**Director’s Note**

The Spirit of giving—An early Thanksgiving Story

Can you believe it’s just a couple of weeks until Thanksgiving! The holiday season will be here before you know it. I wanted to take a minute to speak on two Thanksgiving stories and how grateful, we at Wiregrass Angel House are for all the super volunteers we have encountered at different times within the last couple of months.

First- I was introduced to a group of volunteers from a company at Ft. Rucker called Corvias Military Housing. Each year this company takes on a non-profit agency and renovates or adds on to current projects already underway. They ask for nothing in return. One of their core values in their mission statement is to give back to the community.

It took ten months of planning and organizing on behalf of Danita Thompson, the coordinator for this project, to make all these wonderful things come together to continue to make Wiregrass Angel House the place for victims of crime to feel comfortable and at home when they arrive. The new arbor is built along with the memory pavers for loved ones. We also have newly renovated children’s room as well as additional landscaping; and if that wasn’t enough a new outside paint job. So thank you to such a wonderful company and the employees who donated their weekend to come out and make all of these dreams a reality.

Second- Our 2nd Annual day of service was last month. Several volunteers came out to help us by cleaning the gardens, planting new shrubs, building shelves in the closet, throwing pine straw, and removing the old drive way in the back yard. We were able to achieve so much work because of so many helpers. To all of you who took time out of your Sunday to work-- THANK YOU!

Shelly Linderman
Director
Corvias workday at Angel House took place September 28th. Look what all was completed: gardens planted, children’s therapy room renovated, arbor built, memory pavers installed, grill donated, house pressure washed and painted. THANK YOU!!
Annual Day of Service

October 20\textsuperscript{th} we held our Annual Day of Service. We were so happy to see some of our AngelHouse Queens and their families, board members, CREP instructors, DA office employees and family members, and representation by the police department. We consider you family and thank you for working to get all of our projects completed.

Left – Hayden Harris and other Angel House Queens work to weed the garden

Right – Kayla and Jonathan Harris install shelving

Tony Luker taking out old cement drive

Yahanna Holland spraying walkways while Barbara Ward works in the garden

Left - Megan Hicks and Alyssa Glover work to clean up the parking lot

Right – Don Salt laying out new irrigation lines
Christmas Open House

Wednesday, December 11th
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

It’s time to mark your calendar for this year’s Christmas open house. Angel House holds open house as a way to say thank you by preparing goodies as a labor of love and appreciation.

We look forward to seeing all the local law enforcement officers, prosecutors and staff from the area DA’s offices, the judges, and most importantly our victim’s family members.

Christmas is Coming

Wiregrass Angel House is once again helping children that lost parents this year. If you would like to help, please call the office at 334-702-7010.

VOCAL Golf Tournament

Chad Barrett, John Schremser, Kit Hatcher and Jerry Renfroe

Vocal held their 3rd annual golf tournament on September 26th. It was a beautiful day with 75 participants. Pictured above is the team that came in first place, Team Wiregrass Angel House. Thanks for representing Wiregrass Angel House so well.

CREP Corner

Administrative Office of Courts held their annual In-service in October. All of our instructors, office personnel, program director, and even a board member were in attendance. This year’s in-service focused on changes to the program and some very inspirational speakers including Daniel “Rudy” Ruettiger whose story was made into the movie “Rudy”.

S.E. VOCAL Chapter News

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 19th, 6:00 PM at Wiregrass Angel House.
Counselor’s Corner

Joyce wrote this article several years ago. I think it still holds true today. I wanted to re-run it for those who have forgotten it and for others who have not seen it. I hope it helps during this time of the year for each of you.

The most difficult season without our loved one is upon us. The dreaded anticipation of how to get through this day or season is worse than the day itself. When we look at how the day will be, our imagination intensifies all our feelings of the loss of our loved one.

Some suggestions are:

1. Write your feelings in a journal before the holidays to express your feelings. Clarifying your thoughts will be less overwhelming.

2. Try planning ahead to actively participate in activities. This will enable you to decide in advance what you want to do and what you don’t want to do and will prevent you from having to make decisions on the spot. If you are invited to something and you are not sure that you want to go, explain to the hostess that some days are not so good but if you’re up to it, you will let her know. On the day of the party, go if you can.

3. If you have small children, let extended family members make their holidays as normal as possible. Try to decorate your home or let family and friends help you decorate. This will bring warmth into your home and a reminder that life is continuing and so shall you.

Being with others during the holidays is often the best medicine for you. The most important thing to remember is to keep things simple. If you don’t want to accept an invitation or you don’t want to issue an invitation, don’t be afraid to express your feelings. If you want to cry, do. If you want to spend some time alone, it is okay, as long as you continue to reach out to others in the family.

Things that might help: Bake (lots of stuff); shop by catalog or internet; make a holiday basket and drop it off for the Salvation Army in memory; or start a new tradition in memory of your loved one.

If none of this works for you, take a pill and go to bed. When you wake up the day will be over. Call on us if we can help.

Joyce Miller, MS, LPC

Donations

Henry County Pre-Trial
Houston County Pre-Trial
IBM Employees
Target Employees
UPS Employees
Wiregrass United Way

In kind donations:
Corvias- their employees and family members
D & J Nursery
Day of service volunteers.

Thank you again!
Houston/Henry County News

Houston and Henry County have been very busy in court the past few months with hearings, trials, and parole attendance.

There are fourteen Capital Murder trials awaiting trial in Houston County. The oldest case dates back to 2007. This means there are Fourteen families awaiting justice for their loved ones. It is good to see that some judges are getting the ball rolling to make sure these cases get resolved for peace of mind for these family members.

CAPITOL MURDERS SCHEDULE

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In January 2011, Alvaro Nunez was out with a couple of his friends, or so he thought, unwinding from a hard work week. But he quickly realized the two people with him were not his friends. After all three getting into an argument at Mr. Nunez’s home, they “made up”.

But Mr. Nunez’s ‘friends’ decided to make him pay for the earlier altercation. They plotted to rob and kill him. He was found strangled and shot to death. One of the defendants, Jose Contreas, pleaded guilty to felony murder and was sentenced to 25 years last month in Geneva County.

One of the worst traumas an individual can endure is a robbery. Just imagine, if you can, someone coming into your business where you work and pointing a gun at you. Telling you they are going to kill you for money. How horrifying the feeling of helplessness and fear must be for these victims! Now add the fact these gunmen and co-conspirators are some of your co-workers.

This happened to the employees of Captain D’s in Ozark. Thanks to the good detective work of the Ozark PD the zeal of the prosecution of the Dale County DA’s office, as well as a great judge, one of those offenders is off the street for 20 years.

Samuel Wilson, Jr. was sentenced to 20 years in prison for his part after being convicted by a Dale county jury.

Good job Judge Filmore!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Brooke Noblitt and her two children, Cameron and Ayden, who lost their mother and grandmother Sheila Burge.
She was only 57 years old.

Please be praying for the families of Jacquelin Bunnell and Elizabeth Sanders.

Both women were killed in Barbour County in October.

Ms. Bunnell was killed by her step-son.

Ms. Sanders was killed in a home invasion robbery.
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED