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ISSUE 1 2024

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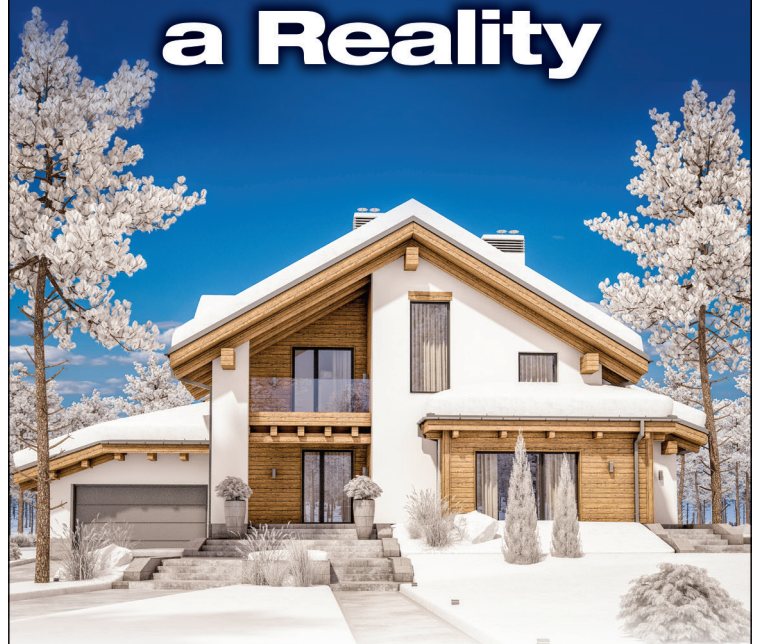
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Every Gesture of Love is from The Heart

Celebrating everyday love

IT'S HOLDING the door open for the person behind you. It's sending a sweet text when they cross your mind. It's stopping by to say "hi" when they've had a bad day. Showing up and showing love is like medicine for our souls. It lets us dance, sing, laugh, and cry together. It lets us know that someone is saving us a seat at every table. We know that – while we may be off-key – there is someone to sing backup from the passenger seat. And when we have those really bad days, we know there is a shoulder waiting like a therapeutic tissue. These moments, while they may feel small, carry a heavy weight. It keeps the

world from falling apart when it feels so fragile. It keeps our head above the water in the deepest, darkest oceans.

This issue of Good News is about celebrating our love. We're not just talking about romantic love, either. We're talking about the real love that can only come from the heart. Our community is full of actions that show love in every minute of every day. It can be as simple as a "Luv U" text or as kind as holding a door open.

We're proud to share stories of love to make the community a better place. **GN**

Wesley Bryant,
MANAGING EDITOR

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VP OF SALES Ken Holtzinger

LEAD LAYOUT ARTIST Brianna Brubaker

SENIOR LAYOUT ARTIST Melissa Davis

PHOTOGRAPHERS Ashleigh Newnes, Brooke Snyder

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHERS Jim Jordan, Brittany Johnson,

Amanda Guy, Tommy Sprouse, Steve Zak, Sarah Bussard

STORY WRITERS Tina Neeley, Jeriah Brumfield

FREELANCE WRITERS Sara McClaran, Gabriel Huff, Paige Cushman,

Amanda West, Kaleob Ashley, Belle Butler, Richard Klin

STORY COORDINATOR Haley Potter

PROOFREADER Michelle Harwell

LEAD PRINT AD DESIGNER Todd Pitts

PRINT AD DESIGNER Ben Adams

JR LAYOUT ARTIST Jane Morrell

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Cindy Baldhoff, Faith Cashion,

Amanda Cox, Kevin Hines, Mark Mahagan, Kevin Maples, Janet Mullins,

Matt Scott, Sissy Smith, Sandra Thomas

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VP OF TALENT Chase Perryman

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CUSTOMER SERVICE Shelli Fuller, Barb Hargrove, Tim Weir

DIGITAL DESIGN DIRECTOR Clinton George

WEBSITE DESIGNERS Crystal Mehlhaff, Ashley McMurry

SEO CONTENT WRITER Anna Sharp

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GoodLiving

CHAPTER 1 OF 3

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

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A hands-on family
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Photography by Brooke Snyder

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BILL AND LUCY BOSS:
A Hands-on Family



A LIFETIME OF NURTURING AND EDUCATING CULMINATES IN TULLAHOMA'S SCIENCE CENTER.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

DEFINING SCIENCE isn't always easy, but ask Bill Boss to define it, and he will point you to Tullahoma's Hands-On Science Center. Science is a big, fun adventure where we try to understand how things work. It's how we learn new things and figure out how to improve our lives. It's like being a detective, looking for clues to solve mysteries. It's a way of life for the Boss family.

Bill found school boring, but as a 10-year-old, talks with his cousin about the marvels of space and how FM and AM radio worked tuned Bill's mind to the wonders of science. Later, his time in the ROTC attracted him to the U.S. Air Force, forming a two-lane highway to a lifetime of learning.

In high school, Bill wrangled young campers at the Akron area Camp Y-Noah, where he met a pretty counselor, Lucy Hoppstock, another teacher at heart. He soon graduated from Akron University with a bachelor's degree in education, was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force simultaneously, and married Lucy shortly after. Life was about to get interesting.

A military family who lived in eight states, Bill and Lucy had four children. Bill acquired his bachelor's and master's degrees in Aerospace Engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology to avoid a lifetime career as a ground-controlled interception controller. Combining his degrees, he taught for three years at the Air Force Academy in Colorado but was tired of it and requested a transfer to the Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC).

His transfer to AEDC was approved, subject to serving a last stint in ground-controlled interception in Alaska. Training in Florida to refresh his radar skills before going to Alaska allowed him to check out AEDC on the drive from Colorado to Florida.

While Bill worked and studied, Lucy kept everything running at home. Her nurturing spirit and ability to seamlessly manage household affairs while raising four children under challenging circumstances showcase her resilience and adaptability. The couple positively shaped the lives of their children and stirred a love of learning that continues with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Lucy, a lifetime swimmer, located the community pool with each move, was a lifeguard, and taught swimming and water aerobics. She did the same in Tullahoma and recently retired from overseeing the senior citizens' water program. She recorded the history of the South Jackson Civic Center and Hands-On Science Center and was the longtime pianist at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tullahoma.

"Dad's greatest gift was showing enthusiasm for anything any family member showed an interest in. Tammy was interested in horses. Poof! We moved to Tennessee and bought horses. Randy showed interest in wrestling. Poof! All of us got excited to watch and cheer him on. Danny showed interest in music. Poof! Dad got him an electric guitar, and Danny still plays guitar today. I showed an interest in having an exchange student. Poof! We hosted Mónica Julio from Chile, whom we still love and adore today," said daughter Annie Clements.

Her brother, Randy Boss, agrees. "We had science in our lives and did many experiments, science fair projects, and biology. He would bring home liquid nitrogen, tarantulas, fossils, and all kinds of examples of science and nature."

Lucy equally passed on skills and a passion for learning to their children.

Randy said, "She nurtured the interests I have in many of the hobbies I have now. She taught me to sew (I dabble with upholstery) and cook (I love to cook)."

His sister, Tammy Hall, chose a career utilizing skills her parents taught her.

"My mother taught me bookkeeping at a younger age," said Tammy. "My father taught me to invest my funds, save, and be debt-free. I have been a bookkeeper for 40-plus years now."

Daniel Boss, their brother, said, "My parents hosted a lot of exchange students, and my experiences in that international community helped prepare me for work in international environments."

They also influenced him musically, agreeing to buy him an electric guitar if he learned to play the classic acoustic guitar already in the house. Everyone held up their end of the agreement, and Danny plays two or three times a week with his wife and son.





Twenty and a half years and eight states later, the road and Bill's U.S. Air Force active duty culminated in Tullahoma. Although he was beginning to fear he'd never want to settle down, Tullahoma eased his concern.

"I like the size of the town, the schools, the climate, our house, plus I like the name 'Tullahoma,' and it's where I want to stay," Bill said.

Late in his career, Bill was assigned to work at the University of Tennessee Space Institute. He noticed the number of students passing through on field trips but found little to stir their curiosity. Bill suspected they might need the same spark he did, and he learned he could entertain children more quickly than he could instruct them.

"I started giving the groups a liquid nitrogen show, and soon I was giving them at area schools. The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

invited me to join them in creating a science center. As a result, in 1990, I became one of the founders of the Hands-On Science Center," Bill wrote in his autobiography, "Babblings: My First 85 Years."

Today, the center has welcomed an estimated half a million visitors to explore science apart from a textbook. Over 100 exhibits invite an up-close look at the science behind aerodynamics, sound and light, geology, electricity, and more. Bill is responsible for creating many exhibits and has led countless programs and demonstrations.

"I've spent a third of my life hoping to get kids interested in science as my way of hoping to leave the world a little better place," said Bill.

After 65 years of marriage and giving back to the community, it looks like the couple's on the road to precisely that! **GN**

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THE RIPPLE EFFECT

East Middle School and other
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The Country Music Association
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BY TINA NEELEY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY ZACH BIRDSONG



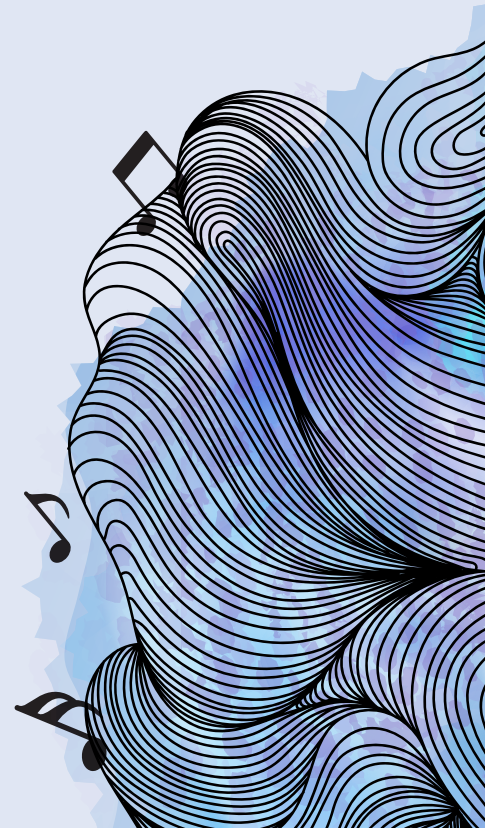
BECAUSE MOST students welcome a chance to get out of class, anticipation builds as the first student group gathers in East Middle School's theatre for an unnamed guest speaker. Students still in class listen closely for clues, distracted by the suspense. Their teachers allow it, equally excited for the news to spread. Finally, the applause and cheers rippling from the theatre and throughout the school alert everyone to the arrival of big news. Emerging country music artist Tiera Kennedy is in the house!

Kennedy is only part of the surprise. Representatives of The Country Music Association Foundation (CMAF) and Music Has Value (MHV) nonprofit organization are on hand to present new instruments and equipment for the band and the

general music classes. The Country Music Association Foundation funded the gift coordinated by Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation to be distributed among schools in the Tullahoma City Schools District.

The value of the September 2023 donation extends far beyond the purchase of new instruments.

Atticus Hensley, East Middle School's band director, said, "When we look at a total of \$75,000 worth of equipment to distribute around seven schools, that's amazing. You think when you receive an instrument in the room, and it goes into a child's hands, the story is over, but it's not. Because when that instrument or that other piece of equipment shows up in my room, it automatically frees up funds that the school board's already given me. In-





stead of having to set them aside for new purchases, I've got a whole list of backlogged repairs that I can now afford to do, putting more instruments in the hands of kids. There's a ripple effect. It's not just the one kid; it's all the kids in the program. It was uplifting."

Uplifting and of value, like music. According to publicschoolreview.com, studies show that the positive impact of theatre, music, dance, and visual arts programs in K-12 schools is measurable. Students in the arts programs:

- Perform better in math, reading, and writing
- Have fewer reported behavioral incidents
- Have improved attendance

“
When you're
part of a band
or choir, you're
part of a
community that
functions on a
daily basis.”

Students with low socioeconomic status are known to have additional benefits, such as better long-term academic, occupational, and social outcomes than their peers not enrolled in arts programs.

Teaching a student to play an instrument has value to the student individually. Hensley knows he's giving them an alternate mode of expression. That's the main thing some get from being in a band or the choir. But for others, learning to read music and play an instrument teaches them to read and interpret a language and symbols and to problem-solve as they play. The product they create is interpreted moment by moment by both the performer and the audience member.



“When a child is involved with the process, it opens up different modes of thought and allows them to think more about others because you have to think about how the audience will listen to this. What are they going to hear? It’s not just the individual. When you’re part of a band or choir, you’re part of a community that functions on a daily basis. There’s a whole lot of interpersonal problem-solving,” said Hensley. “So we’re teaching them to be thinkers, we’re teaching them to be citizens, and we’re teaching them to be empathetic toward their fellow man. So, I find a lot of value, and I don’t think most people think of it that way. They see the product (hear the concert and see the artwork on the wall) but don’t get to see the process. And to me, the process is the magic.”

According to Tullahoma City Schools, four students got a closer look at the magic of the process and shared their love of music with Kennedy. Kennedy’s grade school music teacher was the first non-family member to affirm her talent and encourage her to share her gift with others. She shared her gift with the East Middle School student body, performing three of her current songs, reported cma-world.com.

Hensley said, “There are a lot of different moving pieces that made this possible. I appreciate Tullahoma City Schools’ willingness to go through this process. Every time we ran into a hitch, the people from Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation were so helpful. The CMAF provided all

that structure for us. If they had not been there to step up with the funding in the first place, it never would have happened. The Tennessee Department of Education in general, and specifically Todd Shipley, who, when this all began, was the fine arts representative at CMAF, made it happen along with MHV, which partnered with CMAF to provide all those funds.”

It is a priceless gift accepted by an appreciative student body.

“The looks on their faces,” said Hensley. “Like, this is a ride. We didn’t know what road we were going on, but it was a great ride.” GN

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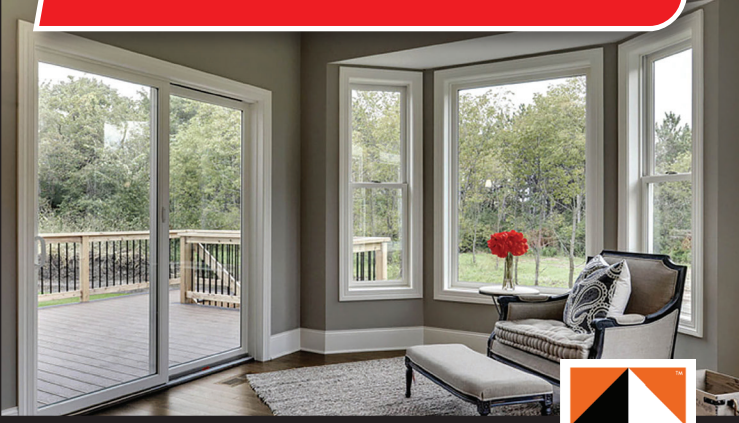


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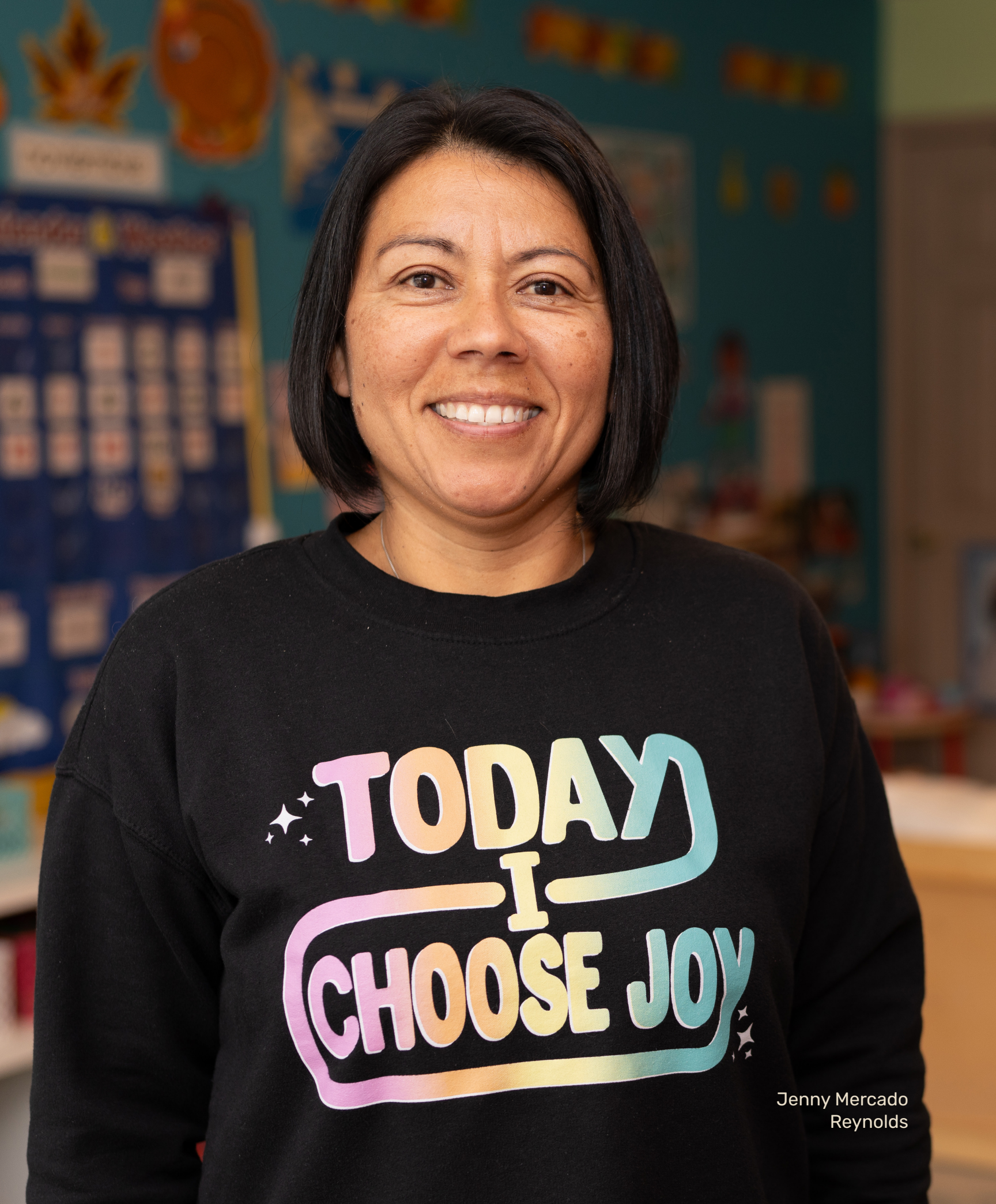
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TODAY
I
CHOOSE JOY

Jenny Mercado
Reynolds



Rooted *in* *love*

Jenny Mercado Reynolds plants seeds
that shape lives forever.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder

THE MORNING sun spotlights the American flag as they recite the Pledge of Allegiance, then join hands and pray. Their bowed heads pop up like toast as the young people anticipate circle time. This special time for listening and sharing draws them closer than a favorite toy, forging friendships and bonds they don't yet understand. The letter of the week, shapes, colors, and numbers create a patchwork of preschool learning that covers them when they leave this space but not these memories. These are the 18-month-old to five-year-old children at Jenny Mercado Reynolds' Joyful Noise child care in Tullahoma.

Reynolds' journey into the hearts of her child care students and their families is rooted in her experiences with children, from her time in Montessori classrooms growing up and caring for her brother, 11 years

younger than her. Two jobs as a nanny when she was in her 20s cemented her desire to help shape the lives of children.

"I always felt I could relate to them. I wanted to hold and sing to them and read to them, and it grew from there," said Reynolds.

That growth occurred in the Chicago area, and put down permanent roots when she married her husband, Brian. They married there with everything packed and loaded for a move the following day to Tullahoma. There was a culture shock and adjustment period because she'd left behind all her friends and family and access to more metropolitan shopping. But she didn't leave behind her love of caring for children, and a job with Linda Titus at Mrs. Linda's Day Care proved to be a blessing.

“I worked for her for 10 years and saw so many people come and go. But I was always taught my parents’ work ethic, and I stayed. She just saw something in me and was thankful. She was really good to me, and I learned so much from her,” Reynolds said. “That’s how a lot of people got to know me in this area because I really didn’t know anybody.”

Titus encouraged Reynolds, passing along the business side of child care, believing she should open her own facility one day. When Titus retired, it was time to make a decision.

She said, “We decided if everything would line up, this is going to be a God thing, and it did.”

She converted two rooms in her home with the help of her husband and his father. She wanted a unique name for the child care center, skipping the pattern of naming it after herself. Constantly turning over ideas in her mind, even when busy with other things, she scored with Joyful Noise while attending a basketball game.

“I looked up, and there’s a banner that said, ‘Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.’ I liked that. Kids are just joyful; they make me happy. And they’re noisy. This was a God thing, and I want to make sure that I always remember that,” she shared.

She remembers it daily as she creates a nurturing and safe environment where children feel valued, understood, and loved. Their stability and emotional well-being are her priority. Relationships with the children and their families create a circle of reciprocating support.

“It makes me stop and take it all in and say, ‘This is why you’re here.’ It’s the love you have for their innocence, their love for life, and how one minute they’re fighting



▲ Brian and Jenny Reynolds with Ryan Obersteadt, Matthew Teal, Eli Teal, Trinitee Scott, Piper Parks, Mason Kimbro, Rhett Hinson, Cora Gault, Raylan Trail, Weston Scott, Cooper Perry, and Oaklen Rice.

over a toy, and the next minute they’re holding hands. They’re already best friends again, and they’ll do that 10 times today,” said Reynolds.

Some days, you wonder who’s teaching who.

She said, “I just love it because they see the world so differently than us, and sometimes when I feel like I’m making a big issue of something, it reminds me I’m sweating the small stuff. You gotta let that go. It makes me think of little things that my kids do and say. They teach us a lot.”

It comes full circle because Reynolds’ teaching leaves a lasting impression on the children and their families, especially her annual Easter tradition of washing the children’s feet and allowing them to wash hers.

Tabitha Sehorne saw Jenny’s influence in action.

“The first year I taught kindergarten for Tullahoma City Schools, I had some students that I absolutely had to know where they went to preschool because that is where I wanted my children to go



if and when I had children,” said Tabitha. “Mrs. Jenny Reynolds is the salt of the earth. My girls learned so much from her academically, but the integrity, goodness, love for others, and Christ-likeness that she poured into them is unmatched. She will never know the impact she has had on my life, the lives of my children and so many others, and our community. She is an angel on this earth.”

Bonnie Levi’s son, Carter, was Reynolds’ student. “As a parent, it was such a relief and answer to prayer when

we found Joyful Noise. We could not have dreamed of a better situation than what we found with Jenny and her family at Joyful Noise,” said Bonnie. “The lessons and strong moral convictions she has as a teacher have impacted Carter far beyond his time there and will continue to serve him as he grows and matures.”

Carter’s grandmother, Gigi Robison, said, “She is a ‘force of nature’ in the most positive way imaginable, passionate about teaching her kids to care about others. Mrs. Jenny is very loving, but she is not a

pushover. Her kids are taught respect and given healthy boundaries. Her kids are prepared to enter the next steps of life and school when they sadly leave their years at Joyful Noise.”

Joyful Noise child care is a community within a larger community preparing tomorrow’s citizens to look and see their neighbor, offer a helping hand, and share a seat on the rollercoaster ride of life. And proudly watching as they do is their Mrs. Jenny nodding and smiling. “It’s a God thing.” GN

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Good Stories

CHAPTER 2 OF 3

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

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- 36 Gifts that give back
- 40 “Family to my family”
- 44 Delivering compassion

Our stories are based on submissions from local people.

Submit yours here:



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Photography by Brooke Snyder

◀ Briana Davis and Beth Wheeler

From the Heart

THE CONNECTION between humans — we call it love — is a profoundly beautiful thing. Our Creator built us to have different types of love. The Greek words for the three types are eros, agape, and philio.

Eros is the passionate and romantic love we often think of when picturing two people sharing an intimate bond. It's full of emotion, desire, and longing, and people find it every day.

Agape love is a love that is unconditional and selfless. It's love without expectation or demand, often seen among family members and friends who care deeply for one another.

Philio love is the love of friendship and community. It's about shared experiences and mutual understanding. We often see this type of love in close-knit groups of people who have a deep connection — just like Tullahoma.

No matter what type of love you experience, it's an essential part of the human experience. Love and connection bring us closer together, allowing us to share life's highs and lows with those we care about most. Good News is happy to share these one-of-a-kind stories from the heart. **GN**





Lisa Cardwell

Gifts That Give Back

The Attic Outlet multiplies your donations through the initiatives of Community Care Ministries.

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Brooke Snyder

SURROUNDED BY a variety of treasures, old and new, a donated vintage casserole dish finds its place on the shelf at The Attic Outlet (TAO). It's patiently waiting for its new home. So are lamps, furniture, clothing, toys, books, records, games, puzzles, bridal gowns, formal dresses, shoes, home decor, craft supplies, and appliances. If you want or need it, it's probably waiting for you at the thrift store that serves as the lifeline for Community Care Ministries outreach programs. One day, when the dish leaves with its new

owner, the joy is multiplied as its sale price contributes to Community Care Ministries' services supporting low-income families.

Community Care Ministries, like a vibrant tapestry, weaves together the threads of donations and community support, making the most of all available resources. From its inception as a modest food pantry and thrift store in 1996 as an outreach of Grace Baptist Church, Tullahoma, the ministry has grown to encompass an impressive variety of support services, emphasizing dignity and compassion for its clients. As the pandemic

challenged the community, the ministry's efforts amplified, providing food, financial aid, and supportive services to those in need.

Lisa Cardwell, president of Community Care Ministries, said, "We are now a USDA food site. Our food pantry has almost tripled from the number of people and households we were seeing a year ago. We are handing out 40,000 pounds of food a month to clients."

"[The pantry] is probably one of the best-kept secrets in town. I don't have to watch the news to know how bad the economy is. I'm



▲ Clare Zisk, Liz Charboneau, Jennifer Alley, Yvonne Ogren, Lisa Ferrell, Sophia Pogue, Drew Mccord, Lisa Cardwell, David Hevener, Ricky Robertson, Nickie Mann, Sherry Minor, Steve Gerdorn, Shane York, Ralfiel Petway, and Gerald Taylor

seeing four and five new clients a day who have never asked for assistance. It's pushing into the middle class. They don't have enough finances to make it, and they make too much money to qualify for food stamps. Rent has skyrocketed, and utilities have gone up a bit, so if you have a set income, and you're not making big raises, you don't have expendable cash to cover basic needs like food," said Cardwell.

The thrift store is a conduit for transforming donations into meaningful contributions to various outreach initiatives. These include maintaining a blessing box with non-perishable food and essential toiletries for the homeless, providing free showering services in collaboration with a local facility, and extending support for individuals facing financial hardship. Community Care Ministries

offers seasonal clothing options and essential items for those in need, demonstrating its commitment to the community's well-being.

Community Care Ministries' firewood ministry is an example of their resourcefulness. When four clients needed wood for winter heat within the same week, Community Care Ministries and the Catholic Church shared the expense of cutting down nuisance trees. Brown's Tree Service agreed to donate all trees smaller than 18 inches to Community Care Ministries. The late Bill Chapman led a team of volunteers to split, chop, and stack the wood, meeting another immediate need. Chapman's passing left the program without someone to head it up. Volunteering for an individual, church, business, or organization seeking community service is an excellent opportunity.

Residents of overgrown properties in the city can be fined. Tony Mercado, the property maintenance inspector with the City of Tullahoma Planning and Codes Department, teamed up with Community Care Ministries to assist qualified families who need temporary lawn care. Snapper Tools donated lawnmowers, blowers, and weedeaters to support the program.

Community Care Ministries serves Coffee County, and some of its resources further assist Bedford, Franklin, and Moore Counties residents.

Beyond these programs, the ministries' outreach extends to collaborative efforts with other nonprofits and organizations, fostering a spirit of unity and compassion. They partner to provide teaching materials and Bibles to churches in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and Haiti, underscoring their commitment to supporting communities

“Our food pantry has almost tripled from the number of people and households we were seeing a year ago.”

- Lisa Cardwell

beyond geographical boundaries. Their collaboration with Tullahoma Daycare ensures the distribution of donated Dolly Parton Imagination Library books to children, enriching their learning experiences and fostering a love for education.

The 2016 donation of a woman's entire home furnishings as her last request kickstarted the Fresh Start program, fulfilling its ongoing mission to help prevent/stop homelessness. Qualified families get their entire home furnished, giving them a fresh start in their new home by assisting with furniture and other household items. As of October 2023, your donations made it possible to fill 76 households with furniture, kitchen items, and linens to start again.

The community's essential role in sustaining these invaluable programs comes into focus. The public's continued support through donations, whether in the form of goods or direct contributions via the PayPal system, serves as the lifeblood of Community Care Ministries' endeavors. Additionally, participation in the Kroger rewards card program provides an effortless yet impactful way to contribute, as each purchase generates vital funding for the ministry's operations.



▲ Nickie Mann

In this remarkable cycle of giving and receiving, the casserole dish symbolizes the interconnectedness of community and compassion. As the proceeds from its sale flow back into the ministry's programs, it and its donor become a part of a larger story, symbolizing the transformative power of the smallest donation in the lives of the community. GN

For more information on The Attic Outlet or the initiatives of Community Care Ministries, contact Lisa Cardwell at (931) 393-3002. Follow the thrift store on Facebook or visit communitycaretn.org.





Annie Osborne

“Family to my Family”

Annie
Osborne
found a
perfect fit
at Clayton's.

By Tina Neeley
Photography by Brooke
Snyder and Ashleigh Newnes

THERE'S NO denying the family tradition at Clayton's Shoe Store; it's five generations deep and spans over a century. Customers become family once they enter the door, a natural byproduct of the connections between the staff and the store's owners. Annie Osborne has worked on the square in Tullahoma for the last 71 years. She has worked for Goldstein's, Small World, Taylor's Pharmacy, and Clayton's, where you will still find her working every Thursday. In her opinion, you may enter as a customer, but you'll leave as family.

When she was 19 years old, Osborne worked around the corner from Clayton's at the dime store. She enjoyed her work but knew it wasn't her best fit, so her employer recommended her to Robert Ratcliff at the

shoe store a few doors down where her story and the Clayton family story intersect.

She only left the square for two years when she lived in California. Even then, she was thinking of Clayton's and brought back ideas for sale shoe racks to Robert Ratcliff, who went right to work building one. It's the sale rack you still see today in the store.

What keeps her there after all these years?

“The people who have owned the store over the years. Florence, by the grace of her goodness, lets me come up to the store on Thursdays. I love to come up here and greet, dust, and still sell shoes while standing versus the fitting stool,” said Osborne. “Florence has been here a long time, and she's just a wonderful lady. She has the best employees, too. The people are wonderful; they're just another family for me.”



“I’m old, but that’s alright. It’s been a good life. I’ve been blessed with an amazing family and great friends, and I’m thankful.”

- Annie Osborne

Florence Clayton Ratcliff Hull is the present owner and one of Robert’s three daughters. Annie has two sons, Tim Osborne and Mark Osborne, and a daughter, Joann Osborne Crabtree; four grandchildren, J.D. and Jake Crabtree, Garrett and Rachel Osborne; and six great-grandchildren. She also considers Florence’s children and grandchildren as her own.

“She’s like family to my family,” said Florence.

“We all love her to death. I love her dearly. She plays a huge role in my life, and we enjoy having her at the store so much,” said Florence. “I’ve learned a lot from her over the years, from life to fitting shoes to customer service.”

Annie’s age is just a number.

Florence continued, “Annie may not be able to get around like she did in her younger years, but she plays a big role as our greeter and making sure our customers are taken care

of each Thursday. She’s done her share for nearly a quarter of a century while keeping her unique sense of humor.”

Annie quickly recalled how Florence’s daddy, Robert, dealt with a customer who was a bit hard to please and retold it as if it were yesterday.

Annie said, “We had a customer, and no matter how much we tried and tried to find her a shoe, it was not happening. One day, Robert saw her coming, and he dropped to the floor in the front of the store and crawled on his knees to the back. I never will forget it.”

She’s seen many changes in the retail business through the years, from heating and cooling to registers to the computer era, which is not her favorite.

“When I came here, you didn’t wear pants; you wore dresses. I worked side-saddle on the fitting stool,” Annie said. “There were

no air conditioners, and I remember by 10 a.m., we would be so hot. We had fans, but that was it.”

She might have missed out on Clayton’s if she’d followed the direction she’d prepared for in high school.

She said, “I took clerical classes in high school, preparing me to get a job in an office, keeping books for someone. But life has a funny way of putting you where you need to be. I was thankful to be working in the public. That was the best thing that ever happened to me.”

She worked at Clayton’s Shoe Store and Taylor’s Pharmacy, which were side by side on the square.

Annie said, “I never found myself leaving the square. I brought my children with me when they were young when needed.”

Annie is a two-time survivor of non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Doctors discovered it first when she was 78. Six chemo treatments later, and she was in remission. Then, she found a knot in her face and sought medical attention. At age 81, the cancer was back.



“This is when I was the sickest. I got pneumonia when I started my treatments. I was on my fourth when pneumonia surfaced. They kept me in the hospital for 10 days, and I went to NHC for five weeks. One thing I want others to know is I never missed a paycheck. Florence is a wonderful person and helped me in so many ways along with my family and church,” said Annie.

Her Thursdays at the shoe store contribute to her overall physical and mental health.

Florence said, “Being able to come up here has given her a chance to meet new people and see people that she’d never get the opportunity to see. It’s been a wonderful opportunity for her to keep going.”

Annie, who celebrated her 90th birthday in 2023, enjoys life today as much as ever and

was selected to serve as the grand marshal of the 2023 Tullahoma Christmas Parade.

“I’m old, but that’s alright. It’s been a good life,” she said. “I’ve been blessed with an amazing family and great friends, and I’m thankful. It has been a great journey. There have been some sad things, but there’s been a lot of good things. God has been good to me. I just live each day loving everyone I can, and I love Jesus. That’s it.” GN



Briana Davis and Beth Wheeler



Delivering Compassion

Moms Loving Moms postpartum support comforts and encourages moms when they need it most.

By Writer Tina Neeley
Photography by Brooke Snyder

AS WE scroll through our social media feeds, images of newborns bring a momentary respite from the flood of less-than-cheery updates. In one photograph, Dad and the older siblings huddle around Mom and the newborn, their eyes sparkling with a shared sense of wonder and joy. The photo captures a scene of tranquility and harmony, but a different story lingers beneath the surface. Unseen to the viewer is the hushed strain on Mom's face, the remnants of a profound physical and emotional journey. Her body is once again her own, but it feels far from it. There's an aftermath to manage, and it's often overlooked or not discussed amid the joys of pregnancy.

Beth Wheeler knows the story beneath the surface, but she didn't until her first child was born in 2020. She said, "I had a rough,

physical postpartum recovery with him. After going through it, everything from labor and delivery to the recovery itself, it wasn't at all what I had expected or had been told about. I really wasn't prepared."

It's hard when you find yourself unprepared on a good day, but to discover after coming home with your first child that you need things to support your recovery while simultaneously caring for your newborn is overwhelming.

"I spent several weeks ordering different items to help in my own physical recovery and give me some relief. Then, after a couple of months, I felt like I had finally gotten the routine down as far as what I needed and what was helpful, and I realized there was no way I was the only mom who had gotten home from the hospital feeling this way," said Wheeler.



A realization ignited a passion for ensuring other moms have the necessary items for recovery when they come home from the hospital. Moms Loving Moms (MLM) was born.

Wheeler said, “The first couple of years, it was just my husband and me delivering kits around Rutherford County and some in other counties for friends. Then, I felt like God told me that I needed to start expanding so we could offer kits to more moms. So 2023 was an extra push to make sure we could grow and reach more moms.”

One of the moms served through the program was Briana Davis of Coffee County, who connected to Wheeler through their careers in social work in the mental health field. When Wheeler found out Davis was expecting her first child, she reached out to let Davis know she’d be dropping off a postpartum care kit for her.

“I had no idea I would need a kit. I can remember sitting in the hospital after I gave birth to my daughter. Every time a nurse would come in, I would ask for more supplies so I could stockpile my bag to take home because nobody told me I was going to need it. I knew I was going home to absolutely nothing to take care of all that,” said Davis. “So when I got home, and that kit was on my doorstep with everything I needed, it was such a blessing. I texted Beth and said, ‘Whatever I can do, I’m here to support this cause because this is really something.’”

True to her word, Davis joined Wheeler, and the organization served multiple Tennessee counties in 2023. The extra push resulted in expanding the board of directors and becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. MLM provides kits to moms in Coffee, Cannon, DeKalb, Rutherford, Davidson, Bedford, Marshall, Williamson, and Wilson Counties. By the end of October 2023, the team had delivered over 600 kits.

“In the past year or two, I felt the importance of making sure that the moms

realize they are all around loved and supported, and it wasn’t just a ‘Hey, here’s this box. Good luck,’” said Wheeler.

There’s no charge to moms for the kits, which have an approximate value of \$120 each. Based on the type of delivery the mom experienced, the kits contain items to make sitting more comfortable and pads of varying sizes. There are products to encourage self-care, the most important of which are three free counseling sessions from Wheeler or one of their other licensed counselors. The MLM team stays in contact with the mom throughout the pregnancy and after delivery.

“We try to have the kit waiting on their front porch whenever they get home from the hospital. It comes with a letter with words of encouragement, the items, and the offer for free counseling,” Wheeler said. “Being able to have that support system and knowing that someone is reaching out and checking in and seeing how we can help is making a huge difference,” said Wheeler.

You can help MLM help moms feel loved and supported, too. Volunteers are always needed for boxing days and to deliver kits. The care recipient support team is another opportunity to serve. Financial donations may be made at momslovingmoms.com. For businesses, churches, or organizations

that want to know more, Wheeler and Davis are happy to speak to the groups and share the impact the kits are making in the lives of area moms.

Wheeler said, “We consider ourselves a ministry, hoping to be the hands and feet of Jesus to these moms and showing them the love of Christ through the kits.”

What better way to show that love than by meeting the most basic needs of new moms physically and emotionally? While the likes, loves, and congratulations on the post announcing the new baby are sincere and appreciated, MLM kits meet moms on a more personal level. And like the impact the kit made on Davis, it’s a priceless gift that continues to give in an ever-widening circle.

That’s the power of love. **GN**

To donate, volunteer, or find more information, follow Moms Loving Moms on Facebook or visit momslovingmoms.com.

“I felt the importance of making sure that the moms realize they are all around loved and supported.”

- Beth Wheeler



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- 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?

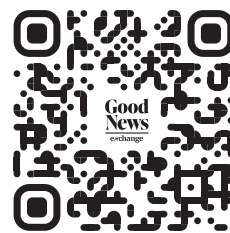
Currently, our dedicated team of magazine writers and editors is hard at work crafting stories under themes like "Charity Spotlight," "The Learning Curve," and "Shop Local." We are excited to announce the next theme needing story submissions is "**Independence.**"

What we seek in Independence stories:

We are looking for local veterans in our community who are willing to share their stories. Do you know a veteran in your community who faced and overcame challenges? Or veterans who now use their experience to assist others? Or, you might know of charities led by veterans that positively impact the community. We're looking to highlight such veterans and their inspiring stories in our upcoming Independence 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.

- 52 Community Events
- 56 Events Calendar
- 58 Advertiser Index

Submit a positive story
on our website:



goodnewsmags.com

Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

◀ Catherine Stephens and Lane Curlee

Tims Ford Christmas Market - Dec. 9



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

Tims Ford State Park hosted their Christmas Market at Spencer Hall on Dec. 9. The hall was packed full of vendors selling festive goods, and they were accompanied by food trucks feeding all of the Christmas shoppers.



1. Tammy King and Brittany Fyfe 2. Abby Lumpkin and Francis Christopher 3. Pam Brandon, Joy Cunningham, and Stacy Pross 4. Alissa Dodson 5. Kayleigh and Shannon Williams 6. Leslie and Patrick Burns



7. Megan and Amy Stoll 8. Stacie Curtis 9. Norman and Sherrie Sons
10. Felicia McCullough 11. Alex Cope, Macey Stepherson, and Mark Matzkiw

December Tullahoma Chamber Coffee - Dec. 19



Photography by Ashleigh Newnes

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, the Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce hosted their December Chamber Coffee at Lakewood Golf and Country Club. The event was sponsored by Ascend Federal Credit Union.



1. Katie J. Shearin and Teresa Young 2. Amy Taylor, Sarah Wells, Roberto Ramirez, and Erin Spence
3. Cindy Watson and Donna Anderson 4. Clarisse Flowers and Gail Bryant 5. Sarah and Rick Vella 6. Andy Whitt, Catherine Stephens, and Kim Uselton



7. Trent McNabb, Ginny Wilson, and Andy Whitt 8. Lane Curlee and Joanna Reynolds 9. Andy Whitt
10. Sarah and Josh Wells 11. Jason Powers, Matt Jernigan, Karl Sjolund, and Roberto Ramirez



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GOOD TIMES

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 20

12:30 pm **2024 Winter-Spring Vegetable Seed Growing Collaborative**
709 Daddy Green Rd.
Christiana, TN

A collaborative event for vegetable seed growing for anyone in the Manchester area.

January 27

7:00 am **VFW Post 10904 Monthly Fundraiser Breakfast**
VFW, Post 10904
130 Shelton Rd.
Manchester

Join us for our monthly fundraiser breakfast. Takeout available.

February 3

12:00 pm **Grace Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser**
Grundy Recovery
Alliance Community
Endeavor
67 Old Hwy. 56
Coalmont

This is a chili cook-off fundraiser for the local community.

February 10

10:00 am **Two Trees DIY Class Three-panel Arched Sign (Romans 12:12)**
The Farmhouse
at Two Trees
439 Smith Mill Rd.
Fayetteville

Join us for a fun and creative DIY class, where you'll get hands-on and tap into your inner artist to craft a beautiful Romans 12:12 inspired three-panel arched sign.



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10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Friday & Saturday
10:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
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**10:00 am Fourth Annual
Sweet as Candy
Crafts Show**
Coffee County Fair
420 Hendrixson Dr.
Manchester

The fourth annual crafts
show event will be in full
swing in Coffee County.

February 15

**8:00 pm The Best Ladies
Night Out!**
Just One More
Bar And Grill
67 Old Hwy. 56
Coalmont

This is a special ladies
night event for women
in the Tullahoma
community. Ticket prices
are available on the
event page.

February 24

**11:00 am Third Annual Miss
Southern Sweetheart
Pageant**
University of Tennessee
Space Institute
411 B H Goethert Pkwy.
Tullahoma

The community is
welcome to watch. Door
admission fee of \$5 (free
for those under age 10),
and each contestant
receives one free
admission.

**For more events
and to submit
an event visit:**

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



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We can spread Good News because of our generous advertisers. They help make our world a little brighter. We encourage you to do business with them.

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Elk River Public Utility District.....	18	The Attic Outlet/Community Care Ministries	31
First Bank - Tullahoma	9	Traders Bank Tullahoma.....	19
First Vision Bank - Tullahoma.....	4	Tullahoma Imaging.....	4
Furniture Merchandise Outlet - Tullahoma	19	Vanderbilt Tullahoma Harton Hospital.....	2
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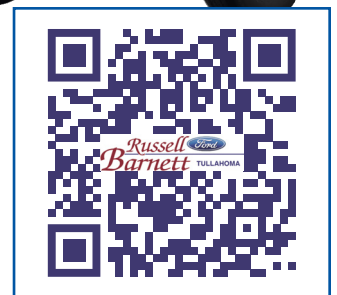
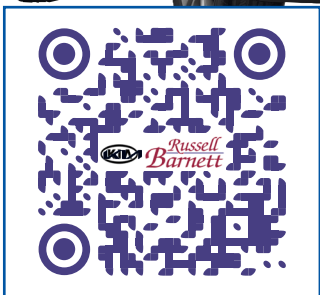
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Helen Keller



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