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ALVIS AND DORIS TURRENTINE

## BLOSSOMS AND BLESSINGS

This family is firmly rooted in the Pleasant Grove community.

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#### PLUS

FROM EMPTY ARMS TO FULL HEARTS

**ISSUE 6 2025** 

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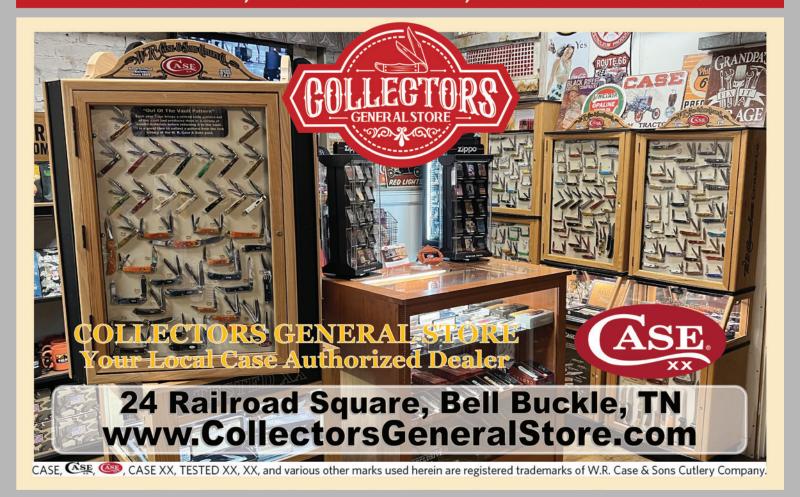




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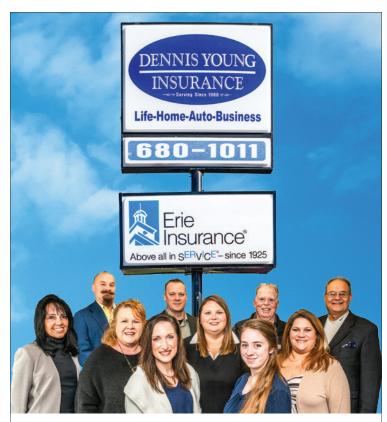
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## 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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### Kay and Jennifer Templeton:

## PASSING THE TORCH

Templeton & Associates is in capable hands.

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



OR KAY Templeton, the insurance industry has been her life's work, a career spanning over 40 years that began when she graduated from Shelbyville Central High School (SCHS) in 1966. After attend-

ing Flat Creek School through seventh grade, she earned her diploma from SCHS and became a trusted figure in the insurance world and the community. Her daughter, Jennifer Leigh Templeton, took a different path before returning home to join her mother in the business. Jennifer graduated from Cascade High School in 1990 as "Ms. Cascade," excelling in cheerleading, academics, and leadership roles.

"Basically, I was a nerd," Jennifer said, reflecting fondly on her well-rounded high school days.

After high school, Jennifer pursued higher education and eventually earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, followed by a master's degree in accounting. Her ambition led her into the corporate world, where she worked for Fortune 1000 companies as a division accounting manager. The role required her to tackle complex financial challenges while managing teams in demanding environments.

Jennifer's time in the corporate sector sharpened her skills and broadened her perspective, but it also came with long hours and the stifling heat of Houston, Texas. When her mother suggested she take over the family insurance business, it presented an opportunity not just to return home, but to embrace a new professional chapter. Jennifer jumped in "with both feet," learning the ropes from Kay and adapting her expertise to an entirely different industry.

66

Nearly two decades of working together has been a remarkable journey. And I'm so proud to carry on what my mom built.

-Jennifer Templeton

Working with her mother was initially met with skepticism.

"They think we're nuts," Jennifer said with humor. "Everyone says they could never work with their mother ... and I'm sure I said that, too, but here we are."

Despite occasional disagreements, particularly about technology versus traditional paper methods, Kay and Jennifer find strength in their shared values and complementary skills. Kay brought a deep connection to the Shelbyville community and decades of insurance expertise, while Jennifer offered a fresh, innovative perspective shaped by her corporate background.

"It has made me feel proud to see how she has developed into a business-minded woman," Kay said. "When you don't work together, you don't realize how intelligent and respected your children are in their careers. When you work together and get to see those things, it makes you very proud and full of joy. I have all the confidence in the world in Jennifer taking over as the new owner since I have retired."

Jennifer said, "My mom is the classiest lady I know. Even to this day, my friends call her Mrs. Kay instead of just Kay."



Honesty has always been the cornerstone of Templeton & Associates. Whether finding the best solutions for their clients or referring them to other agents, Jennifer will continue to build on Kay's reputation for always doing the right thing.

Their connection to Shelbyville has been equally strong, with both showing their commitment to giving back and being involved within the framework of the community. Jennifer currently serves on the library board of directors and takes part in various local committees.

Now that Kay has retired, Jennifer has fully stepped into her role as the agency's leader. She envisions a future that blends innovation with tradition, expanding services and adopting new technologies while upholding the values instilled by her mother.

Through honesty, respect, and a dedication to clients, Jennifer continues what her mother built over decades of hard work and service. Kay's retirement marks the end of one chapter, but her influence will forever shape the business.

"Nearly two decades of working together has been a remarkable journey," Jennifer said. "And I'm so proud to carry on what my mom built."

Together, their story reflects the strength of family, resilience, and the rewards of always doing the right thing. **GN** 

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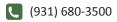
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The McKamey Family:

## This is US'



▲ Martha Peoples, Dot Bates, Glenn McKamey, Joyce Hulan, and Judy Moore — five McKamey siblings showing what it means to stick together.

## Five siblings form the "McK70" bowling team.

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



HE RHYTHMIC clatter of pins and the squeak of shoes echoes across the wooden floors of the Shelbyville Bowling Alley. The buzz of conversation — and sometimes lively songs coupled with overly dramatic dancing — coming from the five McKamey siblings at Lane 15 is something not to be missed. This group of devoted retirees commands attention with their radiant blue Hawaiian-print shirts, showcasing green palm trees, flowers, and family photos. Matching shoes complete their ensemble.

With this group of bowlers, every roll becomes a reason to celebrate. Strikes unleash a flurry of flapping arms in an extremely spirited chicken dance, while spares trigger the unified call of a duck. They've embraced their philosophy wholeheartedly that "laughing and letting go is good therapy." Rather than striving for professional glory, they bowl for joy, to rekindle sibling connection, and the simple act of being together. Their antics draw smiles from fellow bowlers and staff alike, proving that life doesn't have to be so serious.

Growing up, their parents taught values that have stayed with them.

"Raising six children in the 1950s-60s was difficult at times, but we knew we were loved, and we learned respect for others, kindness, sharing, and discipline. Working together was a way of life for us. We have our parents to thank for our closeness," said Betty Joyce Hulan.

In 2014, the McKamey siblings lost their oldest sister, JoAnn, to cancer. One month later, at age 97, they lost their father.

Dot Bates said, "Suddenly, there was this deep void in our family dynamic. But we determined to prioritize our time to be together."

Between working full time and the hustle and bustle of life, raising children, and balancing challenging work schedules, their time together had dwindled to merely birthdays and holidays. After losing two immediate family members to COVID-19, the siblings decided they needed to savor the time they still had together. What used to be a monthly "Sibling Day" evolved into a fully fledged bowling team following each of their retirements.

The "McK70" bowling team includes four sisters and one brother: Betty Joyce Hulan, a retired financial service professional; Dot Bates was a licensed practical



My advice for others to keep their families connected — you must learn to forgive, plus respect and honor each other. We are all different, but from the same family.

-Dot Bates

nurse; Martha Peoples worked as an inventory control specialist; Judy Moore was an automotive technician; and Glenn McKamey worked in maintenance and inventory control. Their honorary members include Dot's husband, Kirby, and the McKameys' cousin, Phyllis Guffey. When their schedules allow, children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews also join in the fun.

Betty Joyce said, "Getting together for two to three hours each week allows us to reminisce about our childhood days as well as catch up. It really isn't so much about bowling, but more about our children, grandchildren, or our fleeting aches of aging. Making time for each other reminds us that, come what may, the Bertha and William Allen McKamey siblings are one team. When it came to naming our team,



▲ Every Monday, the McKamey siblings gather not just to bowl — but to laugh, reminisce, and keep the family ties strong. Joyce Hulan, Glenn McKamey, Martha Peoples, Dot Bates, and Judy Moore.



▲ The McKamey siblings and honorary teammates gather at Lightning Lanes — united in matching shirts, shared memories, and one unmistakable team spirit. Martha Peoples, Kirby Bates, Dot Bates, Joyce Hulan, Glenn McKamey, Judy Moore, and Phyllis Guffey.

that was simple: we were all McKameys, our average age was 70, and so were our bowling scores. I know, pretty sad, but this is us."

In order for them to feel — and look like — a genuine bowling team, Dot ordered their matching bowling shirts.

Dot continued, "We are not skilled bowlers. Our scores are unpredictable, but if someone does manage a strike, we have a ritual. To the utter dismay of our younger sisters, my sister, Joyce, and I break into a very bad rendition of the chicken dance, followed by Glenn adding, 'Quack quack.' We've become more aware of how fragile life is, so we take the time to spend with one another, treasuring and supporting, realizing each day is a blessing."

As the McKamey siblings continue to find joy in being together, they hope others will do as they have done.

Dot said, "My advice for others to keep their families connected — you must learn to forgive, plus respect and honor each other. We are all different, but from the same family. Make the time and concentrate on caring for each other."

With every roll of the ball, the McKamey siblings create more than memories — they remind us to treasure the people who matter most, one frame at a time. In the future, they hope to change their team name to "McK90." GN



▲ Joyce celebrates a strike!















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#### 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

1lb. 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  $275^{\circ}$  and continue baking for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  - 2 hours or until meat and vegetables are tender.







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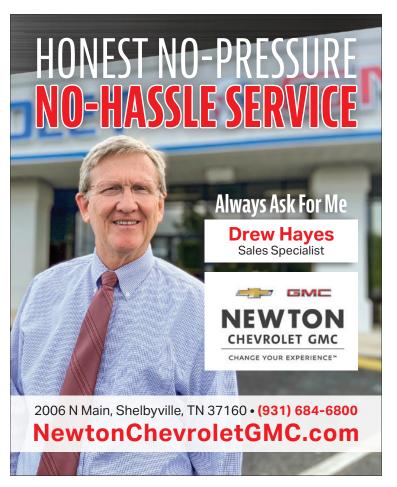


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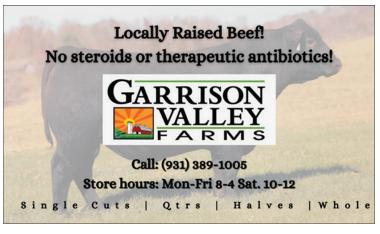


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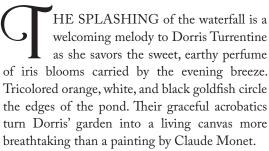




# BLOSSOMS AND BLESSINGS

This family is firmly rooted in the Pleasant Grove community.

BY AMANDA E. WEST PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES



Birdsong harmonizes with the steady trickle and splashes of the waterfall and the occasional rustle of leaves — a symphony of peace tailor-made by Dorris. This oasis of contentment is more than a flower garden; it's a culmination of care and love — every stone carefully chosen, every flower nurtured. Each bloom holds the

memory of an old friend, some gifted decades ago by neighbors. And if you stop by for a visit, her husband, Alvis, said you wouldn't leave empty-handed.

In 1944, when Alvis was 3, his family moved to the Pleasant Grove community, and in 1949, Dorris' family moved to the area. Growing up, they both attended Pleasant Grove School through eighth grade and Pleasant Grove Methodist Church (PGMC). After graduating from Shelbyville Central High in 1959, Alvis attended Tennessee Tech (TT), where he received a degree in mechanical engineering in 1964.

"We married at PGMC on a hot day without air conditioning in 1963. We had a weekend





▲ Alvis and Dorris stand by the bird garden, where the centerpiece — a white birdhouse — mirrors the home Dorris grew up in.

honeymoon to Gatlinburg, then I had to be back for work Monday at the [Tennessee Valley Authority] power plant in Gallatin," recalled Alvis.

When he graduated from TT, the "Space Race" was ramping up, so Alvis accepted an exciting position at the Arnold Engineering Development Complex, testing jet engines. Dorris settled into a job at Pencil Printing. Every Saturday, Alvis traveled from their home in Shelbyville to his father's farm in Pleasant Grove, and the two started raising Angus cattle.

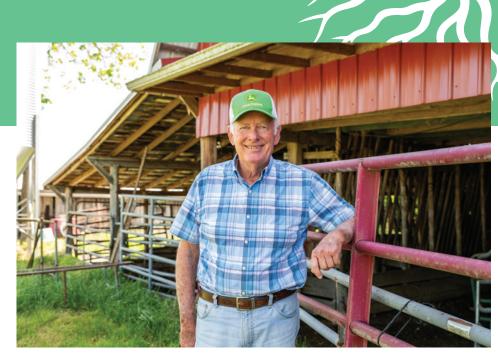
"When our first child, Troy, came into the world in 1967, Dorris' job changed forever. She was now a mother and a homemaker, which she excelled in," recalled Alvis. "As Dorris neared the birth of our second child, we went to a farm sale on Greer Road near our beloved Pleasant Grove com-

Our farm has now been the center of our family for more than 50 years. We've had a busy and rewarding life.

**ALVIS TURRENTINE** 







▲ At the Turrentine Angus barn, Alvis manages the cattle operation he and his father began decades ago — where raising quality Angus has become a way of life.

munity, hoping to buy a 150-acre tract to graze our Angus cattle. Instead, God told us to buy the house and 48 acres."

Their son, Tim, joined the family nine days later, and in 1973, they welcomed Julie.

"Our children became the center of our lives. Last October, Troy lost his life in a tragic accident. This has been the saddest time of our lives, and we are still heartbroken."

As the family grieves, they cling to their faith and to their congregation at PGMC. The lifelong connections they've formed within the tight-knit community, coupled with the beauty they've cultivated at their farm, comfort them.

"Our farm has now been the center of our family for more than 50 years. We've had a busy and rewarding life. My engineering career provided a technically challenging life, and while the farm has challenged us physically, both have their rewards. Dorris has been the rock that kept our home and family together. But the church and our belief in God have kept us focused on the things that matter. These aren't material things, but the wonders that God provides each day and, most of all, His

guidance. With all His blessings, we plan to celebrate our 62nd anniversary on July 3."

As resounding "moos" echo across the Turrentines' pasture from their prized Angus bulls and heifers, they whisper a heartfelt "thanks" to the community and to their church that has embraced them for nearly eight decades. **GN** 



▲ Dorris' iris garden is a tapestry of color and history.







## GAME CHANGER

H.V. Griffin Park "steps into new era" with soccer complex.

BY AMANDA E. WEST PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES AND SUBMITTED BY MEGAN BETZELBERGER



HE SUN dips behind the Shelbyville Recreation Center, casting shadows across the baseball field, dotted with soccer players at H.V. Griffin Park. Marc Betzelberger leans forward, elbows on his knees, as his youngest son, Jonathan, kicks the ball with relentless determination. Every muscle in Marc's body tenses as the ball whirls across the field to his teammate, who kicks it within a foot of the temporary goal.

Sitting beside Marc, another proud father claps and cheers in Spanish. They exchange a glance, then a nod. Words are unnecessary. In this moment, they're not two fathers divided by language. They're united by pride for their children, by team spirit, and a growing sense of kinship. When the ball arcs inside the goal moments later, their cheers meld into one.



▲ Sports has always been a way for the Betzelbergers to connect as a family.



ation Educational Services of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. This grant, which includes a 50% local match, will provide a soccer complex, as well as the construction of new streets, parking, drainage, and utilities. Families like the Betzelbergers will no longer need to borrow the baseball field to play soccer.

According to Marc, "Shelbyville is the 30th most populated city in Tennessee, but is the only one in the top 52 cities in the state that does not have a soccer complex. We are the 32nd largest county, and the only county in the top

programs.

MARC BETZELBERGER





50 counties in the state, without a soccer complex. So the need was really there for Shelbyville to build a complex."

The Betzelbergers moved to Bedford County 23 years ago. For the last 18 years, Marc has worked for Palmer Food Service, and his wife, Megan, is a veterinarian at Northpoint. Megan first began exercising at the rec center while her children participated in an organized playtime called "Toddler Power Hour." Over time, the family's involvement expanded.

"The rec center has been a great part of our family. We've made good use of their programs. All four of our children have been on the swim team, and our boys played rec league soccer and basketball. Marc coached basketball and rec league soccer. Our sons, Jacob and Benjamin, are lifeguards and referee soccer," said Megan, who serves on the board of the Sharks swim team.

Though their weekly schedules overflow, Megan swims and participates in yoga several days per week.

Marc said, "My work schedule limits me from coaching, but I've served as the president of the rec center board for the last four years. Our community has increased in population, and the heart and soul of serving on this board was to welcome this expansion for new facilities."

He continued, "I am excited to see Shelbyville step into a new era. Columbia has a \$5 million complex that was paid



▲ Marc passes on skills and strategy to Adelyn, just like he's done for years as a rec league coach.



A Benjamin, Megan, Addie, Marc, Jonathan, and Jacob

for within two years. I love seeing all aspects of people come together to watch sporting events. Families with children aren't afraid to spend money on their kids and to see them excel and be themselves on the field."

H.V. Griffin Park includes 84 acres of sports fields, tennis courts, batting cages, a skate park, pavilions, playgrounds, a disc golf course, and an outdoor pool with a water slide. Inside the center, guests have access to a large gymnasium, heated swimming pools, classrooms, and event spaces. The master plan for the new center also includes five phases that will create a greenway system that will connect our community to even greater possibilities. **GN** 

For more information, go to www.shelbyvilletn.org/departments/parksrecreationenter.







# FROM EMPTY ARMS TO FULL HEARTS

Adoption, foster care, and the faith that holds it all together

BY AMANDA E. WEST PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEIGH NEWNES

YNDA JOHNSON settled into the wheelchair as the nurse swaddled 4-month-old Natasha before placing her in Lynda's outstretched arms. Although Lynda and her husband, Alfred, already had four children, Natasha was the first — and last — they brought home from the hospital. Arms they once thought would be empty were filled.

Alfred was the second eldest of 16, and Lynda lost her mother when she was 10, so the two longed for a large family after they married.

"We were looking to have children, but it didn't turn out that way. Fostering is what God used to fill our home," Lynda said. "Foster care and adoption is an experience that I am so glad we were part of. We raised our children in church at Bright Temple and did what we believe God wanted us to do."

Eight years into their marriage, the Johnsons adopted 2-year-old Alfie. When Alfie was 15, sisters Michelle and Allison, who were 6 and 8, joined the family. Though Alfred's health was in a steady decline, and he was partially disabled due to a leaky heart valve that required nine years of daily dialysis treatments, they became foster parents. It wasn't long before 9-monthold Della and then Natasha were placed in their care. Alfie had just graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, and Michelle and Allison were 10 and 12.









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## LYNDA JOHNSON

"I knew people who were foster parents, so I observed what they were doing. When I was growing up, several people in my family had foster children. You must love the children and be able to accept them in whatever situation they are in. You can't let your emotions run away with you. Patience is also important, and you can't leave God out. Because I'd lost my mother and was sent to live with my sister when I was 12, I understood what being displaced felt like."

Lynda cooked and drove a van for the Child Development Center (CDC) for 38 years before retiring in 2011, and Alfred drove a van for the CDC for a decade.

"Of the 43 years Alfred and I were married, he was only able to work the first 10. He was sick off and on for 33 years. When we adopted Alfie, I didn't work, but when the others came along, I did," said Lynda.

When Della was 7 and Natasha was 4, their adoptions were finalized.

"Alfred prayed and asked God to let him live to see our girls grown. They were 16 and 18 when he passed. September will be 23 years without him."

Now that Lynda is a widow, the "children" take care of her.

"Not only did I get to love these children, but they love me back. Last year, I had breast cancer and underwent a mastectomy. Alfie drove me to my appointments

in Nashville, and Della lives with me. I hear from each of them nearly every day. I don't know what I would do without my five children. Thanks to their help, I've been cancer-free for over a year now."

As a way of honoring Lynda, though she is a single parent, Natasha is now a foster mom. All three of the children in her care are active in sports.

Natasha said, "The most rewarding aspect is making a difference in a child's life. Being a foster parent has shaped me in so many ways. I've learned how to build trust with children who may have experienced trauma, and how to provide consistent support, and how to set appropriate boundaries."

When it comes to her mother, Lynda, Natasha said, "Thank you for opening your heart and home to me. Your kindness and commitment have made all the difference, and that's why I chose to be a foster parent to help others."

Whether opening their hearts to neglected children or encouraging relationships with their biological parents, Alfred and Lynda sowed kindness and compassion all along their journey.

Reflecting on her life, Lynda said, "I hope I've touched somebody's life as I passed through this way." GN

To begin your own journey, go to www.tnkidsbelong.org









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# UNMASKING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

#### Fourth Annual Hope Masquerade Ball

BY AMANDA E. WEST PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY LAVONDA GALE PHOTOGRAPHY

OU ARE loved. You are valued. Imagine hearing these words from a stranger, or receiving a gift bag and discovering these words have been lovingly penned inside a card. Whispers of Hope Founder Sally Russell, along with a group of volunteers, shares these words, along with hugs and prayers, with individuals in crisis. They offer something survivors had lost — a reason to hope.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation ranks human trafficking as the second-fastest-growing industry behind drug trafficking, with hundreds of thousands of victims trafficked nationwide every year. With these staggering statistics, Russell knew she must

act. In 2020, she formed Whispers of Hope. This 501(c)(3) is 100% funded through private donations, with most funds raised during its annual Hope Ball.

✓ Phoenix Myers, Arielle Youngblood, and Harley Youngblood.

"With the funds we collected, we purchased our outreach items for the year, curriculum for our care team, contents for our care packages, provided funding for our partners in India, and provided emergency stipends to women in crisis."

- SALLY RUSSELL



A Sally Russell and Abby Bailey, Whispers of Hope's podcast co-host.

The Fly hosted its fourth annual event on April 18. Though attendees were formal attire, their mission of "Unmasking Human Trafficking" is far from glamorous. Tickets sold out quickly. Thirty-eight people attended, including five of the nine volunteers who faithfully serve alongside Russell each week. The event raised \$1,158.

Russell said, "This is our biggest intake of funds annually that keeps our mission rolling. We are 100% donation-based. With the funds we collected, we purchased our outreach items for the year, curriculum for our care teams, contents for our care packages, provided funding for our partners in India, and provided emergency stipends to women in crisis. We are so thankful to our supporters."

Volunteers travel from Bedford County to Chattanooga, Smithville, and Bowling Green, Kentucky, each week to minister to those working in the entertainment industry. Whispers of Hope recently expanded beyond our nation to provide women in India rescued from sex trafficking with opportunities to pursue nursing degrees. **GN** 

Go to www.whispersofhopetn.com for more information.



▲ Edward and Lindsay Clydesdale

The founder's family was the waitstaff for the event to exemplify Christ's instructions for us to serve others.





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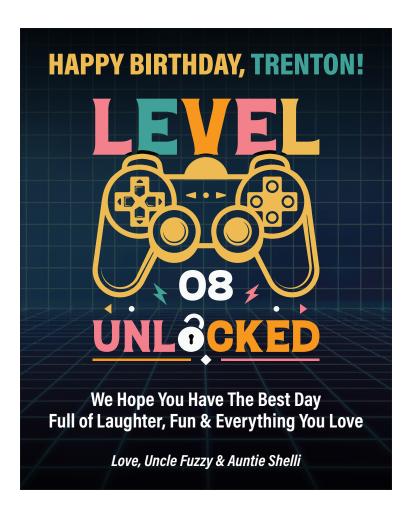






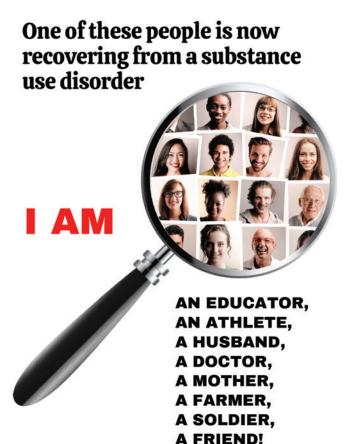
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This project is funded under a grant contract with the State of Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

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