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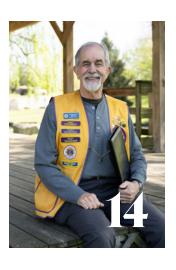
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## The bond of blood and honor

Our families survive the test of time.

FAMILY LOADS up their navy blue Jeep in Tennessee and takes a cross-country road trip. It'll take several days to get to the Sequoia National Park in California. There may be hours when the Jeep feels smaller and smaller by the second. Taking turns picking the music leads to debates on how many songs Brother or Sister picked. The cooler in the floorboard has only a few snacks left. The time on their cellphones changes from Central time zone to Mountain, and then Pacific. After far too many tolls and gas-station stops, the GPS finally uses words that make the "crowd" go wild: "... two miles until your destination."

Grandma, Mom, Dad, Brother, and Sister hop out of the Jeep and stretch their legs. They look up at the leaves above. It's breathtakingly unbelievable. The size and strength of nature demand an undeniable respect. The General Sherman Tree stands almost 280 feet tall on the north end of the Giant Forest. It's believed to be 2,300 to 2,700 years old. It's hard to imagine how far the roots reach. The strength of the branches holds bird nests and gives homes to tiny insects just passing through. Each season

brings new life of connection from the soil to the crisp air, 280 feet above. The chirping bird family belongs together — until, of course, it's time to jump into flight. The ants crawl up and down the bark with a natural interconnectedness that can only be described with one word: family.

Sister misses a step on the way up, and Dad grabs her hand with firm support. "Tve got ya," he says. Grandma smiles, not letting anyone know she holds back tears. She knows where her son got that phrase. She had heard it for 50 years before a funeral. Her son says it the same way his father used to. While Sister never got to meet him, his blood still flows through her veins with honor.

Our families weave us together with a generational strength that no wildfire or gust of wind can knock loose. Our memories of those who came before us fly beneath our wings when we jump from the nest. And when the icy cold bites at our fingers in winter, we have an enclave to snuggle into. Families are not just names on a birth certificate or put together with wedding bands. They're a generational structure that will always stand the test of 2,700 years. This issue of Good News honors just that: our families. **GN** 

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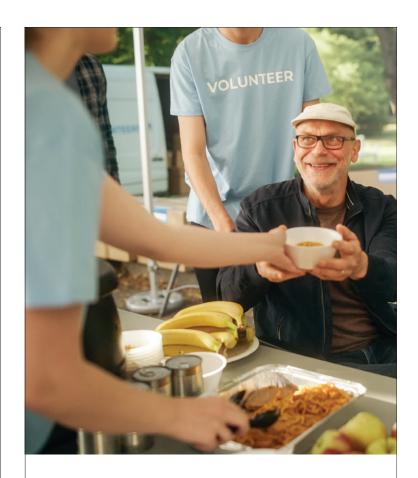
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◆ Delivering food pouches the club packed at a Lions District event in January 2024 to Hands of Mercy. Left to right: Gina Ussery, Ennis Hyman, Barbara Locklear, Tina Hudson, Blake Copple, Kathy Hanna-Crnich, and Myrna Reed

## AVISION FOR SERVICE

Through the Lions Club and beyond, he dedicates his time to helping others.

By Tina Neeley // Photography by Brooke Snyder and submitted by Blake Copple

LINE OF children shifts forward, the faint shuffle of feet echoing in the school hallway. Blake Copple steadies the vision screening device inside a room nearby, preparing for the next student. Today's screening could be the first step toward clearer vision for some children — seeing the board in class, catching a ball confidently, or recognizing a familiar face from across the room. It's one of the many ways Copple and his fellow Fayetteville Lions Club members work together to serve their local community.

Copple, a 22-year Army veteran, knows the value of teamwork and working toward a common goal. When he moved to Fayetteville from Huntsville, he wanted to continue serving his community. The Lions Club provided the perfect fit.

"When Lion Dexter Sullivan asked me if I wanted to join the Lions, I was very interested," Copple recalled, but worried about his ability to participate because he was still working in Huntsville. "When I investigated and found that they met in the evenings and that many of their projects were on weekends and evenings, it was an easy decision."



 Collecting donations in return for apples at the Apple Roadblock on Thanksgiving weekend 2011

66

Follow your heart.
Find causes
that match your
passions. Even if you
start small, anything
you can do to help
others is important.

-Blake Copple

That decision led to 25 years of working alongside his fellow Lions Club members in programs like the annual sight and hearing screenings for school children. A digital photo screening device expanded their reach to younger children in day care centers, preschools, and Head Start programs.

"It's rewarding to visit the schools each year, see teachers and staff, and observe the progress of students as they grow."

Beyond the Lions, Copple's service extends across Fayetteville. He has served on the Leadership Lincoln Board, the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Senior Citizens Board, and as a Tennessee Achieves mentor. Alongside his wife, Rhonda, he has supported the Lincoln County Humane Society, fundraising for the spay/neuter clinic and caring for homeless cat colonies.

"All of these volunteer activities are connected to my sense of duty to give back to my community," he said. "I have also found a synergy between the many wonderful nonprofits and caring government offices in this area. The more we all know about the missions and services of the other, the better we can help our neighbors in need."

His involvement with the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Museum has deepened his appreciation for Fayetteville's past.

He shared, "I wasn't raised in this area, but I have thoroughly enjoyed learning more and more about its history and roots that shape the current citizens and culture. I am lucky, and the whole region is lucky, to have a resource like the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Museum to document that history."

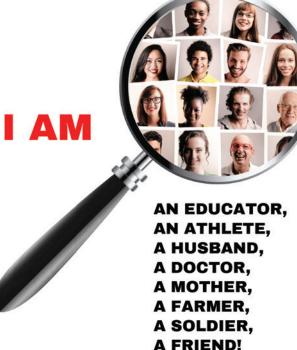
Reflecting on 25 years of service, Copple sees the Lions Club's value in all seasons of his life. "In the early years, it connected me to my new community. After I retired, it kept me moving and was one component of my sense of purpose. And at all times, it brought joy from knowing I was doing something to help others."

We can all find opportunities to serve.

"Follow your heart. Find causes that match your passions. Even if you start small, anything you can do to help others is important." GN







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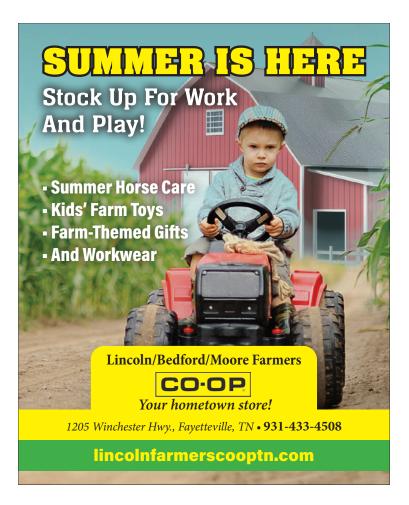




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# Ready for her moment

A national broadcast gig proved she's right where she belongs — and just getting started.

By Tina Neeley // Photos submitted by Maggie English

HE COUNTDOWN echoed through Maggie English's headset.

Five. She adjusted her grip on the camera, her fingers steady despite the adrenaline rush.

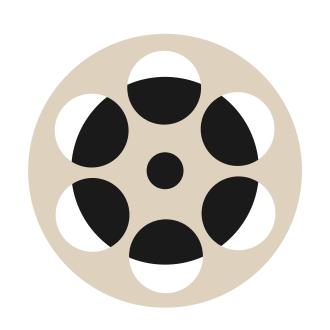
Four. The production truck crackled with final confirmations, voices overlapping in controlled chaos.

Three. She took a deep breath, bracing against the Pasadena morning chill, the scent of fresh flowers from the floats drifting through the air.

Two. Back home, her mom was watching, waiting for the appearance of her camera angle, eager to spot her work.

One.

As the roar of the flyover signaled the start of the Tournament of Roses Parade, it hit her — she was here, behind the lens, capturing it all. The moment felt big, but the road to get here had started long before.





▲ This is the view of the parade that Maggie English had behind her camera.

English dreamed of working in entertainment in high school, but it felt far off — something other people did. She loved drama class, and her teacher/director encouraged her to pursue acting. His faith in her inspired her to look for ways to be part of the industry, even if it wasn't on stage.

College, however, shaped her future in ways she hadn't expected. Although she initially leaned toward film production, a required broadcasting class refocused her career.

"My professor was so passionate about the industry that he made me want to work hard, and I ended up falling in love with the work," she said.

A job with RFD-TV confirmed her calling.

"Working there has made me so much more confident in my abilities and has shown me that I really can do this for a living — and that I'm good at it."

When RFD-TV decided to bring its crew to the parade instead of hiring free-lancers, English put her name in.

"I tried to play it cool and act like I didn't care if I went or not," she admitted. "At the time, I had only been with the company for a little over a year."

Then she got the call and couldn't wait to share the news with her mom, one of her biggest cheerleaders.

A few weeks later, English found herself running cable and building cameras with the crew, but there was one quick adjustment. The studio cameras were all robotic. She spent time reacquainting herself, tracking pedestrians, and ensuring smooth movements.

The following day, just before the broadcast, things got real.

"I was standing at my camera, headset on, waiting for the flyover, and it hit me what I was about to be a part of."

The show passed in a blur. Directors called cues, cameras shifted between angles, and the crew worked in sync. Every second mattered. Before she knew it, the Tournament of Roses Parade was over.

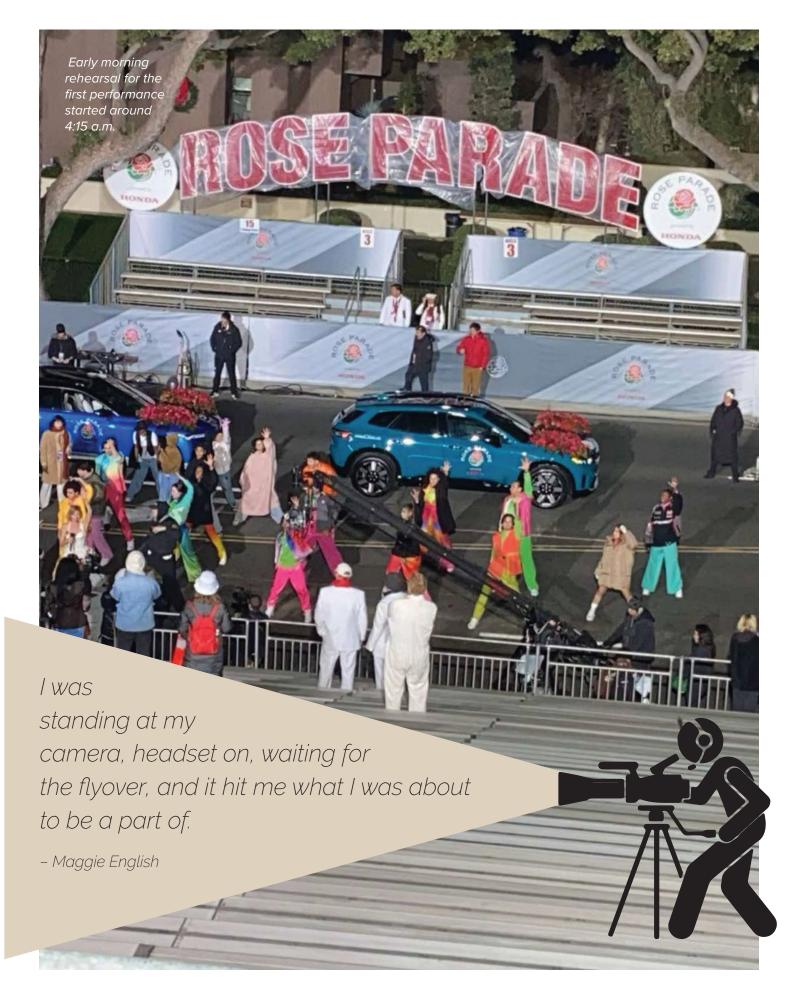
Breaking down the gear, English reflected on the experience.

"I already knew that I loved my job, but this just made everything I've worked toward that much better."

With her equipment packed and the job done, it was time to head home. But as she walked away, one thought stuck with her — this was just the beginning. **GN** 



A Maggie English's pass to get into the TV corner at the Rose Parade





The taste of

## Memory, Nothing tastes like Mama's cooking.

YER CATCH the aroma of a memory? You know the one — your mama's Sunday pot roast, fried onions and potatoes, chocolate chip cookies, or cinnamon rolls? We do our best to recreate them for our families, but something is always missing. The same food anywhere else is never exactly like Mama's, and perhaps it's because the foods of our favorite holidays and traditions are seasoned with special memories and love. GN

## Mama's Pot Roast Submitted by Cathy Gulley

3-4 lb. chuck roast 3 T. vegetable oil 6 med. potatoes, diced 2 lg. onions, diced 1 lb. carrots, sliced 6 c. water 3 cloves garlic, minced 1/4 c. soy sauce 2 pkgs. beef stew seasoning mix 1t. chicken bouillon granules

½ t. ground black pepper 11/2 t. Accent®, optional 1 bay leaf



Preheat oven to 375°. In a large skillet over medium high heat, sear both sides of the roast in vegetable oil. Remove from heat; place in the center of a large roasting pan, along with the juices from the skillet. Place vegetables around meat and add water, garlic, and soy sauce. Sprinkle dry ingredients on top; stir lightly to dissolve seasonings. Add bay leaf. Cover, and bake at 375° for 30 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 275° and continue baking for 1½ - 2 hours or until meat and vegetables are tender.

## **Winner Rolls**Submitted by Edith Sandlin

1c. shortening

1c. sugar

1t. salt

1c. boiling water

2 eggs, beaten

1c. lukewarm water

2 pkgs. yeast

6 c. AP flour



In a bowl, mix shortening, sugar, and salt. Add boiling water; blend and cool. Add the beaten eggs. Soften yeast in lukewarm water; pour into egg mixture. Add flour a little at a time and mix well. Refrigerate 6 hours or overnight. Remove from refrigerator and knead onto a floured board. Roll out into 1/4". Cut out with biscuit cutter. Let rise about 2 hours. Bake at 400° for 15 minutes.

## Strawberry Angel Food Cake Submitted by Faye Bonner

1 angel food cake 2 pkgs. frozen strawberries, 10 oz., thawed 1 lg. pkg. vanilla instant pudding 1 container whipped topping, 8 oz.

In a large mixing bowl, tear angel food cake into pieces. Pour strawberries over cake pieces. Mix pudding according to package directions. Pour pudding over the cake and strawberries. Refrigerate until cold. Cover top with whipped topping. Keep refrigerated.

Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine and the Exchange Cookbook: www.southernaprons.com





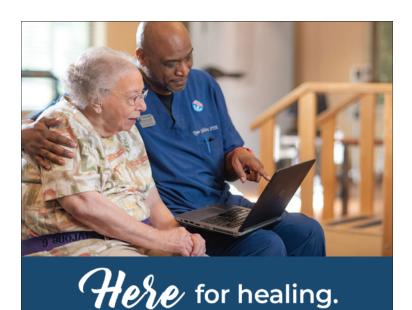
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"This magazine allows owners to share what is closest to their hearts while showcasing their products. Plus the customer service Good News offers is outstanding. The magazine is very well put together, well polished, neat, and very inviting. I look forward to each one!"

"The content of the magazine is wholesome and seems to support a good cause.

It is much preferable to other advertising sources because it seems to build up the community, rather than solely profit from it."

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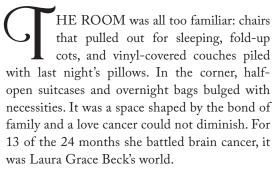




# LAURA GRACE BECK CONTINUES TO TOUCH LIVES

A family's love lives on through a fund helping others in need.

BY TINA NEELEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER



She understood the weight and expense of traveling for treatment. Huntsville Hospital and M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston became her home away from home.

Hearing that someone wanted to spare his family the expense of seeking an opinion and

possible treatment from M. D. Anderson sparked an idea.

Her mother, Susan Beck, shared her reaction. "Mama, I'm going to start a fund for people like that."

And she did — but she didn't live to see it.

Immediately after Laura's death, Laura's nurse at Huntsville Hospital extended her hand and embraced the family.

"Here, put this in The Grace Fund," she said, giving a name to the dream Laura never got to see realized.

Her obituary requested donations, stating, "By your grace, we will ensure that our 'Grace' continues to touch lives." For 15 years, she has done





Laura's sister, Lindsay Davis, said, "After the inception of The Grace Fund, we began to actively listen for people undergoing medical journeys away from home. Actively listening for people in need of assistance slowly shifts your focus from sorrow to the hope of helping others. You realize that helping others in a similar situation is a way to honor your loved one."

Susan added, "Helping others through The Grace Fund humbles us as much today as it did 15 years ago. Receiving medical care away from home is isolating and expensive. Donations defray costs, but more importantly, we hope recipients feel their community's love."

people, and she loved to help!

SUSAN BECK



Lindsey Davis and her mother, Susan, view photo after photo of Laura from her childhood into her adulthood.



▲ Laura with her mama and daddy, Susan and Scott Beck, on the day of her graduation from Athens State University in 2002 — she finished with a double major in business administration and human resources. She worked for the Department of Defense.

The Beck family initially directed The Grace Fund through local churches but now partners with the Fabulous Fifties Foundation, expanding its reach. So far, the fund has assisted 52 families with travel, lodging, and food for extended stays at facilities in Milwaukee, Seattle, New York, MD Anderson, St. Jude, and UAB Hospital.

With continued support from friends, family, and the community, more will find hope through Laura Grace's dream.

"Laura's spirit lives on with each person The Grace Fund helps. She loved people, and she loved to help! Many times, Laura was so generous with her help that she would volunteer her family to help as well," Susan recalled fondly.

The family is still helping Laura help people today.

Susan said, "God's grace is the unmerited favor that He shows us each day. Gifts from The Grace Fund are a tangible way to show its recipients the unmerited favor of God during one of the lowest times in their life."

And because of Laura's vision, that grace keeps reaching those who need it most. **GN** 

Donations to The Grace Fund may be sent to the Fabulous Fifties Foundation at The Grace Fund P.O. Box 934 Fayetteville, TN 37334.



▲ A professional photo of Laura Beck taken around 2006 for a work promotion



## STEWARDS OF A FAMILY'S SOIL

The Damrons have nurtured the land and the stories it holds for generations. BY TINA NEELEY PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

HILE THE fields no longer stretch unbroken to the horizon, what remains is rooted deep. The land carries the weight of generations — hands that cleared the first fields, feet that walked familiar paths, lives shaped by war, drought, and the steady rhythm of harvest. The past is pressed into the soil. It's in the worn path to the barn, the house built with a soldier's wages, and in the names etched into weathered headstones. Though time has divided the land, its hold has never loosened. Seasons pass, but one family's commitment to the land remains steadfast.

Today, Gary Damron raises cattle and tends the land that remains in his hands, just as his great-grandfather Charlie, grandfather Fred, and father Alwayne did before him. Across the way, his second-cousins, Barbara



A Charlie and Anna Damron are laid to rest in the family cemetery in Elora, Tennessee.



Gary Damron, on the land, holds a photo of his ancestors from a time before him.





It's a history Gary still feels when he walks the land. "I was on the hill looking off at those bottoms of the farm and wondered what my ancestors thought, looking at this same ground," he said. "I love this farm, and I love farming, as hard and uncertain as it is at times. It's been a good life and a way to raise my family."

Barbara knows how much was poured into the land before it ever reached her hands. "I just feel so happy to have this that my parents and grandparents and five generations of family before me worked so hard for, raised their families, and made their living on. I'm so proud of all of them and grateful for them."

Anna, who still lives on the land, carries the stories and the spirit of those who came

before. "I have lived on this farm all my life and feel blessed every day to have had my parents and grandparents for so much of that time. I love their stories about farming this land and the life lessons I learned from them and their lives here."

While Gary, Barbara, and Anna press the present into the soil, the seeds of the future lie waiting. With the quiet strength their family has always known, the Damrons will tend this land until the deeds no longer bear their names. Even then, the land will remember — its roots intertwined beneath the soil of time, whispering their stories to all who will listen. Stewardship is not ownership, but a sacred trust — one that lives in stories, in soil, and in soul. GN



A Gary and Cheryl Damron both own land that has been in the Damron family for generations.



A Today, Gary Damron raises cattle and tends the land that remains in his hands, just as his great-grandfather Charlie, grandfather Fred, and father Alwayne did before him.



# COMMUNITY IN INCOMMUNITY

Their business, Magic Athletics, keeps Fayetteville families active, connected, and constantly moving forward. BY RICHARD J. KLIN PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER AND SUBMITTED BY TIFFANY CALVERT

IFFANY AND Liam Calvert are the owners of Magic Athletics. They have been anchored in the community for years and began their business at the old cotton mill. It was a space they quickly outgrew within six months as enrollment soared. Their next location also proved problematic. "If it was hot outside, it was really hot in there," Tiffany remembered. "If it was cold outside, it was really, really cold!" They'd made some adaptations to the building, but it was never comfortable enough that anyone wanted to be there 10 to 12 hours a day — a crucial shortcoming. "Most of our kids are doing hard, physical activity. You don't want to do that when you're freezing, and you don't want to do that when you're sweltering!"

At some point, they received word that the Stonebridge Academy school was up for sale, which seemed to be just what they were looking for. They purchased it to grow their programs and increase their community involvement.

And this is exactly what they've done. Magic Athletics offers tumbling, ninja, cheerleading classes, and competition cheer. Tiffany and Liam also own a party rental business with bounce houses and water slides — ideal for birthday parties, as most parents will attest. And if that were not enough, the Calverts also run Fayetteville Fitness, which has its own array of programs and classes. Sitting around doesn't seem to be part of their daily routine.









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It ensures that parents have a fun, safe place where their kids are constantly watched, but they're physically active and moving around. It's a good place to come to.

#### TIFFANY CALVERT

The age range for Magic Athletics is broad. There are baby classes beginning at 6 months, but most of their focus is from age 2 to 18. There are also adult tumbling classes — but as Liam pointed out, "the adult classes are only 18 and older, so you're not going to be a 30-year-old in a class with a 12-year-old." In addition, there are options for private classes.

Their community involvement is extensive and has come about organically. Both Liam and Tiffany are not only community members but also parents. It was obvious to them that many parents had to scramble for appropriate summer activities for their kids. In response, they recently opened up a summer camp. When the summer started, there were 13 kids. When it ended, there were 36. The numbers tell the story.

Parents also have to scramble when their kids are off from school for whatever reason, but the parents still have to work. Another of their offerings is providing an all-day outlet for kids when these situations arise. "It ensures that parents have a fun, safe place where their kids are constantly watched, but they're physically active and moving around. It's a good place to come to," Tiffany said.

The Calverts laud their amazing staff, who are like a family and form their own tight-knit little community together. Many of the staff are the kids of teachers, police

officers, and firefighters in the community, and they understand the wants and needs of the community and how they would have been expected to be treated when they were kids. "They can count on us as much as we can count on them," Tiffany said. "Everybody is willing to help out at any time because it really is a family."

The community connections are constant and ongoing. Because Magic Athletics offers adult programs, parents can drop off their kids for tumbling or cheer practice and then utilize the adult components of Magic Athletics — or simply take an hour for themselves.

Every initiative the Calverts take keeps the community in mind. After COVID-19, for example, the city had difficulty getting its soccer program up and running again. Liam and Tiffany took it upon themselves to get the program up and running for four seasons — two years — until the town was ready to resume. But the Calverts made sure the games were played on city fields. So, the local links are constant.

"Everyone says it takes a village to raise children," Tiffany concluded. "I really believe that." Both Liam and Tiffany put that belief into action. It's an ethos that also extends to the community as a whole. They offer connection in what can be a very disconnected world. **GN** 

A multi-weekend fundraiser brings crowds to Fayetteville while supporting local families through the Fabulous Fifties Foundation.

By Tina Neeley Photography by Brooke Snyder

HE FABULOUS Fifties Show completed its 38th season in March with nine performances held at Lincoln Central Academy in Fayetteville. The show blends nostalgic entertainment with local impact, raising funds for the Fabulous Fifties Foundation to assist people in Lincoln County facing illness or catastrophic life events.

#### 2024 Highlights:

**Theme:** Life is a Highway – this year's show followed a Route 66 road trip story written by Josh Ogle and performed by local cast members. The skit helped transition between classic songs from the '50s through the '80s.

Cast & Crew: A crew of approximately 80 people — all volunteers — is directly involved in the production, with many more volunteering behind the scenes — handling ticket sales, concessions, costumes, stage setup, and more. No one is paid. Three crew members have been involved for all 38 years.

Attendance: The show draws crowds from across Tennessee, Alabama, and neighboring states. Busloads of visitors travel from as far as Indiana, Mississippi, and Georgia.

**Economic Boost:** Out-of-town guests eat in local restaurants, stay in hotels and Airbnbs, and shop at local stores, supporting Fayetteville's economy.

**Foundation Mission:** All proceeds benefit the Fabulous Fifties Foundation, which provides direct financial assistance to Lincoln County residents facing serious illness, house fires, and other emergencies.

**Partnerships:** The Grace Fund supplements the foundation's support by helping cover expenses for people who must travel for medical care.

**Vetting Process:** Applications for assistance are available at Bagley & Bagley Insurance and the Lincoln County Trustee's Office. All applicants are vetted to ensure funds go to those in genuine need.

**Community Involvement:** The show is backed by local businesses that sell tickets, donate goods, feed the cast, and promote the event. Students even help paint the stage backdrop, gaining hands-on art and service experience.

#### A Tradition Built Like Family:

The Fabulous Fifties Show supports the community, and the community supports it in return — year after year, hand in hand. It's entertainment rooted in care — the kind that grows when people show up for each other like family. **GN** 

Tax-deductible donations, including those in honor or memory of someone, can be mailed to the Fabulous Fifties Foundation, P.O. Box 934, Fayetteville, TN. 37334. For updates and more information, follow the Fabulous Fifties on Facebook or visit fabulous fifties show.com.





Good News Magazine's mission is to build stronger communities through positive stories. We encourage you to donate and volunteer at local nonprofits to spread more good in your community.

#### Kings Mountain Messenger Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Preserves history, promotes patriotism, and secures America's future through education. The DAR is a genealogical women's organization and invites any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution to active membership.

kingsmountainmessenger@ tndar.org www.tndar.org/~kingsmountain

# Simply the Truth Ministries

Serves communities by assisting during times of need and providing services such as disaster relief through the Manifold Grace Ministry.

(931) 625-2115 www.simplythetruthministries.org

#### Fayetteville-Lincoln County Senior Citizens Inc.

Provides mental, physical, educational, and recreational activities for individuals 55 years and older.

(931) 433-7271 Facebook: Fayetteville Lincoln County Senior Center

#### Hands of Mercy Outreach Center

Provides food and utility assistance as a faith-based outreach center.

(931) 433-4263 https://handsofmercycenter.com

#### Patches Place Cat Rescue

Takes in abandoned, abused, injured, or neglected cats and kittens, giving them medical attention and vaccines, spay/neutering, and microchipping. When cats are healthy, offers adoption into loving homes. Makes appointments and provides transport to the North Alabama Spay Neuter Clinic; loans traps and provides TNR (Trap Neuter Return) services for Lincoln County residents.

(931) 625-9128 www.patchesplacecatrescue.org

# Wings of Love Ministries

Offers both spiritual support and enlightenment, and provides for emergency needs as the situation requires for women and/or their families.

(931) 433-7442

#### Junior's House Inc.

Provides prevention, intervention, and treatment services to physically and sexually abused children and their families as a child advocacy center.

(931) 438-3233 www.juniorshousecac.org



# Southern Alliance Spay Neuter Clinic

Reduces overpopulation of dogs and cats through education and low-cost spay/ neuter surgery.

(931) 433-0120

#### Friends of the Lincoln County Sheriff

Lincoln County Sheriff
Provides funding for special projects and equipment so that the Lincoln County
Sheriff's Department can eradicate drugs, provide youth intervention programs, and obtain state-of-the-art equipment, allowing the department to better serve citizens.

(931) 433-6712

#### **Good Samaritan Association**

Provides gas assistance for transportation to doctor's appointments provided to low income older people and/or people with disabilities in Lincoln County.

(931) 433-0260

#### **Fayetteville Kiwanis Club**

Changes childrens' lives through international initiatives, helping young people develop mentally, physically, and emotionally.

Facebook: Fayetteville Kiwanis Club of Tennessee https://k10.site.kiwanis.org/clubs/

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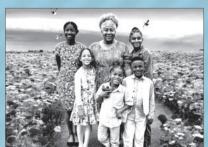


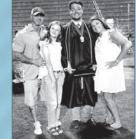


































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