

Good News exchange

Jane Marcrom

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Home for
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ISSUE 11 2023

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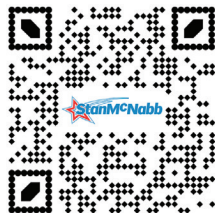
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Heartwarming stories at home

Experience the good this holiday season

LIKE THE cozy warmth of a heated blanket, Good News and the holidays are in the air once again. The season of festive lights, crackling fireplaces, and familiar carols is upon us, inviting a sense of togetherness that warms the soul. As the vintage Christmas record spins on the player and marshmallows swirl in steaming hot chocolate, it's a time when family and friends gather to create lasting memories.

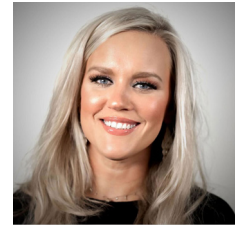
Home for the holidays is a special feeling. It's the time when loved ones from far and wide journey back home, coming together to share in the glow of holiday decorations. Volunteers wrap gifts for those in need, schools close their doors, and students anticipate a well-deserved break. Whether or not the snow graces our Christmas Day, the spirit of peace and love is ever-present.

In this holiday season, we want to celebrate those who elevate the holiday experience for everyone. Our community is filled with stories of love, generosity, and second chances, and Good News is here to share them. As you navigate your own traditions this season, we encourage you to share the love, positivity, and good news with our community. It's the best gift we can give one another. Grab the blanket, start the fire, and pour the hot coffee. It's time to go home for the holidays.

From all of us at Good News Magazine and Exchange Media Group, we extend our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. May your year conclude with joy, and together, let's spread happiness and goodwill throughout the world. GN


Wesley Bryant,
MANAGING EDITOR

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Good Living

CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

- 16** From fear to forecast
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FROM FEAR TO FORECAST

ELIJAH KIRBY FLIPPED THE TABLES ON SEVERE WEATHER.

STORMS DEMAND our attention. They're no big deal to some and stir crippling anxiety in others. Between those extremes is everyone else. Despite these differences, one thing unites us: our desire for accurate weather forecasting in all seasons.

Before the explosion of the internet, most of us depended upon the daily forecasts of local television news stations. Today, up-to-the-minute weather information is literally at our fingertips. Search "weather" in your phone's app store and watch as thousands of choices appear. The apps offer overviews, but the details for your exact location are hit or miss.

But Bedford and Coffee Counties have a more personalized option, and thousands turn to it daily. With over 14,000 likes and 16,000 followers, Shelbyville Weather covers both counties with livestream updates during severe weather. Daily weather and public service announcements round out the services.

Behind it all is one young man, Elijah Kirby, who turned his fear of storms into a passion for meteorology.

Kirby said, "I wanted to learn more about the weather and try not to be scared of the storms. So, when I was in kindergarten and first grade, I wouldn't watch cartoons. I'd have the Weather Channel on all the time while I was playing with my cars and my trains. I just grew into this fascination with weather. But my curiosity was piqued with the Murfreesboro tornado in April 2009."

What was too close to home for so many compelled Kirby, at only 8 or 9, to look to the skies to understand better what impacted our daily lives.

"The crazy thing about weather is that weather is one thing that will impact everyone on the globe," said Kirby. "Everyone has to deal with the weather. No matter what, it's the most relevant thing in our world."

Weather advisories and updates pinpointing our area are critical, but network coverage seems more focused on the Metro-Nashville area. The day after a major storm hits our community, it may make the television news, but reporting while the storm rages may grow smaller as it moves out of the broadcaster's location.

However, when severe weather moves toward Coffee County, Kirby not only issues the necessary watches and warnings, he pulls on his headphones and goes live on Facebook to keep us safe until the storm passes.

"Some people don't have satellite or an antenna to watch the news, so they need somebody to turn to when the weather gets bad, or they're just left in the dark," Kirby said.

Kirby launched Shelbyville Weather on Twitter in 2016 and on Facebook in 2019 and expanded his coverage to Coffee County when his family moved to Normandy. Adding Coffee County was a natural fit. The combination solidified when the National Weather Service invited Kirby to join their #tSpotter program. According to the National Weather Service website, the #tSpotter SKYWARN program uses highly trained volunteers to provide their community with localized weather impact and warning information via their Twitter accounts.

Kirby enjoys meeting the people who rely on his services. After appearing as the grand marshal in the RC Cola Moon Pie Festival parade

in Bell Buckle this year, he now has faces to connect to the many comments on his posts.

He said, "Some people come up to me and say, 'I was in my closet during that tornado warning last night, and I was watching your livestream.' It makes me think, 'Oh, my goodness, you trust me so much that you're going to watch me while you're taking shelter from a tornado.' It's so heartwarming to see all these people gravitating to my coverage."

He's preparing for a lifetime of weather service and is majoring in meteorology in his junior year at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. As he completes his education, his vision for the future keeps an eye on the skies. Employment with the National Weather Service would be his first choice, but he's open to whatever opportunities present themselves.

"It just depends on where God wants to lead me and what His plan is. I really hope I can get in at Nashville or Huntsville because there are so many opportunities in those two cities. And even if the National Weather Service doesn't work out, there's a lot of private sector meteorology jobs," said Kirby. "I'm just a normal 20-year-old with this love and passion for weather who wants to keep people safe and informed and give back to my community."

So, as the winds change and the clouds gather, we can count on Kirby to guide us and ensure that we're never left in the dark. **GN**



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Katie Anderson, Brad Goodwin, Katy Riddle, Misty Weaver, Renee Holt, Kayla Transue, Brent Parsley, and Ivy Petty



Manchester prepares for another exciting Downtown Christmas Stroll.

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

THE AIR is filled with a festive buzz, twinkling lights illuminate the streets, and the unmistakable sound of carolers fills the air — it's that magical time of year again. The Downtown Manchester Christmas Stroll is an event that has been gracing the square of Manchester for many years. It returned last year after a brief hiatus during the pandemic. With its huge success, the stroll is now gearing up for another enchanting year of holiday festivities, bringing the community together to celebrate the season and support local businesses.

One of the hallmarks of the Downtown Manchester Christmas Stroll is its enchanting atmosphere, where the old-fashioned charm of the town square blends seamlessly with modern festive elements.

Last year, the square came alive with characters like the Grinch and Buddy the Elf, adding a touch of playfulness to the occasion. Carolers serenaded passersby, Santa Claus posed for photos, and decorated storefront displays enhanced the magical atmosphere. Katy Riddle, with the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the addition of live window and storefront displays, which captivated attendees with their creativity and uniqueness.

The Downtown Manchester Christmas Stroll is more than just an event; it's a celebration of unity, community spirit, and the joy of giving. The stroll serves a dual purpose: to foster connections between people and to encourage patrons to explore the local shops and boutiques that define the heart of Manchester.

"Our focus is on shopping locally and bringing the community together," noted Riddle.

This celebration showcases the unique offerings of the local boutiques and encourages residents to support their friends and neighbors who own these businesses. There's a noticeable sense of camaraderie as people come together to celebrate the holiday season and embrace the magic of Christmas.



PHOTO ACQUIRED FROM MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FACEBOOK

The Downtown Manchester Christmas Stroll isn't just about shopping — it's a multifaceted experience that brings the community closer. The square becomes a winter wonderland, with shops staying open late into the night to welcome visitors and offer special deals.

It's about the warm, fuzzy feeling that comes from supporting local businesses and witnessing the creativity that local shop owners pour into their storefront displays. Last year's stroll saw a friendly competition for the best live window or storefront displays.

From dancing Nutcracker performers at Reese's GenesBoutique to the humorous scene of chickens at The Mercantile Cafe, the displays brought laughter, wonder, and festive spirit to every corner of the square.

"Manchester does such a good job of coming together and celebrating one another," shared Riddle.

The event reflects the heart and soul of Manchester, a close-knit community that supports its members, especially during the holiday season.

The Downtown Manchester Christmas Stroll also serves as a reminder of the power of shopping locally. The impact



PHOTOS ACQUIRED FROM MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FACEBOOK

of supporting local businesses is far-reaching, with \$68 of every \$100 spent staying within the community. It represents the interconnectedness of the town, where shop owners aren't just business proprietors but cherished members of the community who give back in various ways.

Reflecting on the event's significance, Riddle shared, "These are the businesses that donate stuff for your kids' school and participate in fundraisers throughout the year for different organizations. These are the people who really bolster your community by what they do."

The Downtown Manchester Christmas Stroll brings this sense of community full circle, reinforcing the bond between businesses, residents, and the spirit of the season.

As the planning for the upcoming event continues, there's an air of anticipation for what lies ahead. With carriage rides, live displays, character appearances, and the joyful energy that only the holiday season can bring, the event promises to be even more magical than before.

Manchester's holiday tradition isn't just about the decorations or the festivities — it's about the genuine



connections forged, the memories made, and the lasting impact of supporting local businesses. The Downtown Manchester Christmas Stroll isn't just an event; it's a manifestation of the town's heartwarming spirit and a celebration of the season that truly brings people together. **GN**

Visit <https://www.manchestertnchamber.org/> for more information.

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Savannah Cayton,
Melina, Grayson,
and Jenson Payne



Restoration, hope, and celebrating *new beginnings*

Savannah's journey to reunite and rebuild
during the holiday season

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photos submitted by Shakia Craig

THE HOLIDAY season means different things to different people. For some, it's a time of celebration, unity, and tradition. For others, it's less significant. And to some, it means restoration, hope, and a brighter future. One story that beautifully intertwines the spirit of the holidays with the power of transformation comes from Savannah Cayton, a resilient woman whose life took a remarkable turn with the help of Blue Monarch, a place that became her refuge, her haven of change.

Before entering Blue Monarch's doors, Cayton's life was a whirlwind of chaos and uncertainty.

"I was always in and out of jail. I lost my kids. I was just in a dark place. I can remember just being so broken and lost where I didn't have any options," she said.

Her life was marked by inconsistent relationships, leading her down a path of addiction, domestic violence, and the heart-wrenching loss of custody of her children.

Sitting in a jail cell one day, Cayton had a moment of reflection. She realized there had to be a better way, a brighter life beyond the darkness that had consumed her.



"There's got to be a better life. There's got to be a better way. There's got to be more today than there is right now. Because that was not it," she reflected.

Losing her children became her rock bottom, the defining moment that motivated her to seek change.

Thanks to God's grace, Cayton's journey to restoration began when she walked through the doors of Blue Monarch. It was a fresh start, a new beginning with the promise of healing and growth. Here, she learned not just to overcome her addiction but to rebuild her life from the inside out. One of the crucial components of her transformation was the parenting skills classes that guided her toward becoming a better mother.

Shakia Craig, the officer of development and community relations at Blue Monarch, emphasized that the program isn't just about sobriety; it's about complete transformation. She spoke of Cayton's exceptional progress, noting how she absorbed every lesson and opportunity offered by the program.

"She was a light when she walked into the room. And she was always quick to help another mama with her children even though she didn't have her own," Craig shared.

Cayton's journey to reunite with her children was not easy. The battle was tough, marked by challenges and setbacks. But Cayton's determination and the life skills she learned at Blue Monarch paved the way for

her ultimate victory. A few months after joining the program, Cayton regained custody of her children.

"She took hold of every tool that we offered here, and now we are looking at a completely different person," Craig added.

The program's holistic approach was pivotal in Cayton's revival. From the parenting skills classes to reframing her mindset and developing essential life skills, Cayton's experience was about healing and thriving.

Now a proud graduate of Blue Monarch, Cayton has her sights set on a promising future. She plans to attend Shelbyville Tech to become a licensed practical nurse, a career path that aligns with her newfound sense of purpose and stability.

"I picture my kids being in sports. I picture me just being happy where we are at — where God has put us," Cayton said.

For Cayton, Christmas holds profound significance. After 592 days of being separated from her children, she finally reunited with them on Dec. 16, 2021. This holiday season became a symbol of restoration, marking the first time they could celebrate together in a safe and loving environment.

"It was very heartwarming and so joyful. Whenever I have Christmas now, it just reminds me that this is the time of the year when I got my kids back, [restoring] me and my family," Cayton reflected.

Christmas Day at Blue Monarch is a day of transformation, restoration, and hope. The mothers and their children gather in their "Great Room," surrounded by the warmth of the season.

They exchange gifts — not just material ones, but the gift of togetherness, healing, and the promise of a better future. As they unwrap presents and see the happiness on each other's faces, it's a touching reminder of how far they've come and the resilience that carried them through.

In Savannah Cayton's inspiring story, the holiday season becomes a time of profound significance. It's a



“I picture my kids being in sports. I picture me just being happy where we are at — where God has put us.”



-Savannah Cayton

reminder that amidst the trials of life, transformation and the power of love can bring about restoration and hope, turning even the darkest of times into a celebration of light and joy. As we celebrate the holidays, let Cayton's journey inspire us to embrace change, find strength in adversity, and believe in the magic of new beginnings.

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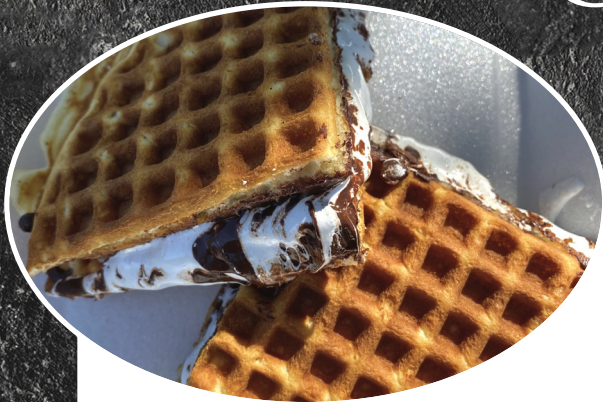
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Trailer Trash Waffles transforms waffle creations into pleasant surprises.

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 Trailer Trash Waffles

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IN THE parking lot of Southern Family Market lies a food truck paradise where different food trucks congregate to help one another and serve the community. Each being a delight on its own, every one of these small businesses has created an event worth visiting. On this particular day, Trailer Trash Waffles caught my attention with its eye-catching, vibrant red truck and intriguingly counterintuitive name. Don't let the title fool you; this tiny waffle food truck is a sanctuary for all things sweet and satisfying. They are redefining the waffle game, one creative sandwich at a time. With that being said, these aren't your ordinary waffles; they're crispy on the outside, fluffy on the inside, and brimming with sweetness. Whether you're a breakfast sandwich enthusiast or an adventurous foodie looking for unique toppings, Trailer Trash Waffles has you covered.

For those who, like me, always choose the newest combinations, the S'mores Waffle Sandwich is a must-try. It's a warm embrace of gooey goodness, sticky with

marshmallow filling and warm chocolate nearly drizzling down your hand as you hold it. Each bite took me back to campfire nights full of sugar and love in my bloodstream, sandwiched between two waffles that somehow held everything in better than any graham cracker could. If you're feeling less adventurous, the Cheeseburger Waffle Sandwich combines the best of both worlds — the familiarity of a classic cheeseburger with the delightful innovation of waffle bread. Bite after bite was a delicious blend of savory beef patty, melted cheese, crisp lettuce, thick onion, and a fresh tomato slice, all cocooned within the warm and slightly sweet waffle. It's a flavor journey that defies expectations and redefines comfort food. In essence, Trailer Trash Waffles is a testament to culinary creativity thriving in unexpected places. If you find yourself wanting a taste of something different, this tiny waffle wonderland proves that sometimes, the most ingenious food experiences come from the most unanticipated places. GN





CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

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- 44 Where Christmas dreams come alive

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

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Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

◀ Megan Scott and Tasha Williams



Home for
the
Holidays





RAY & JANE MARCROM

*Hope is Not Just
for the Holidays.*

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

The One Day of Hope initiative exemplifies the importance of spreading hope beyond boundaries.



IN A WORLD where hope often seems out of reach and peace is a distant dream, there emerges a ray of light — a day of hope, a day of unity, a day of transformation. So many people around the world yearn for a day when they can rise above their struggles, find solace, and experience the true meaning of community. In the midst of their search, initiatives like One Day of Hope rise as a reminder that hope is not just for the holidays — it’s a powerful force that can be shared year-round. It’s a perpetual gift we can give to one another every day.

In 2011, a spark of inspiration ignited in the hearts of a group of individuals committed to making a difference. As a group of ministers meeting in the local ministerial association with a deep-rooted connection to their local churches, they understood the power of unity and service. The aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis left scars on many, and these compassionate souls sought to heal those wounds. The idea was simple yet profound: to put away themselves and unite different denominations and backgrounds to serve their community. Thus, One Day of Hope was born, an event that would transcend barriers and transform lives.

Ray Marcrom, a volunteer with the organization, explained, “The whole thing with One Day of Hope is we leave our identity behind and come together in the name of Jesus to serve.”

This wasn’t about any one church or creed; it was about humanity coming together to extend a helping hand, offering material aid, a warm smile, a kind word, and a reminder that they are loved.

“

The whole thing with One Day of Hope is we leave our identity behind and come together in the name of Jesus to serve.

- RAY MARCROM



▲ Hannah Ashburn

One Day of Hope has grown, evolving from a single event to a movement that touches lives in numerous ways. The initiative's scope expanded beyond the confines of a single day, branching out into healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. From this initiative, they started a medical clinic, partnering with local health-care providers to offer medical screenings and guidance. Partnerships with schools, police departments, and employment agencies became the foundation for year-round support.

The essence of One Day of Hope remains the same: to restore hope to those who have lost it.

Marcrom shared, "The biggest thing I see in people is they've lost hope."

Stories of transformation and renewal highlighted the impact of their work. A woman's journey from brokenness to empowerment, a man's tears of gratitude as he received a job and new boots — these tales exemplified the profound influence of love and care.

And with a smile and a helping hand, they aimed to spark that flicker of hope back into life.

From providing warm winter coats and work attire to offering medical screenings, dental care, and haircuts, One Day of Hope embraces the diversity of needs that people carry. It is a holistic approach that addresses the external challenges and the emotional and spiritual ones. In this collective effort, churches, individuals, and organizations join hands, turning a single day into a year-round source of hope.

During the holiday season, the spirit of giving and unity intensifies. In this small town, there is an undeniable openness to extend a helping hand. Families and individuals open their hearts to support One Day of Hope and its mission. The holidays aren't just about festivities; they are an opportunity to express the spirit of selflessness that defines the community.

The organization has recognized the significance of these moments and seamlessly weaves them into their year-round efforts. They coordinate with churches to ensure resources reach those in need. Marcrom spoke about the importance of coordinating rather than replacing existing efforts, highlighting the power of collaboration.

This movement continues to grow. Other towns embrace the vision, spearheading their own One Day of Hope events. Hearts are ignited, lives are changed, and a ripple effect of compassion spreads far and wide. While the holidays hold a special place in this journey, the essence of One Day of Hope thrives year-round, proving that hope is not confined to a single season.



▲ Rosemary Lapham, Kelly Elsasser, Brandi Trout, and Paige Carter

In a world often defined by challenges and uncertainties, the One Day of Hope initiative is a shining example of the power of unity and love. It's a reminder that every day holds the potential for transformation, reaching out to those in need and sharing the spirit of hope. Hope isn't just for the holidays; it's a flame we can kindle in each other's hearts, creating a brighter world full of compassion and unity. **GN**

Contact One Day of Hope at (931) 222-5033 or help@onedayofhopecc.org. Or visit their website at www.onedayofhopecc.org for more information.





Gifts of Love and Transformation

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Rediscovering the true meaning of the holidays with Redwood Women

DURING THE holiday season, it's easy to get caught up in the shopping, decorating, and planning of extravagant meals. But for Redwood Women's founder, Tasha Williams, and her fellow members, the holidays mean something much more profound — a time for giving, sharing, and bringing hope to those who need it most. This ministry and its incredible mission exist to make the holidays and every day brighter for women in their community.

Redwood Women is a group of dedicated women who have come together with a common purpose — to serve others and bring love and support to those who need it most, especially during the holiday season. Williams and her close friend and co-founder, Megan Scott, lead this remarkable ministry. The story of Redwood Women's beginnings is one of divine inspiration and a deep desire to make a difference in their community.

Williams recalled the moment of the inception of Redwood Women. "June 24, 2021, was our first group meeting. We're still growing and just really trying to be led by the Lord. I've learned I could have so many good ideas, but I want to do what He wants me to do."

Williams' faith played a pivotal role in shaping Redwood Women's mission.

The group's journey began when they identified a need in their local community. Many of the women had become preoccupied with work and the demands of life, causing them to drift apart. Williams felt called to bring them back together, fueling both personal growth and service to others.

During this time, Williams sought divine guidance for the group's name. She stumbled upon an inspiring story about



a giant redwood tree in California. This enormous tree's roots only extended 3 feet into the ground, but they reached for miles, intertwining with neighboring trees to draw strength. Redwood Women was born in that moment, symbolizing their unity and shared power.

The group initially started with simple meetings, allowing the women to bond and refocus on their spiritual growth. Williams soon found herself involved in ministry at the Bedford County Jail, where she had a life-changing encounter with a woman named Laticia Gaona. Gaona shared the challenges incarcerated women face during the holiday season, where they grapple with newfound sobriety and overwhelming emotions, often separated from their families.

This conversation with Gaona struck a chord with Williams and sparked a remarkable idea. She realized many of these incarcerated women's children were in the care of grandparents who faced obstacles in providing a joyful Christmas. Some lacked access to programs like Angel Tree due to limited computer skills or transportation.

Williams heart was moved to action. She decided that Redwood Women would step in and make a difference. They set out to provide gifts to these children, personally delivering them to the homes of families who needed them most. Their mission was not just about gifts but about showing love and support and praying with them during a challenging time.

The group's efforts bore fruit, and they began collecting donations and organizing their first Christmas gift drive in 2021. Williams, Scott, and their dedicated team wrapped over 130 gifts, each carefully chosen and prayed over. They mapped out their routes, divided into groups, and embarked on a journey to bring smiles to children's faces and share the love of Christ.

What sets Redwood Women apart is the involvement of their own children in this meaningful endeavor. As they deliver gifts, their children join them, learning firsthand the joy of giving and the impact they can make on others' lives. The experience is a profound lesson in compassion and generosity that will undoubtedly shape these young hearts.

"So we're not just experiencing taking gifts and giving them to kids less fortunate. Our children [can] see what it does to be a good person and a joyful giver."

Williams shared her own experience of receiving a special coat one Christmas. It was a gift that filled her with an overwhelming sense of love and value. This transformative power of a thoughtful gift fuels her desire to bring joy to others. Williams journey from a troubled past to a place of giving and purpose has created a lasting hunger to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.





Williams vision for a future where churches and ministries partner with jails to bridge the gap for women reentering society is inspiring and achievable.

Redwood Women's mission represents the profound impact one small group of dedicated individuals can have on a community. As the holiday season approaches again, Redwood Women will continue to shine as a symbol of love, compassion, and unity, reminding us of the true meaning of the holidays — giving, sharing, and spreading hope. GN

Contact Redwood Women at Theredwoodwomen@gmail.com or visit [The Redwood Women on Facebook](#) for more information.





BRANDON TOMBERLIN, BILL SIPE, AND ADAM FLOIED

Where Christmas Dreams Come Alive

By Jeriah Brumfield // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



Manchester Police Department's Angel Tree Program creates ripples of joy for the community.

DURING THE holiday season, twinkling lights adorn the streets of Manchester, and the enchanting scent of Christmas cheer fills the air. Children in scarves and mittens build snowmen and snow angels. Their excitement is evident as the day before Christmas approaches.

On the night before the big day, wide-eyed kids anticipate the joy of unwrapping presents while parents excitedly prepare warm batches of cookies and hot cocoa to share.

While families huddle together by the fireplace, sipping hot chocolate and indulging in cookies, not everyone is fortunate enough to experience the full extent of these heartwarming moments.

In this small town, the true spirit of Christmas shines through in initiatives like the Manchester Police Department's (MPD) Angel Tree Program.

This program has been a pillar of support and kindness for over two decades during the holiday season. What began as a modest initiative has blossomed into a community-wide effort that brings together people from all walks of life. The Angel Tree Program was born with a simple goal: to ensure that every child in need experiences the magic of Christmas.

Over the years, the Angel Tree Program's reach has expanded immensely, transforming into a collaborative effort between the police department and the Manchester City Schools System family resource counselor, BJ Silva. This partnership ensures that the aid reaches those who need it most.

“

We want every toy we have in a family's hands. It's really special for the police department to be able to partner with so many different parts of our community.

- **ADAM FLOIED**



▲ Ben Sneed, Benton Brown, Trey Adcock, Chase Alford, Justin Gault, Carlos Naranjo, Bryan Eldridge, Dale Robertson, Mitchell West, Bill Sipe, Jamie Norris, Brandon Tomberlin, Adam Floied, Dawn Adams, Emily Penick, and Keith Hendrix

Assistant Chief of Police Adam Floied with the MPD explained, “We wanted to target the families and the children that were the neediest, and the family resource counselor knows better than anybody in a school system who those families and children are.”

The heart of the program’s initiatives lies in the meticulous care officers and community members put into selecting gifts. Each angel is carefully matched with a donor, tailoring the gifts to the child’s size, interests, and needs. Volunteers prepare the gift baskets full of clothing, shoes, personal hygiene items, and toys with love.

Floied said, “We want every toy we have in a family’s hands. It’s really special for the police department to be able to partner with so many different parts of our community.”

The entire police department, from officers to administrative staff, rallies around the Angel Tree Program. Each shift takes

“

As a child, I remember that big Christmas gift — maybe a new bicycle or a train set. But helping these officers every year, with so many others also spreading the cheer to our community — to be a small part of that is my best Christmas gift every year. I’ve seen these officers open their hearts to the community they are sworn to, not only protect but also serve, unselfishly giving every ounce of themselves, working a 12-hour shift, and then volunteering to help deliver toys. I know they get a lot out of it, too!

- ADAM FLOIED



responsibility for some of the angels, making the holiday preparation a collective effort. This program bridges gaps and creates a positive, personal interaction between law enforcement and the community they serve.

Beyond individual contributions, the program thrives on the support of local businesses, organizations, and events. Businesses like the Bonnaroo Works Foundation, Sportsman's Businessman Organization, David Bradley's fundraiser events, and local restaurants like Prater's BBQ, Sonic, and many more play a vital role in making the program successful.

The program's pinnacle arrives the day before Christmas break, when nearly 100 children gather to receive their gift baskets, personally presented by police officers and their families. The spirit of giving is apparent through these heartwarming interactions and Santa Claus's personal gift basket deliveries.

Floied remarked, "We hope that it continues and that we can keep doing this for many years to come."

The Angel Tree Program extends beyond this event, with volunteers placing excess toys beneath Christmas trees on the town square for anyone to take, ensuring that every gift finds a deserving home.

The program reflects the best of Manchester — a caring community coming together to make the holidays brighter for those in need.

Floied said, "It's hard to organize things like that and get so many different entities involved. We're just honored to be able to do it, and it shows the children and families we get to help a side of law enforcement and police officers that they don't necessarily get to see a lot of times."

The program illuminates the potential for positive change in a world often clouded by challenges and negativity. With each passing year, it reaffirms the power of coming together to uplift the lives of those less fortunate, making the holiday season truly magical for all. GN

Contact the Manchester Police Department to get involved with the Angel Tree Program.



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How the Good News Magic Happens: From Submission to Print

How does a story get into Good News Magazine?

Nominate someone to be featured in Good News Magazine.

Since Good News launched, we have received hundreds of nominations for people to be covered. Ever wondered how a story finds its way into the pages of our magazine? Well, the answer is simple: it's all thanks to you! Not only are the stories about local people, but they come from other local people, too! Here's a glimpse into the journey of how stories come alive in Good News Magazine.



Step 1: The submission process: goodnewsmags.com

We believe that everyone has a story worth sharing, and we rely on our readers to help us discover these extraordinary individuals. Submissions are made through our website and include the following details:

- A nominee's name
- Contact information (phone and email)
- The reason for the submission, along with why they qualify as a "Good News" story. This may include their contributions to the community, impactful deeds, family life, occupation, and more.
- We're not looking for you to write the story or find a superstar. We believe everyone has a story, and we only need relevant information. Our writers will do the rest!

Step 2: Selection and theme assignment

We tell stories about local people and what they are doing to make a difference. We have told stories about charities, medical staff, volunteers, school staff, and your next-door neighbor. Again, everyone has a story. While we feature six remarkable individuals in each issue, keep in mind that our production schedule is planned months in advance. So, if someone isn't featured in the upcoming issue, there's still a chance they'll be highlighted in the future. We keep all submissions on file for potential use.

Step 3: Interviews and photo shoots

Once a story is selected, our talented writers and photographers swing into action. We continue to be inspired by the stories submitted to us, and we complete the interviews and photo shoots several months before the issue goes to print. Our writers may conduct interviews via phone or video chat, while others prefer in-person meetings with the individuals behind the stories.



What's next in Good News Magazine?

Currently, our dedicated team is hard at work crafting stories under themes like “Hometown Healing,” “From The Heart,” and “Charity Spotlight.” We are excited to announce the next theme needing story submissions is **“The Learning Curve.”**

Submit local educators online:

Do you know local educators who have made a significant impact on your life and the community? Whether it's teachers who have overcome challenges to inspire their students or those who promote lifelong learning, we want to spotlight these individuals and their stories in our upcoming “The Learning Curve” issue.

Do you know someone who deserves to be in Good News Magazine?

Let us know with a submission at www.GoodNewsMags.com or scan the QR code. Share your stories with us, and let's continue spreading the Good News together.







Good Times

CHAPTER 3 OF 3

This section of the magazine covers local things to do.

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Submit a positive story
on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

◀ Haislee Smith, Roger, and Misty Bennett

Old Timers Day - Oct. 6 - 7



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Old Timers Day was held on the square on Oct. 6 and 7 with additional vendors to celebrate the history and culture of Manchester.



1. Mark Lemons, Tracy Davis, Renee Davis, Johnny Martin, and Ronnie Grant 2. Oliver Bransford, Keira Lynn, Etta Johnson, Evan Johnson, Demi Johnson, William Bransford, and Dale Lynn 3. Remington Brooks, Theo Burks, Jude Leet, Robbie Tinsley, Matt Burks, Caleb Tyree, and Steve Leet 4. Caleb Tyree

Zombie Walk - Oct. 13



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

On Friday the 13th, local “zombies” gathered at Fred Deadman Park in Manchester for the inaugural Manchester Zombie Walk. The family-friendly event featured participants in zombie costumes and Halloween enthusiasts.



1. Kaylan Mashburn 2. Ashlyn Jarman 3. Rachel Szoka
4. Michelle and Johnathan Garner 5. Bryan and Amanda Lorenz 6. Mercury Red (Band)

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GOOD TIMES

EVENTS CALENDAR

November 13

**7:30 pm "Footloose,
the Musical"**

Manchester Arts Center
128 E. Main St.
Manchester

Nov. 10-19. Big-city teen finds himself out of place in a rural town where dancing has been outlawed. Explosive choreography, Top-40 '80s hits, and new music.

November 25

**10:00 am Christmas
Marketplace in
Wartrace**

26 Main Street E.,
Wartrace

The Christmas Marketplace will have arts, crafts, food, and drinks. Call (615) 785-2124 for more info.

**3:00 pm Free Soup Kitchen
at the Church of
Jesus Christ**

The Church of
Jesus Christ
519 E. Moore St.
Tullahoma

The church hosts this free soup kitchen the last Saturday of every month.

December 1

**7:00 pm 67th Annual
Christmas Parade**

135 W. Lincoln St.
Tullahoma

Presented by the Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Stan McNabb Automotive.



December 3

11:00 am Manchester's Christmas Cheer Craft and Vendor Event

Manchester Coffee County Conference Center
147 Hospitality Blvd.

Indoor craft show and vendor event! Take your own pictures with Santa who will arrive around noon!!

December 9

9:00 am Dark Christmas and Krampusnacht Faire

Manchester Arts Center
128 E. Main St.
Manchester

Lady Fright invites you to her free Dark Christmas & Krampusnacht Faire. There will be vendors, food trucks, games, pictures with Krampus and St. Nicholas. Bring your little ones and get some early shopping done!

December 16

10:00 am Fourth Annual Island of Misfit Crafts Show

Coffee County Fairgrounds
99 Lakeview Dr.
Manchester

Handmade crafts, food trucks, prize giveaways, photo booth with Santa, and misfit toy hunt game. Contact Oliver's Wood & Fabric at (931) 841-5584.

For more events and to submit an event visit:

www.GoodNewsMags.com/events
or call (800) 247-7318



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Amanda Cox
Publishing Partner

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