

Dear ADFAC Friends,

As we enter this holiday season, on a personal level I am grateful for family, health, friends, a roof over my head and meals on the table. From an ADFAC perspective, I'm grateful for the community that truly cares about ADFAC and our mission every day of the year.

That community includes the ADFAC Board of Directors that lead with dedication, volunteers who continually amaze me with their commitment to helping ADFAC and our clients, solid partnerships with our local United Way, service organizations, corporations, foundations, and fellow nonprofit providers. The ADFAC community also includes each person who provides financial support – YOU! This multi-faceted support is what makes ADFAC a stable and effective organization that continues to meet the goal of helping our neighbors on their own path to self sufficiency.

ADFAC is providing a mix of important services in Anderson, Campbell, Morgan, and Roane Counties. Our priorities focus on families in need of safe, decent housing, those who struggle with emergent needs of rent, utility assistance, or food to maintain a stable home environment for their families, and students who need school supplies to begin each school year ready to learn. Most clients we serve live at or below the poverty level.

When ADFAC was established nearly 35 years ago, the mission was 'neighbors helping neighbors' and our commitment to helping those in need has not changed. Each day our doors are open, we are helping families during times of great difficulty, and ensuring they are treated with dignity and compassion.

With your continued help, we can continue helping our neighbors. Each donation we receive is essential to our ability to answer requests for assistance, particularly as we face increased need for our services.

On behalf of the thousands of individuals we serve, thank you.

With warmest wishes for happiness and good health,

Annie Cacheiro,  
Executive Director

*Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.*

Anthony J. D'Angelo



## Farewell, Theresa

On December 1, we sadly said goodbye to Theresa McKenrick, School Supply Volunteer Coordinator, as she retires to spend more time with her new granddaughter.

Theresa began her ADFAC career in 2014 as a volunteer in the Household Assistance Program working the front desk. A retired special education teacher, Theresa was asked to look at the school supply room and she was hooked. Her volunteer

service in school supplies led to her position in 2016 as the School Supplies Volunteer Coordinator.

During her tenure she has scheduled hundreds of volunteers and assisted in packing thousands of backpacks. Volunteers return year after year due to her ready smile, personality and positive attitude. She will be sorely missed, but will always be a part of the ADFAC family.



"School Supply Sisters" Theresa McKenrick and Becky Hook

## RMS STUDENTS DONATE PANTRY ITEMS

In November, students at Robertsville Middle School held a donation drive to stock ADFAC's Crisis Cupboard. As shown by RMS teacher Dana Davis, it was a successful venture!



Most of these donations have already made it into the homes of ADFAC clients.

Follow the lead of these generous students and make a donation today! A list of needed items can be found on page 3.

# 9<sup>th</sup> annual Bill Wilcox Bow Tie Event honors Jim Dodson

On Saturday, October 23, ADFAC supporters, volunteers, friends, and family gathered to honor Jim Dodson, the recipient of ADFAC's 9<sup>th</sup> Bill Wilcox Bow Tie Award.

In recognition of his contributions to education, the arts, local nonprofits, and public service, the theme for the event was, "The Starry Night." Jim certainly shines in our community!

Elaine Graham served as our esteemed emcee and auctioneer, and truly wove Jim's Starry Night together with stories, songs, and laughs. The night was made even more special with performances by Hart-Strings and The Missing Goats. The Missing Goats had two surprise performers: Judy DiGregorio and Jim Dodson himself!

Event attendees not only celebrated Jim, but raised thousands of dollars to support ADFAC through event ticket purchases, donations in honor of Jim, and bidding on auction items. Jim donated sixteen stunning framed photographs for the auction!

Funds raised from Bow Tie support the short- and long-term stability of ADFAC. We are grateful for the generosity of all donors and bidders, as well as the businesses and individuals who sponsored the event (see right).

Above all, congratulations to Jim on this much-deserved honor!

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JIM DODSON • TRISH POLFUS



## Introducing Torie

My name is Torie Scott, I am 17 years old, and a senior at Oak Ridge High School. Twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays I work with Cindy Ross at ADFAC in the Appalachian Housing Partners Program.

I first spent time at ADFAC because of a program at my high school where I could go to a business or organization off campus everyday and assist. ADFAC is where I went everyday for several weeks and when my program time ended, I had the pleasure of starting to work at ADFAC for 2 hours after school twice a week. On those days I go to Cindy Ross's office and she has

tasks prepared for me that make some of her work get done faster than if she had to do it herself, since she



Torie Scott first joined ADFAC in August through ORHS's Youth Leadership Development and Community Involvement Program (YLDICIP).

has other responsibilities to focus on. Some tasks might include scanning documents, pulling voicemails, entering more client information into the ADFAC database, and others.

It's been really nice to come in and help her get some things off her to-do list. I am thankful to have this work experience and how Cindy has made it very welcoming for me. I look forward to continuing my experience at ADFAC and continuing working with Cindy!

## ITEMS NEEDED FOR CRISIS CUPBOARD

Crisis Cupboard items are especially high in demand. Please help collect new and unused items for ADFAC - your donation will help people in our communities with items that they cannot afford. The items that we currently need are:

- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Deodorant
- Soap and body wash
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Household cleaners
- Dish soap
- Non-perishable Food: pasta, oatmeal and cereal, canned fruits, vegetables, soups and stews, nut butters, dried beans, canned meats and fish, rice and whole grain



**Donations of all sizes are needed!** A drop box is located outside the Household Assistance Program office at **1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Room 103**. For large donations, please call **865-483-6028** to coordinate a drop off time.

## Linda's luck takes a turn for the better

Linda (*name changed for privacy*) is an elderly, single woman living in an older home in Morgan County. She shares her home with two furry canine companions and has two grown children and grandkids who live nearby.

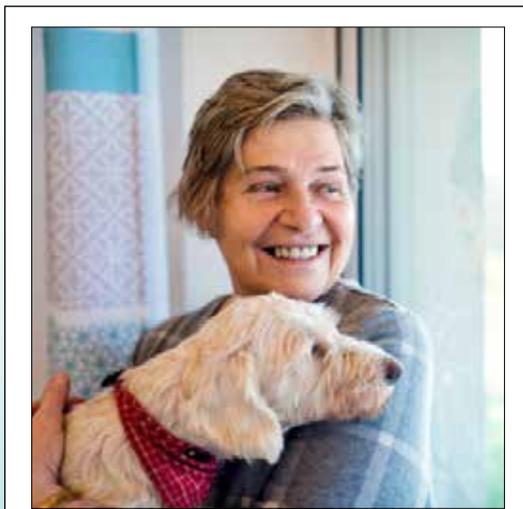
Linda worked for many years for local nonprofit organizations until she gave up work to care for her mother in her final years. Today, she helps care for her brother.

As Linda cared for others, her home fell into disrepair. The middle section of the home was sinking, one bedroom was unfinished with holes leading to the home's exterior, there was no functional guttering, and the bedrooms had *no* insulation in the walls. Depending on the season, the rooms were a sauna or an icebox. Linda tried to address these issues by using her savings to prepay a contractor to make necessary repairs.

Despite knowing her living conditions, the contractor closed his business and left town without completing her home repairs. With nothing in writing or any recourse, she lost all her hard-earned money – and still had extensive repair needs.

Linda applied to ADFAC's Appalachian Housing Partners program. After a few months, ADFAC received a Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) from USDA's Rural Development program. Along with several other deserving homeowners, Linda and her

home were a perfect fit for the grant. Paperwork and site inspections began, and everything was looking promising for Linda to finally get her home in better shape.



*"I am so grateful to ADFAC and the HPG program. My home feels more like home, my dogs and I are so comfy every night - thank you for that!!"*

*"My grandbabies even want to come over and spend the night with me now."*

Then... the pandemic hit.

Because of her age, Linda is more at-risk for complications of COVID-19. Having contractors and laborers in and out of her

home presented too many opportunities for exposure. Out of an abundance of caution, Linda's repairs were sadly put on hold.

It was early 2021 when ADFAC got the green light to move forward with Linda's project. HPG and ADFAC matching funds were used to correct the issues in her home, and by

June, she was enjoying walls with insulation, level floors, gutters that functioned, a zero-step ramp with a handrail and much more.

Linda is a person who has given much of her life caring for and helping others. After enduring several hurdles, she was finally on the *receiving* end of care and help, and it's been life-changing.

Safe, comfortable, and able to spend more time with beloved family: what a wonderful picture that makes!

The HPG grant that allowed Linda to get the necessary repairs also helped several other homeowners in 2021. ADFAC recently received another HPG grant to complete three home rehabilitations in 2022, meaning more folks like Linda will have newfound safety and comfort in their homes.

# Annual Meeting held September 27

ADFAC's Annual Meeting was held Monday, September 27 in the conference room at Oak Ridge Utility District. The meeting included both in-person and virtual participation from ADFAC's board, staff, volunteers and friends.

ADFAC was very pleased to welcome three returning board members: Cheri Donovan, Randy McFarland, and Marcus Weseman.

David Lovett, Tom Marshall, Faye Orick, and Phil Yager completed their board terms and will be missed! We are grateful for their many contributions to ADFAC during their time as board members.

Also during the Annual Meeting, ADFAC staff surprised two exceptional volunteers, **Mark King** and **Tom Marshall**.

Mark, President of C&J Wealth Advisors, has volunteered for six years bringing awareness and funding to ADFAC's School Supplies Program. Prior to receiving the award

(shown in photo at bottom left), Mark spoke to guests about the efforts C&J staff and himself have made over the years, resulting in over \$30,000 in donations and dozens of volunteer hours. Congratulations and thank you, Mark!

Tom Marshall has thirteen years of volunteer service to ADFAC, ranging from Board President to various committee chairs and more. Although he just rolled off the board, Tom continues to volunteer at the Household

Assistance Program front desk. We're all quite pleased he hasn't become tired of us yet!

Further accolades given that night include recognition of two staff members for significant work anniversaries. **Cindi Gawne**, Finance Director, celebrated 10 years with ADFAC and **Cindy Ross** (pictured at bottom right with Annie Cacheiro), Appalachian Housing Partners Director, celebrated an impressive 25 years. These two ladies

are an essential part of the ADFAC team and their years of dedicated work are very appreciated.

Finally, it was time to pass the torch (gavel, actually) from outgoing Board President George Paynter to new President Jim Dodson.

Many thanks to ORUD for their use of the conference room, and to Cande Seay for the decorations and snacks!



ADFAC's 2021-22 Board of Directors:

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Are you creative? Energetic? Do you love to laugh and have a heart for service? ADFAC's Special Events Crew might be the perfect place for you!

ADFAC will be hosting three fundraising events in 2022:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Egg Spectacular,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Murder Mystery, and
- 10<sup>th</sup> Bill Wilcox Bow Tie Celebration.

For these endeavors to be successful, we need to add new folks to our outstanding volunteer team. Volunteer tasks include:

brainstorming ideas • event publicity • sound/tech  
decorating/setup • new skills YOU can bring!

Time commitment varies and can be adjusted to work with your availability. To learn more, please contact Executive Director Annie Cacheiro at 865-425-0256 or [annie@adfac.org](mailto:annie@adfac.org) or Development Director Jamie LaRose at [jamie@adfac.org](mailto:jamie@adfac.org).

ADFAC's Appalachian Housing Partners Program is coordinating volunteer repair projects for four Saturdays in spring of 2022: March 12, April 9, May 13 and June 11. Repairs will be minor (half day or less) and held at locations in Anderson County and Oak Ridge.

This is a great opportunity for students who need volunteer hours, or for church and civic groups.

If you have a group interested in helping, please contact Cindy Ross at 865-481-3837 ext. 102 or [cindy@adfac.org](mailto:cindy@adfac.org).



Volunteer groups completed several improvement projects this summer, including this project in early September. A BIG thank you to First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge for their help - in the rain and with a yellowjacket nest encounter! They provided much needed volunteer labor led by FUMC's Jim Hardy for trimming, chain sawing, mulching, and hauling brush for one of ADFAC's rental properties.

# 2021 ADFAC SUPPORTERS

**WOW! Your generosity continues to amaze us, and YOU make it possible for ADFAC to help thousands of our less-fortunate neighbors!  
We are happy to share our 2021 donors (donations received from 1/1/21 through 11/30/21).**

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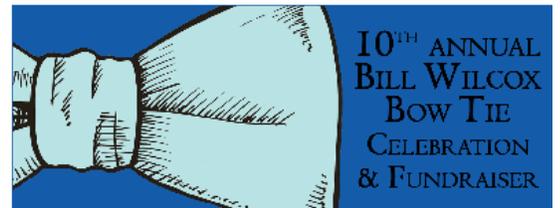
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