

## Prepared and ready to learn: School Supplies Program

Imagine the smell of a fresh box of crayons, the 'click' of opening a new 3-ring binder, and the feel of wearing your backpack the very first time: back-to-school time is here.

For many, it is a time of excitement and anticipation. For others, the experience is tainted with feelings of anxiety and shame. When families can't afford school supplies, children face returning to school empty-handed.

Since 1993, ADFAC's School Supplies Program has provided new backpacks and grade-specific supplies to eligible students. This program allows underprivileged children to walk into class the first day equipped with the tools to be successful. A student is more capable of focusing on academics when basics needs are met. Plus, returning to class prepared will provide a sense of stability as students readjust to traditional schooling.



Although 2021 distribution is coming to a close, we still need your help! *Right now is the perfect time to shop back-to-school sales and find clearance items to prepare for the 2022 School Supplies Program.* If you'd like to give the 2022 program a boost, please refer to the information on the right for how you can make a difference.

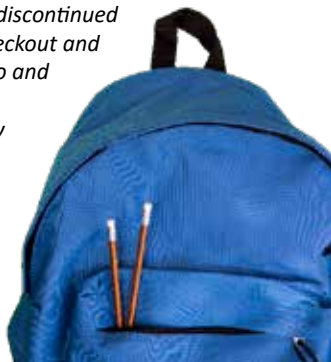
## Thank you!

This year, we served nearly 3,700 PreK-12 students in Anderson, Campbell, and Morgan counties.



All backpacks and supplies are meaningful in the hands of students, but every so often, items come with a special backstory. School Supplies Coordinator, Becky Hook, shares a story from a few months back:

*"While shopping I was thrilled to discover there were discontinued backpacks. Loading up the cart, I proceeded to the checkout and spent some time talking to the cashier about what I do and asking if the store could offer a better discount. While the manager was unable to offer a better discount, my conversation must have been heard by some other shoppers. As I was pushing the cart out the door a woman came running after me. She handed me a \$100 bill and explained, 'Sometimes God just tells you what to do.' I know these backpacks will be greatly appreciated and I couldn't wipe the smile off my face all the way home."*



## Local students NEED YOUR HELP!

**Please consider making a monetary donation or donating new school supplies.**  
**Supplies needed include:**

- Backpacks
- Binders - 3 ring, all sizes
- Calculators - TI30xs/ TI30x-iis
- Clipboards
- Colored Pencils
- Composition Books
- Construction Paper
- Crayola Crayons - 24 ct
- Crayola Markers
- Dry Erase Markers - Black Expo
- Folders
- 5 Tab Dividers
- Earbuds/Headphones
- Elmer's Glue Sticks
- Erasers - Rectangular/ Pencil top
- Graph Paper
- Index Cards 3x5, Ruled
- Masking Tape
- Mechanical Pencils
- Notebook Paper - Wide & College Rule
- Pencil Boxes/Pouches
- Pencils/Sharpener
- Pens - Blue, Black, Red
- Primary Journals
- Rulers
- Scissors - Fiskars, 5" & 7"
- Spiral Notebooks
- Sticky Notes

Supply donations are accepted in front of ADFAC's office, located at First Presbyterian Church, 1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Room 102 in the Activities Building. **A secure dropbox is outside the office to place donations.**



Large supply donations can be brought to the School Supplies room. Please call (865) 425-0256 x103 to schedule a time.

If shopping for supplies isn't an option, please consider making a monetary contribution and letting ADFAC shop for you! There are several benefits of monetary donations: supplies are purchased tax exempt, we receive bulk pricing on numerous items, and inventory is easily tracked.

Monetary donations can be made through PayPal: [tinyurl.com/ADFACSchoolSupplies](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.adfac.org)

Checks can be sent to:  
 ADFAC School Supplies • P.O. Box 5953  
 Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5953

## 272 children, 127 families benefit from childhood hunger grant

As announced in the last edition of *ADFACts*, ADFAC was thrilled to receive a new grant to support our Crisis Cupboard, which provides pantry and personal hygiene items as well as vouchers for fresh food. The grant, provided by Y-12 FCU Gives Foundation, addressed childhood hunger by providing food vouchers for families with children.

ADFAC partnered with the Oak Ridge Schools' Family Resource Center and Oak Ridge and Anderson County Head Start programs to help find families with children facing food insecurity. The response was nearly overwhelming – within a very short period of time, 272 children from 127 households received direct assistance for food. Oak Ridge, Clinton, Rocky Top, Andersonville, Powell, Briceville, Heiskell, and Oliver Springs were all areas served by the program.

Some families that benefited from the grant initially came in with requests for assistance other than food, including 38 year-old Kendra (name and other identifying details modified for confidentiality), whose story is shared below.



Kendra, a Tennessee native, was living in Georgia with her husband and four children when the pandemic hit. A Certified Nursing Assistant at a care facility, she was suddenly on the front lines of a strange new reality, and in March 2020, contracted COVID-19. Hospitalization wasn't necessary, but she did need breathing treatments and had to isolate for weeks.



The difficulties continued. The kids' schools closed. Kendra's husband was dealing with serious chronic illness that put him at high risk of complications from COVID-19. The pandemic struck another blow when their landlord passed away from complications of the disease, and the home they were renting-to-own had to be sold. With some relatives still in Tennessee, Kendra and her family decided to move to Anderson County.

In spring of 2021, the family was adjusting to their new location. Kendra got a job at a local factory and the kids were settling into the neighborhood and schools. It seemed things were looking up, but unfortunately, that was not the case.

Later in spring, Kendra's husband's health continued to decline, and he eventually suffered a heart attack and passed away. Kendra understandably had to miss work during this enormously difficult time and hadn't been at her position long enough to qualify for bereavement pay. She was then fired due to missing work.

With a \$225 Social Security death benefit and the remnants of her savings account, Kendra was barely able to make final arrangements for her husband. Still grieving, she then had to face the stark reality of being widowed and jobless, all while learning the ropes of being a newly single parent.

Kendra's children unmistakably suffered during this time as well. Amid a pandemic, their lives were uprooted, they lost their stepfather, and were experiencing sudden extreme poverty. Within a matter of months, they joined thousands of other Anderson County children facing food insecurity ([feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org)).

Kendra shyly approached ADFAC in June for help with a utility bill. Her income was \$0, as her deceased husband's Social Security benefits would not begin until she turned 55. She was behind on utilities and owed \$1,000 in back rent. She was waiting for SNAP benefits (formerly food stamps) to be

approved. With her children's wellbeing in mind, she had applied for numerous factory jobs and was hopeful one of them would come through. Kendra was doing everything possible to pick up the pieces after an exceedingly difficult year and a half and clearly needed some help.

Kendra came to the right place. ADFAC's social worker listened as Kendra shared her experiences and was able to provide grief support as well as facilitate financial aid. Although she had initially only asked for help with utilities, in talking with the social worker, the true depth of the family's needs became apparent. Her utility bill was paid as well as a portion of rent. To address food

insecurity, the grant from the Y-12 FCU Gives Foundation provided much-needed assistance to ensure Kendra's four children did not go hungry during the time of transition.

An overwhelmed Kendra was so grateful for the help and the kind listening ear. Knowing her children would have adequate food and shelter allowed Kendra to reclaim some of the lost stability of the past 16 months. There may still be challenging times ahead, but Kendra and her children are now in a better place to handle what comes next.





## Clayton-Bradley students upcycle to benefit local families

7th grade students at Clayton-Bradley Academy in Maryville, TN create a classroom business every year and donate the proceeds from their business to various charities around the area.

This year, students chose to focus on three items that typically make their way to the landfill and figure out a way to upcycle these items into something useful. They turned plastic bags into 'plarn' which is yarn made from the plastic

bag and then wove the plarn on a loom and made woven bags to take to the market. They turned old school uniforms into school bags by cutting and sewing them together and they also learned how to sew 'scrunchies' so that students could match their school uniforms. And lastly, they made 'floating teacups' out of old china that was destined for the landfill.

Students learned that they could turn useless things into something that could be used again and save valuable space in landfills.

The students sold these items and made over \$700 which they then donated to the Smoky Mountain Meals on Wheels program and to ADFAC's Household Assistance and School Supplies Programs.



## “The Secret’s Out: Discover Oak Ridge” activity book available



Do you know someone out of town who would enjoy the activity book? We can ship! Call Becky at 865-425-0256 ext. 103 for more information.

In 2018, marking the 75th anniversary of Oak Ridge, our very own Becky Hook led the effort to recreate an activity book first published by ADFAC in 1992. The result was “The Secret’s Out: Discover Oak Ridge” with contributions from more than 60 individuals and organizations, including talented Oak Ridge Schools students and many citizens.

Not only is the activity book a fun way for kids and adults to learn more about Oak Ridge, it’s also a great fundraiser for ADFAC! Books are being sold at the Ferrell Shop and Southern Bliss in Jackson Square, as well as the American Museum of Science and Energy and Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge.



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 • 5:15PM**  
**ORUD CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**120 S. JEFFERSON CIRCLE, OAK RIDGE**

Liz Herbes Silent Hero Award  
 Installment of new board members  
 2020 Year in Review

*Open to the public; masks are required*

## YWCA recognizes ADFAC, others



In April, YWCA Knoxville and the Tennessee Valley held a Community Appreciation Breakfast to commemorate the advancement of victim’s rights. Coinciding with National Crime Victim’s Week, the breakfast highlighted several individuals and organizations that work to provide services for domestic violence victims.

ADFAC was pleased to be one of the organizations highlighted, and Household Assistance Program Director Joey Collins attended the breakfast to receive the honor.

“We make efforts to partner with other community agencies whenever possible,” Collins stated. “We are proud of our partnership with the Y.”

In 2017, YWCA Knoxville and the Tennessee Valley acquired the old Y building at 1660 Oak Ridge Turnpike and began offering needed services. After renovations, a grand re-opening was held in October, 2018.



*A new home makes way for homegrown*



*"If you've never experienced the joy of accomplishing more than you can imagine, plant a garden."* Robert Breault

There are many benefits to homeownership including stable monthly payments, the opportunity to build equity, and possible tax deductions. A home built by ADFAC has additional perks for new homeowners, including energy efficient construction and affordable financing.

For Logan, though, becoming a homeowner also provided precious space for something a bit more "down-to-earth": a garden.



Logan, a recent graduate of UT's Institute of Agriculture, closed on his new ADFAC home this spring. The 1,146 square foot, two bedroom, two bathroom house is located on a half-acre lot in Clinton. It didn't take long for Logan to begin cultivating the land into an impressive vegetable garden.

"We are dedicated to constructing quality, affordable houses for our clients," said Cindy Ross, Director of ADFAC's Appalachia Housing Partners. "But the experience of being a first-time homeowner is as special as the house itself."

For one client, it was the ability to finally put up Christmas lights; for another, the freedom to paint her kitchen the perfect shade of red. For Logan, it was the opportunity to take a love of gardening to a whole new level.



## **VOLUNTEER GROUPS NEEDED**

ADFAC's Appalachian Housing Partners Program is currently coordinating several volunteer home repair projects. Volunteer groups are needed!

- **Locations:** Oak Ridge, Lake City, and Clinton
- **Volunteer coordinators:** George Paynter & Cande Seay
- **Eligibility:** Homeowners who are 60+, disabled or a veteran
- **Project examples:** yard work, cleaning off sidewalks, adding lights to pathways, cleaning up debris, adding handrails to sidewalks, cleaning off siding, caulking windows, cleaning out gutters, installing gutter guards and down spouts, installing grab bars, ramps, accessibility, and removing carpet
- **Seeking:** church, corporate, civic groups that would like to participate in a ½ or full day volunteering to provide these projects

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

## *Other ways to support ADFAC*



Link your Kroger Plus Card to support ADFAC (org # WX171) at [kroger.com/communityrewards](http://kroger.com/communityrewards)



Donate securely online at [tinyurl.com/ADFAC-PayPal](http://tinyurl.com/ADFAC-PayPal).



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# ADFAC Pledge for a Healthy Office

In ADFAC's effort and commitment to provide a safe and healthy work environment and deliver essential support services for our community, we have developed this pledge for all ADFAC employees, volunteers and visitors.

Created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the current CDC guidelines, this document assumes that most ADFAC employees and volunteers have been fully vaccinated and is subject to change.

We Pledge:

- If anyone has symptoms of a possible contagious illness such as but not limited to fever, headache, nausea or severe cough, they will not be in any ADFAC office.
- If anyone has knowingly been exposed to COVID-19 or any other known contagious illness, they will make an effort to not be in any ADFAC office or around others.
- If anyone at ADFAC tests positive for any contagious illness, they will follow medical provider or CDC guidelines in regards to returning to the ADFAC office.
- Everyone will maintain a clean and healthy work environment including sanitizing surfaces, washing hands, using hand sanitizer and keeping a neat workspace.
- With any in-home or in-office client visits, staff will wear a mask and request the client wear a mask if either are unvaccinated for COVID-19 or if COVID-19 vaccination status is unknown.
- Recognizing that not everyone has the same comfort level, we pledge to do our best to adjust our practices to provide social distancing and PPE if requested.
- If at any time, anyone feels their health or safety is at risk, they are authorized to stop work and leave the ADFAC offices without penalty and should report their concerns to their Supervisor, Executive Director or Board President.

*"Great is the art of beginning, but greater is the art of ending."*

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

The ADFAC staff is truly like a family, so when one (or two!) of us decide it's time to move on, it's a big deal. In early August, we bid a very sad, but fond, farewell to Connie Ball and Janice Morin.

Connie has been with ADFAC for 22 years as Service Coordinator for Appalachian Housing Partners. Connie was the first point of contact for AHP clients and had a special knack for developing a quick rapport with folks. Clients *adored* Connie. From client care to coordinating week-long volunteer camps to putting together new home dedications, Connie has spent the past two decades truly serving families in need.

As a social worker in the Household Assistance Program, Janice served clients for three years, including providing essential aid during the pandemic. Janice offered words of kindness and hope to individuals needing emergency assistance with rent or utilities. She is a one of a kind lady!

We will greatly miss our two friends and coworkers, but know they are about to start new adventures and create new memories.



*Welcome back, Hannah!*



ADFAC's newest staff member isn't actually new to ADFAC.

We are pleased to announce that Hannah Schneider, previously an intern in the Household Assistance Program, is officially joining the staff as a social worker.

Hannah interned from 2019 until May of 2021, when she graduated from UT with a Master of Science in Social Work. We are thrilled Hannah is continuing her work at ADFAC as a staff member!

# 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 7/31/21).**

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Mildred Wallace*  
 Family of Tonja Alton

*Accuracy is important to us! If your name was omitted, misspelled, or otherwise inaccurate, please contact Jamie at [jamie@adfac.org](mailto:jamie@adfac.org).*





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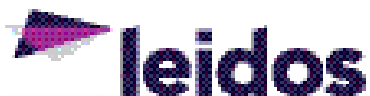
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*Administrative*

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# The Starry Night

On a starry autumn night, please join us to honor Jim Dodson for his dedicated work as an educator, public servant, volunteer, and advocate for the arts.

## BILL WILCOX BOW TIE CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 23  
St. Mary's Oak Ridge

More details coming soon to your mailbox,  
[adfac.org](http://adfac.org), and social media.

