, and she’s grateful to set her own schedules. She said it takes a lot of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice, and she hopes she keeps the right balance of God first, then family, then bluegrass music.

Buller’s ultimate goal is to continue doing what she’s doing.

“I hope to keep making records that folks enjoy and music I feel good about.” **GN**



▲ Becky Buller and the Fairfield Four







*Loss. Perseverance.*

# TRIUMPH.

DESPITE ALL OBSTACLES, CINDEE BATEY  
PUSHES FORWARD IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.

*By Jeriah Brumfield*

*Photography by Ashleigh Newnes*

**T**HERE ARE many women today whose strength and perseverance go unnoticed, many of which are single mothers who try to raise children in a healthy and stable environment. Others are widows whose husbands have gone on before them. Some are single with no children and wake up every day to find purpose in the hustle and bustle of life. Whatever the case, it is essential to set aside time to celebrate all women for the strength and courage to be who they are every day.

Cindee Batey is a strong and courageous woman who encourages others in her community by doing good deeds and sharing how she overcame many tragedies.

Batey lived in the Pacific Northwest for a while, but after meeting a group of people from Manchester on a cruise in 2005, she eventually moved to their city. Batey said she immediately fell in love with the warm culture.

“When I came here, it felt like I should’ve been born here.”

Batey said she loved many things about the city, one being the kindness she experienced. She said, “I love Manchester — the size of the town, [and] the people. It’s a different world from where I came from as far as the pace of life and the people. Southern people are really nice.”

Batey’s journey was not without roadblocks, and she had to persevere through some of her most challenging situations.



Cindee Batey

Batey met her husband, Ray “Dean” Batey, in 2008, and they married in 2013. He tragically passed away in 2018 while working as a lineman for Duck River Electric.

She said, “We were madly in love, like kids. He was the best thing ever to have happened to me. It was hard on all of us.”

Batey has received continuous support from National Sisters United for Journeyman Lineman (NSUJL). NSUJL is a non-profit that helps support families of fallen or injured journeymen and linemen. The organization helps families financially, emotionally, physically, and in any way they can.

She said, “Fallen linemen are never forgotten, and NSUJL is supported and backed by lineworkers’ unions nationwide.”

Batey and two of her family members recently returned from Hazelton, Pennsylvania, where a lineman’s benefit rodeo and lantern ceremony for the fallen took place.

She said, “It was the most beautiful and special event, all put on through donations and volunteers.” Batey retired from her job of 31 years as a service advisor for car dealerships shortly after her husband passed away. She said working as a service advisor was a good fit. “I love people — talking with people and helping people. And that job let me do that.”

Right before she retired, she worked for Stan McNabb.

After Batey retired, she kept busy, promised herself she wouldn’t do anything she didn’t love to do, and started three businesses. She is a Scentsy consultant; a cake decorator for her company, Batey Cakes; and a seamstress.

Despite her obstacles, Batey enjoys doing good deeds for others, which keeps her moving forward. In 2019, Batey dove into



hobbies like baking cakes and delicious treats for neighbors and friends and sewing clothing items.

“I would just do for others, and that would, I hope, inspire others to survive.”

That same year, her brother was diagnosed with brain cancer, so she flew out to Utah to care for him for 2 1/2 months. She said caring for her brother gave her a sense of purpose, and she enjoyed looking after him. Batey returned to Manchester in March 2020 when COVID hit.

Batey stayed productive during the pandemic and made over 1,000 masks. She also continued to bake goods for others.

Batey lost her mother on November 12, 2022, but she continues to push forward

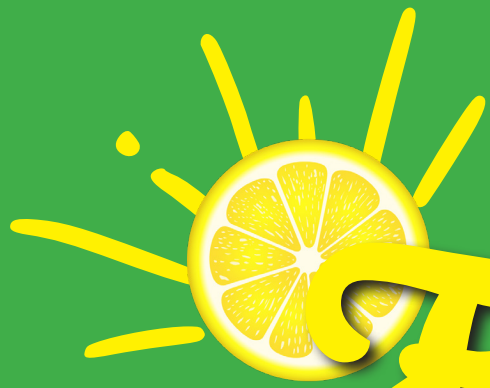
and remain positive in the face of adversity.

She said she has looked up to numerous people in her lifetime. Her three children are her role models because they’ve endured challenges in their childhood and excelled through difficult moments. “At different points in your life, you tend to admire or look up to different people.”

She said her children’s examples teach her how to be a better mom and persevere through challenges. “The way they handle their careers, refuse to be victims, and parent their children — it’s just a proud moment when I see my kids succeed.”

Batey plans to stay busy with her businesses, be a good mom and grandma, and be involved with the community more. **GN**





# Fresh & Fruity





# A delightfully sweet one-stop shop

Fresh & Fruity brings a healthier alternative to convenience food.

## Good News is coming to dinner!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as she dines in Manchester. This month Shellymar Repollet visited Fresh & Fruity.

## Fresh & Fruity

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facebook.com/freshnfruity.  
jhwe/

**T**HE AMBROSIAL scent of ripe fruit is the first “hello” when I step through the threshold of the tiny shop in the corner. Immediately, my eyes wander to the artful yet small menu on one wall, then to another where a picture-worthy, grassy backdrop lies — a perfect spot for any Instagrammer or parent wanting to add a cute snap of their tot to the family group chat. The place is young and well put-together, directly resembling its owner, 21-year-old Manchester native Jessica Barrera. I strike up a conversation with her and ask about the community favorites, to which, with excited hands, she quickly guides me toward her acai bowl. Layers of blended acai, granola, sliced fruit, honey, and coconut flakes make up this sweet-natured menu item. I order it as is and do not wonder why it is a favorite. I enjoy it from the very first frosty bite, as many locals before me have. Next, I decide it is time for a new menu item: the mini

pancakes. These coin-sized fluffy things come topped with your choice of fruit, syrup, powdered sugar, and whipped cream. Though a bit finicky in preparation, where if flipped too early in its pan could elicit an “oops” from the young attendant who put together my order, they were a quick and inviting shareable snack. I chose strawberries and condensed milk syrup — a must-try for those who enjoy a classic combination of tart and milky sweetness. Last was the Mango Mania smoothie, a recommendation from the young attendant. Not too sweet or watery but a gentle union where pineapple and mango exist in tandem to allow you the simple pleasure of refreshment between conversations. Quick, fresh, and convenient are all perfect words that describe what this smoothie shop is — and maybe one day, the juice bar so vividly doted on and just as Barrera intended when she ventured into opening Fresh & Fruity. **GN**

## Carrying the torch for Mimi

By Kali Bates // Photo provided by Kali Bates

**I**T'S THE curse of getting older — you know — being told that we are acting like our parents by taking on their traits, actions, and beliefs. And it's true. Now, at 39, I find it happening to me, except I don't take after my parents. I am slowly evolving into who was the matriarch of our family for over 70 years — my grandmother.

Affectionately known as Mimi, Dorothy Wilson was one of the kindest and most pleasing people ever. She called us “babe” and constantly fretted about one of us getting hurt. She was always cooking, and everything she made was delicious, even if she didn't think so. Most of my childhood was spent helping her break beans, make biscuits, or watch the “Andy Griffith Show” with her and my grandfather.

However, there was another side to her that few got to see. Mimi could be a firecracker and was a stickler for presentation. You didn't present things or yourself any old way. You were clean and dressed, and the house also needed to be clean. She educated herself constantly. She wasn't going to discuss anything without studying up on it first. She wanted things done a certain way, and that was the deal. She worked unbelievably hard to make her household what it was, and she wasn't going to have anyone tell her how to run it — not even her husband of 72 years, whom she adored.

She also was fervent in her faith. Both she and my grandfather were devout Christians who served in the Methodist Church as Sunday school teachers and

helped in many other areas of the church. She knew the Bible by heart and read it every single day.

While proud to be Christians, my grandparents' faith was an action or way of being. It wasn't just about scripture, dressing up on Sundays, or believing in God. It was about acting out their faith wherever they went and in whatever they did.

Now that she is gone, I find myself acting a lot like her. I can be a firecracker. I worry too much about my children, try to cook, educate myself, and, most importantly, move in my faith. While I miss her terribly, I think about all that she left for me in my heart. Both she and my grandfather left me with faith.

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

It can't always be seen or even felt immediately when we put our faith in action. Doing the right thing or helping can take days, weeks, or even years to see fruition. There is also the chance that we may never see our good deeds make the change we had hoped for. But if we have faith, we know it will all work out for good, whether we see it or not. My grandmother was proof of this. Her faith lives on through Joan, Sherry, Keri, myself, and all of the lives she touched.

Mimi taught me that the word of God is essential, but it is also vital to carry it out through our actions and words. Our faith is affirmed in how we treat others and walk through life. So, I'm good with being told I'm just like my Mimi; I hope I can do her justice. **GN**



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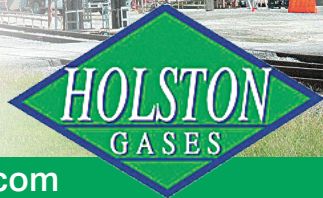
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# Good Times

CHAPTER 3 OF 3

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

◀ Wayne and Janie Reed

# Growing IN SUPPORT

Local networking organization branches into neighboring counties

By Kali Bates // Photos retrieved from Beauties in Business Facebook Page



▲ Laura Knight and Tashonna Starr

**A** CROSS THE area, women meet each month to lift each other, support each other, share ideas, and give advice. With gatherings now taking place in Winchester, Tullahoma, and Manchester, the meetings are held by the grass-roots organization “Beauties in Business.”

The local networking group began with locals Laura Knight and Cassie Fulmer six years ago. The two friends decided to create an atmosphere where women could come and be supported and grow from that support. Initially, meetings have been held on the first Tuesday of each month at Camino Real in Winchester. With women coming from all over the area to attend the Winchester meetings, Fulmer said it was the next step to extend the organization and meetings to Manchester and Tullahoma.

“With our Winchester location, it was crazy how many people were coming from Tullahoma, Shelbyville, Manchester, and everywhere in between. We are now blessed to have some ladies going to multiple Beauties’ events every month,” she said.

Both Knight and Fulmer said the meetings follow the same formats and offer the same support and growth.



▲ Kristal Walker, Pamela Barnes, Navi Blundell, Kirsten Johnson, Martina Caudill, TaShonna Starr, Jenny Pettay, Lisa Wikoff, Laura Knight, Lis Mason, Lyndsey Bender, Linda Conklin, Chelsea Greenway, Teri Romano, Trisha Fritz, Savannah Romero, and Meg Glenn

“We knew there was something magical about this triangle we have with Winchester, Manchester, and Tullahoma,” said Knight. “And if you could build a community of those women, that’s something special. We realized that these women were driving from Manchester and Tullahoma. We must expand and make this a little more doable for the mom who must drop off at soccer, catch the meeting, and get back.”

Meetings in Tullahoma are held on the third Monday of each month at Casa Mexico Restaurant. Both Fulmer and Knight said Beauties’ member, Tashonna Starr, has been tremendous in the success of the Tullahoma meetings.

“She is great,” said Fulmer. “She is our Beauties’ recruiter. We will be sitting with a group of 30 or more women, and when we ask who recommended them to attend a meeting, almost everyone says Tashonna. She is our go-to girl.”

Manchester meetings occur on the second Thursday of every month at Jefferson’s. Knight said Manchester meetings have been successful, thanks to local business owner and member Brooke Gipson.

“She is a rockstar,” said Knight. “She has got the ball rolling in Manchester.”

Knight added that they now offer monthly “pop-up” events at each location. They are not official meetings but opportunities for members who might not be able to attend evening meetings to have a chance to come out and have some much-needed support and fun.

“We do at least one pop-up each month,” she said. “The pop-ups are at different times of day in different locations. Sometimes we meet for lunch, happy hour, and even a fun activity such as group yoga or painting. These are great for members who can’t make the evening meetings. They don’t follow the meeting agenda

but offer all the benefits of coming together and sharing.”

Grateful for the group’s success thus far, both Knight and Fulmer are excited about what the future holds for the group.

“We knew we wanted a safe, laid-back place for women to come and gather that’s going to benefit them professionally but also be a heck of a lot of fun socially. We’ve just done these things over the last six years, and it’s taken on a life of its own, and we are so excited to see where it goes,” said Knight.

To learn more about upcoming meetings and events and to connect with others, follow the group’s Facebook at Beauties in Business Networking Communities, and Instagram at @Beautiesinbiz. GN



▲ Tisha Fritz, Savannah Romero, and Pamela Barnes

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Walking into the new year

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes.

Old Stone Fort Archeological State Park welcomed visitors to start the new year on the right foot. The park hosted its annual First Day Hikes allowing patrons to take part in an easy 1.5-mile hike and learn about the rich history of the park.



▲ Mariko and Robert Giverick



▲ Shelly Davis



▶ Andrea, Jeff, Everett Damon

◀ Will and Shannon Hodges



◀ Wanda Roe, Deb Blackburn



▶ Selena Ranney



▲ Ranger Eric



◀ Molly Fuller, Keely Poch, Rylee Fuller, Kathy Hughes, Pamela Poch, Ryan Fuller



◀ Elsbeth and Rodney Rounds

## Singing at its finest

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

If you can't have fun singing your heart out at karaoke, then where can you? Common John Brewing Company knows this well and recently offered their patrons the opportunity to belt out their favorite tunes during their karaoke event. It was singing and fun at its finest!



▶ Shane Vaughn

▶ Elsbeth Rounds, Marie Ballerini-Hougnon



▲ Alan and Yvonneda Hutchins

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GOOD TIMES

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## February 17

**6:00 pm Jay Dee at Common  
John Brewing Co.**

Common John  
Brewing Company  
210 Woodbury Hwy.,  
Manchester

Live music with Jay  
Dee at CJBC! Enjoy a  
free show, craft beer,  
and food. All ages are  
welcome.

## February 18

**7:00 pm The Ultimate Oldies  
'70s and '80s  
Rock-N-Roll Show**

South Jackson Civic Center  
and Mitchell Museum  
404 S. Jackson St.,  
Tullahoma

## February 24

**6:00 pm Holley Rumbarger  
at Common John  
Brewing Co**

Common John  
Brewing Company  
210 Woodbury Hwy,  
Manchester

Live music with Holley  
Rumbarger at CJBC!  
Enjoy a free show, craft  
beer, and food. All ages  
are welcome.

## March 10

**12:00 pm Duck River  
Watershed:  
Spring Cleanup**

Firelake public use  
and boat ramp area  
River Forge Rd.,  
Manchester

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Elsbeth and Rodney Rounds ▲

Contact: Christian Rieseberg, board vice-chair/treasurer, at [cfrccin@gmail.com](mailto:cfrccin@gmail.com) or call (205) 382-3955

**7:00 pm Party with The Differents at Praters!**

Praters BBQ Manchester  
620 Woodbury Hwy.,  
Manchester

The Differents are back at our favorite Manchester venue — Praters! Great food, friends and fun.

**March 5**

**12:00 pm I Love Manchester**

Manchester/ Coffee County Conference Center  
147 Hospitality Blvd.,  
Manchester

Join us for an afternoon of shopping with local vendors, get your spring pictures taken, and stop by your favorite local food trucks. There will be a raffle for your chance to win some great prizes.

**March 11**

**9:00 am Greenway of Manchester**

Manchester/Coffee County Conference Center  
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\$35 per person, and registration can be completed online through the link below, or physical forms can be picked up at our front desk! Early registers will receive a shirt and a Common John drink coupon. For more info, call (931) 728-0273!

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Ms. DeBerry has an extensive academic and professional background. She earned her doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) from Purdue University, completed post-graduate work at Harvard Medical School and Indiana State University, and is board-certified as both an adult nurse practitioner and family nurse practitioner. She joins Vanderbilt Integrated Primary & Specialty Care Clinic (*next door to Marcrom's Pharmacy*) and is accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment, please call 931-409-2194 or visit [VanderbiltTullahomaHartonHospital.com](http://VanderbiltTullahomaHartonHospital.com).

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81 Memorial Dr.  
Winchester, TN 37398**

### **Medical School:**

University of Illinois  
Chicago, IL

### **Residency:**

Advocate Lutheran General  
Hospital  
Park Ridge, IL

### **Specializes in:**

- Physicals, drug screens, other pre-employment testing
- Injury prevention and management
- Pulmonary function testing/respiratory evaluations
- DOT physicals
- Fit testing
- Firefighter, police officer, and bus driver physicals
- TB skin tests
- Hepatitis B vaccines/Flu clinics

### **Welcoming new patients**

**Appointments may be made by calling  
931.967.1293**



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