

# ADFACts

THE NEWSLETTER OF AID TO DISTRESSED FAMILIES OF APPALACHIAN COUNTIES



Neighbors Helping Neighbors since 1987

Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties  
 Post Office Box 5953 • Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5953 (mail)  
 1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike • Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (offices)  
 865.425.0256 • www.adfac.org

SUMMER EDITION • AUGUST 2022



The picture above says it all - 4,400 students were served by the 2022 ADFAC School Supplies Program! Six new schools were served, helping to set a new record for the program:

- Roane County: Dyllis Springs and Raymond S. Bowers Elementary
- Campbell County: Jellico High School, White Oak Elementary, and Valley View Elementary
- Morgan County: Coalfield P-K thru 5

Using generous donations from foundations, businesses, churches, clubs,

and individuals, ADFAC staff shop year round to get the best deals on new, quality backpacks and supplies. From June 15 - August 5, over 40 volunteer groups provided **727 hours of labor** to sort, pack, and deliver brand new backpacks and supplies.

Now that all supplies are distributed, the real magic is starting: using a new pen and paper to write a draft of your first high school essay, grabbing your favorite color

crayon to draw a self-portrait for the bulletin board, plotting data points on a fresh piece of graph paper... all the wonderful learning!

Thanks for making School Supplies 2022 such a fantastic success!

*Shown in photo: Becky Hook, Program Coordinator, Maisie Segerberg, Summer Assistant, Jaclyn Levy, Volunteer Coordinator, and Evan McFarland, Summer Assistant.*



## VOLUNTEERS

- ADFAC Board and Staff • Ameriprise - Roger R. Williams  
 Anderson County Chamber of Commerce  
 Anna's Book Club • Arby's • Campbell County Lions Club  
 C&J Wealth Management • Clinton Civitan Club  
 Clinton Rotary • CNS/Y-12 • Estate Sale Professionals  
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 Girl Scout Troop #21158 • Jaycees • Kern Mission Group  
 LaFollette United Methodist Church • Norris Lions Club  
 Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary  
 Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church  
 Oak Ridge Utility District • ORHS Interact Club  
 Onward - Advancing Leaders of Anderson County  
 Paragon • PEO Chapter R • Pilot Club of Oak Ridge  
 Powell-Clinch Utility District  
 Randy McFarland - State Farm Agent • Ridge Church  
 ROMEOS • Rotary Club of Oak Ridge Lunch  
 Rotary Club of Oak Ridge Sunset  
 Sinking Springs Women of Faith  
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
 Sunbright/Petros-Joyner staff & friends • Techmer PM  
 United Church - Chapel on the Hill • Variety/Regal Cinemas  
 Women in Mission Support at ORNL  
 Xi Iota Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc  
 Y-12 Young Career Group, and numerous individuals

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Oak Ridge Breakfast

Oak Ridge



- Episcopal Opportunity Fund • Estate of Kenneth Smiley Miller  
 First Cumberland Presbyterian • First Free Will Baptist  
 Kiwanis Club of Oak Ridge • Norris Religious Fellowship  
 Solway United Methodist • St. Joseph Council of Catholic Women  
 United Church - Chapel on the Hill  
 William and Helen Thomas Charitable Trust,  
 Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee.

## Hope for Tracy & Melissa

Life was stable for Tracy. Although disabled, she and her husband were able to pay the bills and live a modest life. Change, however, was to come swiftly and sadly. Without warning, her husband left her to start a life with someone else.

After the divorce, Tracy was left with no home and a single income. Around this same time, Tracy's sister, Melissa, was diagnosed with cancer and became very ill and unable to work. Both to prevent her own homelessness and provide help to Melissa, Tracy moved in with her sister. The only household income was Tracy's \$1,320 in Social Security disability, while their expenses were over \$2,000 a month. Melissa had applied for disability, but the application was in process, and it was not known when the determination would be made.

As the weeks and months went by, the sisters began

to get further and further behind on bills – primarily rent and utilities. When Tracy came to ADFAC for help, their back rent was already \$1,700, and would reach \$2,300 within the next several days.

There was a real danger of eviction proceedings. ADFAC

contacted the landlord to see if she would be willing to work with Tracy and Melissa on the high balance. The landlord was hesitant, so our social worker offered her time to consider the prospect. Having nearly experienced homelessness just a few months prior, Tracy was distraught.

ADFAC's social worker gave Tracy the opportunity to talk, and, just as importantly, to be heard. Tracy was grateful to express her worries and fears in a safe, compassionate environment. Between dealing with depression and anxiety from the recent divorce, and feeling responsible for her

ailing sister, this new hurdle seemed insurmountable.

The social worker provided assurance that their situation was not hopeless, and that Tracy and Melissa were already eligible for \$250 utility bill assistance to get them started back on a good path. More good news came the next day, when the landlord called to say she would work with Tracy and Melissa on a repayment plan. ADFAC was able to provide \$223 toward rent to help in that process.

Although there are still challenges in store for the sisters, ADFAC's help provided the stability and time for Melissa to qualify for disability, and for Tracy to begin the emotional recovery of her divorce.



## ADFAC welcomes Jaclyn Levy as School Supplies Volunteer Coordinator

Jaclyn Levy (pronounced Lee-vee) is thrilled to join ADFAC as the newest Volunteer Coordinator for the School Supplies Program. Previously Jaclyn was the head of HR for a small education software company in Illinois where she did recruiting from the C-suite down, oversaw employee benefits and payroll, and assisted in planning an annual, nationwide conference for K-12 educators.

After taking a break from the business world when her kids were born, she turned to volunteer work. Jaclyn runs the



local **Moms of Oak Ridge** group with 2,100 members and counting, fostering a positive, safe space for area

moms to go for help and resources. She also has served on the board of the Trans Empowerment Project and volunteered with Planned Parenthood.

When Jaclyn isn't working on various service projects or for ADFAC, you can find her weight lifting (best deadlift is 315#, best squat is 300#), hiking, reading, coaching and playing soccer, or playing her favorite video game: **Just Dance**.

## Elks Lodge #1684 donates to Crisis Cupboard

A generous donation from the Oak Ridge Elks Lodge #1184 has placed needed personal care items into the hands of families in need. The donation has been used to purchase items including deodorant, feminine hygiene products, and laundry detergent.

ADFAC's Crisis Cupboard is the second most utilized assistance in the Household Assistance Program. This donation definitely helped ADFAC meet the need!



an **ADFAC** production

# MURDER AT THE GROVE CENTER CLUB

It might raise a few eyebrows, but we can officially say *"the murder we planned was a great success!"*

*Take...*

- a fantastically written murder mystery plot with memorable characters,
- a fabulous host, great food, sweet tunes, a cool venue, and
- our dedicated, hard-working volunteer team...

*...then add...*

- dozens of ADFAC supporters all decked out in 50's garb....

*What do you get?*

**A FABULOUS PARTY THAT RAISED THOUSANDS TO SUPPORT ADFAC!**

Special thanks to Kathie Shearer, Elaine Graham, and all the Murder Mystery ladies, as well as Ray Smith, Regina Copeland, Jean Bardorf, Joey & Kristen Collins, Sheryl Howard, and the Elks Lodge #1684.



# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS... ASHLEY HILLIS?

*Rotary volunteers lend a hand to Miss L*



Appalachian Housing Partners Project Coordinator, Ashley Hillis, has had a busy few months! Ashley has been to numerous events, sharing information about ADFAC and its programs. Her travels include:

- Grandparents Night at South Clinton Elementary,
- ASAP of Anderson Family Fest, and
- Oak Ridge Housing Authority Strong Families Celebration.

After two years of limited outreach opportunities, it is wonderful to be back out in the community again. There's nothing quite like meeting people one-on-one to share the ADFAC story!

Where in the world will Ashley be next? Ashley will be at the Anderson County Community Resource Fair on August 21 and the Oak Ridge Schools Preschool Resource Fair on August 31. Zoom zoom!

This spring and summer, volunteers from the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge completed repairs for an Oliver Springs homeowner. And not just any homeowner - the resident, "Miss L," is 95 years old and still living independently alone at home!

Volunteers worked on two Saturdays to repair a plumbing leak and water damage in the floor, repair the back porch steps, scrape and paint the porches and wheelchair ramp, and paint furniture. General exterior cleanup was also completed by the hard-working Rotary

volunteers. Materials for the repairs were purchased with a grant specifically for repairs for seniors.

The repairs improve the livability of the home, allowing Miss L to continue safely living in her home independently.



## Celebrate ADFAC at the Annual Meeting

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 • 5:15PM**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
**1051 OAK RIDGE TURNPIKE, OAK RIDGE**

Light refreshments • Liz Herbes Silent Hero Award  
 Installment of new board members  
 2021 Year in Review  
 All are welcome to attend!

# REFLECTIONS ON 20 YEARS WITH ADFAC

JAMIE OLSON LAROSE  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Twenty-one years ago, I was a stay-at-home mama to a toddler and 10-month-old baby. Like all of us, I watched in horror as the events of September 11 unfolded, and like many, felt a strong need to *do something*. As the months went by, doors opened that would eventually allow me to *do something*: become an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in August of 2002.

I was placed with Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties, and it was a bit intimidating at first! With little experience in the nonprofit world, there was a steep learning curve; plus, ADFAC is a fairly complex organization with a wide variety of services, funding sources, and partners. And acronyms...lots and lots of acronyms.

Luckily, I had a lot of help from some amazing coworkers, and I started to learn the ropes of grant writing, fundraising, databases, publicity, and my personal favorite - bulk mail. Surprisingly, my three years on yearbook staff in high school greatly prepared

me for some of my other tasks, including creating newsletters, brochures, and flyers. Aldus PageMaker for the win!

Speaking of high school, it always delights me to see some of my favorite high school teachers as donors - you know who you are!



In 2004, toward the end of my second year as a VISTA volunteer, I was one of twelve AmeriCorps members nationwide to win a "Spirit of Service" award from the Corporation for National and Community Service. I was flown to Kansas City for the award ceremony (and I didn't even trip when I walked across the stage), got to try some real KC bar-b-q, and met keynote speaker Sean Astin (**Samwise from Lord of the Rings!**). It was an amazing honor and an experience I'll never forget.

I guess the folks at ADFAC liked me enough to keep me around after my time as a VISTA, and I was more than happy to stay. A few weeks after I became an official ADFAC employee, I celebrated the birth of my third child, and a few years later, welcomed my 4th child. Today, I have three additional bonus kids! I don't get bored very often.

Over the years, I've seen ADFAC change and grow in ways that continue to astonish me. School Supplies, for example, served roughly 1,000 kids back in 2002, and

this year 4,400 students were served. Appalachian Housing Partners has built dozens of new homes in the past twenty years, including the first ENERGY STAR rated homes. Just a couple years ago, I marveled at the ways my Household Assistance Program coworkers adapted decades-old services to continue aiding those in need during the height of COVID-19.

Development-wise, I remember the first successful grant I wrote and feel that same giddy thrill when grants are funded today. I ate my way through the years of the Wal-Mart bake sales, Feed the Need, and Dine & Donate, and was present when the first Bow Tie Award was given. I literally performed a happy dance the first time this newsletter was printed in color (thank you, **Leidos!**).



Whatever changes ADFAC has gone through, one thing remains a constant: the dedication of the ADFAC family. From employees and volunteers who are no longer here to today's amazing team, the loyalty to ADFAC's mission is extraordinary. I am grateful for the lessons they have taught me both in my professional and personal life. While we have shared times of sadness, there have also been times of immense laughter (especially with the Bow Tie Committee and Mailing Army!).

The ADFAC family also includes **YOU**, our amazing supporters. I might not personally know all of you, but your generous

contributions **never** go unnoticed. Thank you for making this a caring community for those in need.

And that's why we are all here, isn't it? The clients! As a 97% behind-the-scenes employee, I don't have much opportunity to interact with clients, especially since the start of the pandemic.

What few interactions I've had have made lasting impressions.

When the School Supplies Program still held distribution at the office, I was on hand to take pictures. Kids came in, most of them shy at first, but when they saw all the backpacks and supplies, the light in their eyes brightened the entire room. By the end of their visit, they were proud, happy, and ready to show off their new supplies



*My kids, including Leo at right (who's now 15), often join me for fun ADFAC events. Other times, they're "voluntold" to help me with less entertaining tasks such as carrying boxes to the office.*

being on worksites to take pictures, and the elderly folks always stole my heart. They were so grateful for the home repairs, but also eager to share stories or photos from their past. The human connection was just as important as the lumber and paint.

I get to know Household Assistance clients through writing stories for grant reports and this newsletter. It's a journey of coaxing a human being out of case notes. I always try to put myself into their shoes to better understand the circumstances and range of emotions. By the time I've finished the story, even though I've never met the person, I feel like I know them.



My kids often ask me if I'm ever going to leave ADFAC. I'm sure I'll explore other options someday, but for now, I have

so much more to learn and always have something to do. And every day, I have a job and work family for which I am very grateful.



*I have met wonderful people in the past 20 years, including the late Tim Myrick, a good friend and mentor in my early years at ADFAC.*

to some strange lady with a camera. The transformation was beautiful!

In Appalachian Housing Partners, I clearly remember



*My daughter, Mia (now 24 - the same age I was when I started ADFAC!) at one of the final Wal-Mart bake sales.*

# 2022 ADFAC SUPPORTERS

## JANUARY 1 - AUGUST 15, 2022

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*Save the Date!*

**Bill Wilcox Bow Tie  
Celebration & Fundraiser**

Saturday, November 5  
DoubleTree Oak Ridge

Please join us to honor **Pat Postma**  
for her past, current, and future work  
to better our community.

2022 is a very special year for the Bill Wilcox Bow Tie event - it's the 10<sup>th</sup> year! Started back in 2013, with the help of the late Bill Wilcox, the event was created to honor exceptional community volunteers while raising funds to support ADFAC's programs. The first nine years have highlighted many deserving individuals:

- 2013 - Ray Smith
- 2014 - Tim Myrick
- 2015 - Cande Seay
- 2016 - Bear Stephenson
- 2017 - Tom Row  
Kathy Stimpson,  
posthumously
- 2018 - Louise Mixon
- 2019 - Bill Capshaw
- 2020 - Tom Beehan
- 2021 - Jim Dodson

In year ten, we are thrilled to honor Pat Postma for her myriad contributions for the betterment of our community. Pat also has a special connection to the Wilcox family!

Please make plans to join us for a night of celebration, camaraderie, and raising funds to support ADFAC's work!

Bow Tie 2022 is presented by



*"Linking Technology to Solutions"*



A full list of sponsors will soon be available at [adfacs.org](http://adfacs.org).