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THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

Saturday, November 14
at the
DoubleTree Oak Ridge
with a virtual option available

Dust off your best motoring clothes and wax up the old carriage - Bow Tie 2020 is taking the party to the streets! (Well, the DoubleTree parking lot).

On November 14, we will celebrate **Tom Beehan**, the *Music Makin' Mayor*, as the 2020 recipient of the Bill Wilcox Bow Tie Award!

Fun, friendship, and **safety** are top priorities for the event. Kindly join us and remember:

Socially distanced
does *not* have to be
SOCIALLY DREARY

BOW TIE: DRIVE-IN EDITION

The drive-in event will feature...



...A delicious catered dinner delivered safely to your vehicle...

...LIVE music with Tom Beehan and The Missing Goats...

...exclusive Bow Tie swag for your vehicle...

and MUCH more!

Additional details about the drive-in event and virtual event will be shared on adfac.org, social media, email, and USPS mail. Tickets go on sale in September!

The Bill Wilcox Bow Tie Event is ADFAC's signature annual fundraiser, with all proceeds supporting its charitable work in the community. Every dollar raised through this event will make a difference!




United Way  

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THE NEWSLETTER OF AID TO DISTRESSED FAMILIES OF APPALACHIAN COUNTIES

SUMMER EDITION • JULY 2020

It's hard to believe we are already looking back on the early months of 2020 and coming to terms with the sudden changes our lives underwent. But here we are, in East Tennessee in the summertime, reflecting on what has come to pass.

It was (and is) an undeniably challenging time. ADFAC, like many other agencies, closed its doors for the longest period of time since its founding in 1987. Several staff members worked from home, checking and returning messages from clients, communicating with volunteers and supporters, and making sure ADFAC would have the resources needed to help clients.

Understandably, Covid-19 and the subsequent closing of schools and businesses has been especially difficult for those already struggling to pay bills or live in safe, decent housing. Job loss, reduced hours, and unexpected costs have impacted many local families.

The larger community almost immediately realized the extra burden low-income families could be facing, and that ADFAC has the professional staff and structure in place to help. Groups, businesses, and individuals quickly mobilized to get aid to families in need. ADFAC was very fortunate to receive several emergency grants and donations.



Cindy Ross kept social media users up-to-date on the progress of a new home built this spring.

As all of us edge toward whatever the "new normal" might be, we at ADFAC feel extraordinarily lucky to be able to provide assistance, and that caring people entrust us to provide such aid. Our staff, board, and volunteers feel this all the time - but especially in 2020.

The shared worldwide experience of Covid-19 will have a lasting impact for months and years to come. We are grateful for the generosity and concern the community has already expressed in very tangible ways.

With your help, we will continue to face whatever challenges are in the future.



Nan Shugart prepares to return phone calls. Mondays are typically very busy, with dozens of messages from clients left over the weekend.

With the health and safety of staff and clients as the top priority, getting assistance to families called for a few changes. As staff returned to the office, phone interviews with clients began to take place. At the same time, measures were taken to ensure clients could be seen in person as soon as possible. A grant allowed us to purchase sneeze guards, no-contact thermometers, and disposable face coverings for clients. Staff members along with local volunteers also provided numerous reusable cloth masks for both staff and clients.

Special thanks to

Altrusa • City of Oak Ridge Electric Department • Clinton Utilities Board • CNS Y-12 East Tennessee Foundation Neighbor to Neighbor Disaster Relief Fund • Elks Spotlight Grant Rotary Club of Oak Ridge Sunset • Sew Good Mask Project • Tennessee Valley Authority United Way Anderson County • UT-Battelle ORNL Community Recovery Campaign Individuals who donated their Covid-19 Stimulus Payment or made other contributions

School Supplies Program begins annual distribution

After a nearly five-month break from school, children across our area will soon be back in the classroom. While every back-to-school season is important, this year, a strong beginning seems more critical than ever.

In early July, ADFAC staff and a small number of volunteers began packing and distributing boxes of supplies for 37 schools in Anderson, Campbell, and Morgan counties. ADFAC works closely with each school to identify the exact supplies needed for eligible students. Grants, monetary, and in-kind donations allow us to provide thousands of backpacks and supplies - in 2020, we hope to serve 4,000 students.

ADFAC's School Supplies Program is so important to children from economically disadvantaged families. With a new backpack

and supplies similar to all students, a child can walk into class the first day equipped with the tools to be successful. A student will be more capable of focusing on academics when basics needs are met. Plus, returning to school prepared will help provide a sense of normalcy during this time of change and uncertainty.

In the event schools use both in-classroom and online learning, students will need these essential supplies to complete work at home.

Education is the best chance for children to rise above the poverty cycle. Please consider making a contribution. Donations received after distribution will be used to purchase clearance supplies and backpacks for 2021.



Volunteer Patsy Stacy assists Theresa McKenrick and Evan McFarland with boxes filled with supplies. Prior to Covid-19, Evan volunteered daily through the Oak Ridge High School YLDCIP program, and was able to join ADFAC as a seasonal employee this summer.

Drop off new supplies on **Friday, August 7!** For more info and a list of needed items, visit adfac.org/schoolsupplies.html.

Our stories: young adults struggle with job loss, uncertainty

Tia and Alexis, roommates and coworkers, contacted ADFAC in June for utility assistance. Both women worked as servers for a local chain restaurant, earning \$2.13 an hour, plus tips, which allowed them to live modestly and be self-sufficient. When the effects of Covid-19 reached our area in early March, their employer shut down the restaurant. The restaurant closure was fast and immediate, and they were told not to return to work until they were called.

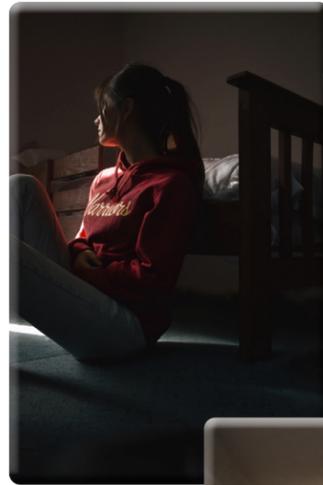
Like many of us in March, Tia and Alexis did not know what the future held. Would the closure be a few weeks? A month? Longer? There were no server positions available at other restaurants; even those with carry-out or delivery had no need for servers. Week after week, the jobs were not there.

With little savings, Tia and Alexis started to get behind on bills. Alexis received a stimulus check, which helped

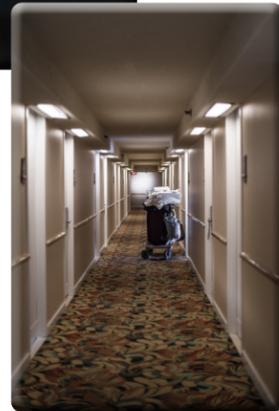
cover some expenses, but certainly not all of them. When they called ADFAC in late June, their utility bill was over \$1,500, which seemed insurmountable.

ADFAC's social worker was able to meet with them over the phone to talk about the situation and their experiences. ADFAC was able to provide \$500 in direct assistance for the utility bill, and referrals to other resources. Tia made plans to contact her utility provider to set up a payment plan for the remainder of the amount due. These efforts prevented the shutoff of utilities, which provided Tia and Alexis the time and stability to address their situation.

Chandra, in her early twenties, is a hardworking and dedicated woman raising her two young children on her own. At the start of 2020, she worked as a housekeeper at a



Unfortunately, the hospitality industry was hit especially hard by Covid-19. In March, her hotel had to drastically reduce hours, and there was no work available. The hotel assured her she still had a job and could return once business picked back up, which was encouraging, but the situation still left Chandra very suddenly without any income. Childcare also became a major issue, as Oak Ridge Schools closed, and social distancing made it difficult for friends and relatives to help.



Despite the setbacks, Chandra is doing her best to move forward. She found part-time

work as a personal caregiver, bringing much-needed earnings to the household.

She was able to pay rent but was behind on her utility bill by two months. The amount due was *the equivalent of one month's caregiver wages!*

Chandra contacted ADFAC in July and had a phone interview with one of our social workers. As they talked, Chandra shared her desire to further her education, find better-paying employment, and eventually a larger apartment that would suit her growing children. For the short term, however, she needed help with her utility bill, or the young family would lose service. Covid-19 emergency funds awarded to ADFAC allowed us to quickly pay for most of the bill, and Chandra pulled together the rest. With temperatures in the nineties, it was definitely a relief to maintain utility service!

Looking toward the future, Chandra received information about Skill Up Tennessee, a list of apartments, and other resources that could help her become self-sufficient.

Balancing the serious with a little bit of silly

Folks at ADFAC are coping with Covid-19 in many ways, including *caring and comedy*. In between helping clients and connecting with supporters, a little comic relief can go a long way! The power of laughter, along with the great relationships we share with each other and the community, have definitely made 2020 more bearable.



After some trial and error, and then a bit more trial and error, members of ADFAC's Bow Tie Committee are now seasoned Zoom professionals.



If you leave Joey alone in the office... he might just drink all the coffee!



Janice Morin emerges from her office demonstrating the latest quarantine dance moves.



Household Assistance Program Director Joey Collins readies for meeting with clients by roll-playing an interview with Addy the ADFAC Frog.

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AMBASSADOR

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Judi Gray, right, presents Cindy Ross with numerous reusable masks made by the Sew Good Mask Project.



Join the **Blue Circle Supporters** by making regular donations!

PayPal ([tinyurl.com/2020ADFAC](https://www.tinyurl.com/2020ADFAC)) provides an option for monthly giving, or reach out to your financial institution for more information about automatically sending monthly donations.



Joey Collins, left, accepts a generous donation from Rotary Club of Oak Ridge Sunset, presented by Malcolm Stocks.