

The Bright Side TM

Volume 32 No 1

SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

JAN 2023



PICTURED L-R JAMES ALBRIGHT, MARLON LONGACRE

JAMES ALBRIGHT, ABA MEMBER OF THE YEAR

James Albright was named Member of the Year for the 2022 Acworth Business Association at the December luncheon. Mayor Allegood presented the award to Mr. Albright emphasizing his strong servant leadership and unwavering love for his community. Mr. Albright thanked the ABA for the award and acknowledged the support from his family and community.

James has lived in Acworth all of his life, graduating from North Cobb High School, and then from Kennesaw State University with a Bachelors in Recreation Management and a Masters in Public Administration. He has been employed by the City of Acworth for 22 years and the City Manager of Acworth since July 2021. In addition James has been on the ABA board since Jan 2006, has coached baseball for eleven years, and has been Secretary of the Special needs Development group since January 2008

PIEDMONT CHURCH -ABA BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Marlon Longacre, Associate Pastor of Piedmont Church accepted the ABA Business of the Year Award on behalf of Dr. Ike Reighard and Piedmont Church. The Church has been part of the community for sixty years.

Their philosophy is to use everything they have to bless the community. Piedmont sponsors Love Does, a community outreach program that supports our unsung heroes. These folks are on the front lines every day: School Social Workers, Counselors, Principals, Food Shelters, Special Needs Facilities, Non Profits and many more.

Pastor Ike, who is the senior pastor at Piedmont Church states our mission statement is serving the community in which we live, work and worship. It is the foundation for the spiritual journey from ordinary living to an extraordinary life through the transforming power of Jesus Christ. By engaging and partnering with our community, our aim is to serve as an inspiration and catalyst for improving the lives of our members and our neighbors.

The church's extremely successful Love Does Program is explained in depth on page 9. Check it out.



THREE-13 SALON, SPA & BOUTIQUE KBA BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Three-13 has been a part of the community for 48 years. The owners have traveled the world to identify the best of the best in their industry and bring it back to Cobb County. They implemented what they learned abroad and brought it back to Cobb. Enthusiastically embraced, Three 13 Salon has experienced continual growth from 9 employees to 90.

Their brand is so successful that they have implemented an Apprentice Training Program which has catapulted literally hundreds of individuals into successful careers in their industry.

One of the most impressive aspects of Three-13 is their commitment to the community. They support MUST Ministries, Cobb County Police, Cobb Junior League, Blue Thanksgiving, My Pals Place, our local schools, Teachers of the year, and the Georgia Transplant Foundation. Their commitment to KBA is unmatched. They are involved in all events and sponsor many including the Super Women's Conference. Pictured above on l-r: Christin Herrera, Director of Operations; Marian Crowell, Partner-Global Designer and Lester E. Crowell, Managing Partner.



MARLON LONGACRE NAMED KBA MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Marlon has been a member of KBA since 1999 and is the longest running board member of KBA since he was nominated in 2000. In addition Marlon has been chairman of the Big Shanty Festival for the last twenty years, raising over One Million Dollars for the KBA to give back to the Kennesaw community. Marlon was president of KBA in 2003.

In addition to his dedication to the KBA, Marlon is the Chairman of the Cobb EMC Community Foundation, supports over 120 non-profit charities through his church, is the Chairman of the NE Cobb Egg Drop and Chairman of Christmas at Piedmont.

Because he love sports he is in charge of all game day activities for North Cobb Football.

Marlon is the Associate Pastor at Piedmont Church where he is the Director of their Love Does Program (see page 9) in addition to several other community services. Marlon and his wife Libby (of 35 years), have three sons and one granddaughter.

MAIN STREET ON THE MOVE FLEX GRANT

In 2023, the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority will sponsor the Main Street on the Move Flex Grant. KDDA will award grants ranging from \$500 – \$2500 to small businesses in Downtown Kennesaw for projects that will enhance productivity, expand or improve business processes, improve service delivery, support business expansion, or improve business facilities/infrastructure. Grant amounts are discretionary and will be awarded based on need and potential impact.

Grant applications will be available starting January 1, 2023, and will be due no later than 5 p.m. on February 1, 2023. An applicant information session will be held at City Hall on January 11, 2023, to answer any questions that potential applicants have regarding the application process or project eligibility.

The information packet & application are available at <https://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/download/kdda-flex-grant/>.

KBA LEGACY AWARD CAROL THOMPSON

The greatest use of your life is to invest it into something that outlasts it. That is called leaving a legacy.

For almost 50 years Carol Thompson has invested her life by serving, giving, and promoting the Kennesaw Community. The 2023 Kennesaw Business Association Board Of Directors and all the KBA Past Presidents were honored to present Carol with the 2023 KBA Legacy Award at the December KBA luncheon.

Carol continues to invest, serve and promote the community by being the Founder of the BrightSide Community Newspaper. The BrightSide is a monthly paper committed to promoting all the great things that happens in our community. She is the only remaining original KBA member that was founded in 1975.



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TUES JAN 24 2022
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THIS AND THAT

CONGRATULATIONS FLANAGAN FAMILY



Happy adoption day to Liam, Lydia, Landon, & Leilani Flanagan. The four youngest
pictured are full siblings. The Flanagans had three for 7 years and the youngest from a few
months old. They finally adopted all four on Nov 28, 2022.



KBA JANUARY LUNCHEON

Please join the
Kennesaw Business
Association and
Mayor Derek
Easterling on
Tuesday, Jan. 10 as
the Mayor presents
the State of the
City. The luncheon
will be held at the

Recreation Center, 2737 Watts Drive. It starts
at 11:00 am and ends at 1:00 pm. Please RSVP
at kennesawbusiness.org. Sponsored by Loud
Security Systems, catered by Copelands of
New Orleans.

ABA FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Please join the
Aworth Business
Association and
Mayor Tommy
Allegood on
Thursday as the
Mayor presents the
State of the City. The luncheon will be held
at the Acworth Community Center. It starts at
11:30 am and ends at 1:00 pm. Please RSVP
at acworthbusiness.org. Catered by Adrienne's
Delectables.



HELPING ONE GUY MAKES DONATION

Pastor Marlon
Longacre of Piedmont
Church accepted a check
donation of \$4,500 on behalf
of the Horizon League from
David and Patricia Zivic of
H.O.G. Ministries, which
proceeds are from their
recent pancake fundraiser
breakfast. H.O.G. Ministries
has donated approximately \$30,000 over the past 11 years to the Horizon League, which
assists with uniform and equipment purchases, as well as new programs for special needs
participants.

The proceeds were raised from Hog's pancake breakfasts held on Saturday, December
3 at The Cowan Historic Mill to benefit the Horizon Field Pictured above l-r: Patricia and
David Zivic with Pastor Marlon Longacre.



BRIGHT SIDE PAGE 2

ANDREW BRAMLETT'S RESIDENTS OF THE KENNESAW CEMETERY

William and
Ludie Dewberry's
only son, William
Rufus Dewberry, was
born on October 2,
1884. He went by
Will. His sister, Ethel
Rebecca Dewberry,
was born on October
20, 1888. The
Dewberrys lived on
Washington Avenue in Marietta and attended
the Marietta City Schools.



Around 1903, Will Dewberry became a
postman. He later worked as a foreman for the
Louisville and Nashville Railroad. Will was
considered a quiet and industrious man and an
upstanding citizen. Ethel Dewberry attended
Marietta High School and planned to graduate
in 1907. She was baptized in 1905.

In late August 1906, Will Dewberry
contracted typhoid. Around 9 o'clock on
September 7, 1906, he passed away at the
age of twenty-two. The Marietta Journal said
that he was "Cut off in the prime of manhood
and usefulness." His funeral was held at the
Kennesaw Baptist Church and was buried in
the Kennesaw City Cemetery.

Shortly afterward, Ethel also caught
Typhoid. She passed away on October 6,
1906. Her obituary stated that "our entire
community was shocked by this sad death,
and sympathize with the heart-stricken family
in their sorrow and bereavement." The same
pastor from her brother's funeral preached at
Ethel's funeral, and she was soon buried next
to her brother.

In 1912, Ludie Dewberry suffered a "brief
illness" and passed away on August 24. Her
husband, William, passed away several months
later on October 21, 1912. They were survived
by one child, a daughter named Alison.

BE A BRIGHT SIDE REPORTER

It's easy to be a Bright Side Reporter —
if you have a positive, upbeat story about
your family, your neighborhood, your civic
group, school, church activities, happening in
Kennesaw or Acworth, send it to us.

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TRAINS, TRAINS, TRAINS!

RETURNS TO THE SOUTHERN MUSEUM

The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History is excited to announce the return of its biggest, most popular event of the year—Trains, Trains, Trains!—on Saturday, January 28 and Sunday, January 29, 2023. The 2023 event will feature the Museum's biggest model train display to date along with train-themed activities and historic trains.

The model train layouts will come in all sizes and feature a variety of themes, many of which have interactive buttons to delight young visitors. Railroad artifacts will be on display for visitors to hold, touch and discover how they were used.

For those looking to take something home, the General Emporium, the Museum's gift shop, will more than double in size for the event with a variety of train-themed items, from clothing and collectibles to toys and model trains, perfect for train enthusiasts, kids and fans of history!

"Trains, Trains, Trains! is the premier family and child-oriented model railroading event in metropolitan Atlanta," says Dr. Richard Banz, Executive Director of the Museum. "Children and adults alike will be amazed by all of the wonderful train layouts, several of which are interactive. This is definitely an experience that the entire family will enjoy and remember for years to come."

Museum operating hours for the event are from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Regular admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (ages 65+), and \$5 for children (ages 3 to 17), active-duty military (with ID) and university students (with ID). Tickets are available online. Admission for Museum members is always free!

Parking will be available at Swift-Cantrell Park, located at 3140 Old 41 Hwy NW, with a free shuttle service.

The Southern Museum is located at 2829 Cherokee Street in Downtown Kennesaw. For more information, visit www.southernmuseum.org or call 770-427-2117.



JANUARY BOOK SWAP EVENT

Kennesaw Parks & Recreation will host its annual Book Swap event at the Ben Robertson Community Center on Saturday, January 14, from 8 to 11 a.m.

Area residents interested in participating can drop off gently used hardcover or paperback books, music CDs, DVD movies and vinyl records on January 12 & 13 from Noon to 8 p.m. and receive a ticket redeemable for the same number of items during "open swap" time on January 14. Books must have their front and back covers intact and be in good condition. CDs, DVDs and vinyl records must be in their original cases and fully operable. Magazines, software, VHS or cassette tapes, adult content, and unauthorized or illegal material will not be accepted.

Items will be organized into the following categories: Fiction, Children, Teen, Non-Fiction, DVDs and CDs/Vinyl. This swap is completely free; items cannot be purchased with money. Any remaining items left at the end of the swap will be donated.

Kennesaw Parks & Recreation seeks willing hearts and helping hands to assist with the set-up, execution and breakdown of event activities. Assistance is needed during drop off and at the event with receiving, sorting, counting and bagging items. Volunteers must have the ability to bend, stoop, stand and lift up to 20 lbs. Those interested are invited to explore the list of volunteer opportunities and sign-up for a volunteer shift on the registration website, CivicRec. Please select "Volunteer Opportunities" to see a full list of volunteer opportunities for the annual Book Swap.

For additional information, please visit <https://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/bookswap/>.

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ARTS ALLIANCE NEWS

Join us as we present our Member Exhibit now through February 24. This exhibit is free and open to the public.

A reception is planned for Saturday, February 4, 4-7 with light refreshments available.

In addition to our featured exhibit, we have original art, prints, notecards, glass, pottery, jewelry, wood, resin, fabric work...created by our Member Artists also available! As always, we offer a broad variety of art styles and mediums. All Artwork at the Art House is for sale!

The Art House is located at 4425 Cherokee Street, Acworth. OPEN Tuesday-Saturday, 12-6 P.M. Call 678-543-5777

NORTH COBB ROTARY

North Cobb Rotary meets at Copelands New Orleans every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m., feel free to stop by in the coming weeks for great food, great fellowship

NOW HIRING

Day Break Village is hiring Resident Assistants (All Training Provided). C.N.A.'s / Cooks / Housekeeping & Maintenance. And Always looking for Awesome Volunteers

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NAVIGATING LIFE - GOD'S WAY

First Baptist Church of Marietta invites you to attend their gathering of women: Navigating Life - God's Way on Saturday, January 28, 2023 9:00 am until 1:30 pm. Join them for a day of fellowship, learning from God's Word and enjoy a time of worship and music with Courtney Farist and guest speaker, Kathy Cook. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit mariettafbc.org/womens-ministry.

WELCOME NEW ADVERTISER

Sapphire Paradise, a locally owned business, creates hand crafted candles which may be ordered at www.sapphireparadise.com. Rudolph Shepherd, a professional perfumer, and his wife are the owners of this business.

ART BLOOMS SMITH- GILBERT GARDENS

Call for Artists for their temporary art exhibit at Smith-Gilbert Gardens. Submission deadline is February 10, 2023. Theme is Metamorphosis.

Smith-Gilbert Gardens invites artists to submit proposals of existing and new outdoor art works for consideration for Art Blooms. This annual exhibit is a temporary installation taking place April and May of 2023 in various locations at Smith-Gilbert Gardens. The work will continue to be exhibited until December 1, 2023. Please email Questions to: Vanita Keswani at vkeswani@kennesaw-ga.gov. More info online at <https://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/download/call-for-artists-2023>.

KENNESAW REC CENTER ALERT

2023 Membership Rates, Effective 1/1/2023 (Renewal and New)

Yearly Rate (Good for 1 year from the date of membership). City of Kennesaw Residents \$10. Non Residents \$20.

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GEORGIA FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL - MARCH 23-26
A world-class culinary and beverage celebration will take place this spring in Marietta, March 23 - 26, 2023 at Jim R. Miller Park. The Georgia Food + Wine Festival will be a showcase of cuisine, beverage and culture that showcases Georgia celebrity chefs, local chefs, celebrity winemakers/vintners, artisans, farmers, local craft spirits and beers, along with renowned wine, spirits and beer brands from around the globe. The festival offers a wide variety of events for all tastebuds and budgets, with a variety of tasting events, shopping, live music, and more.

JRM Management manages and produces fairs and festivals throughout Georgia and South Carolina. The festival will again partner with a local non-profit to bring funds back into the community.

The festival organizers look forward to bringing this top-tier culinary event to Cobb County. The Georgia Food + Wine Festival takes place at Jim R. Miller Park, in Marietta, at 2245 Callaway Road



A glimpse of what is happening. Check out <https://www.georgiafoodandwinefestival.com/> for more information.

Friday, March 24 - "Fired-Up" 7:30-9:30pm, Jim R. Miller Park. Tickets: \$75 Winter Rate (Jan/Feb), \$85 March/Gate

This BBQ Extravaganza is a showcase of the southeast's most celebrated Pitmasters and grill masters with wine, beer and spirits - live music and more. Enjoy unlimited beverage tastings in a souvenir glass, along with delicious grilled, smoked and roasted gourmet BBQ bites - all included with ticket price. *FREE parking, 21 & older only event,

no pets allowed.

Saturday, March 25, 1 - 4 pm, "Savor, Georgia Food + Wine Festival", Tickets: \$79 Winter Rate (Jan/Feb), \$99 March/Gate

A fun afternoon of culinary and beverage tastings, with live music, celebrity chef demonstrations, interactive stations from several world-renowned beverage experts. Tickets include a souvenir glass for unlimited beverage tastings from hundreds of wines, beer and spirits exhibitors, and each guest will receive \$10 in Tasting Credits and can be used to purchase additional credits throughout the festival. *FREE parking, 21 & older only event, no pets allowed.

Sunday, March 26 12:00 - 5:00 pm, "Sunday/Funday" (Family-friendly event), Tickets: \$20 Winter Rate (Jan/Feb), \$25 March/Gate

A fantastic festival finale with live music and a variety of delectable restaurants, farmers, artisans, and food trucks, and a variety of beverages for purchase. A family friendly event with something for everybody in the family, including a free Kids Zone.

The Georgia Food + Wine Festival will take place March 23 - 26, 2023 with culinary, wine, beer and spirit tasting experiences, with schedule events and talent subject to change. The most up to date festival information is available on the Georgia Food + Wine Festival website and the festival's social media channels: Facebook, Instagram. Please contact Missy Miller missy@georgiafoodandwinefestival.com for festival information, festival photography and assets.



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Buy Early & Save!

FRIDAY MARCH 24TH FIRED-UP DECEMBER \$55 WINTER (JAN/FEB) \$75 MARCH/GATE \$85	SATURDAY MARCH 25TH SAVOR DECEMBER \$59 WINTER (JAN/FEB) \$79 MARCH/GATE \$99	SATURDAY MARCH 25TH VIP LOUNGE AT SAVOR DECEMBER \$125 WINTER (JAN/FEB) \$150 MARCH/GATE \$165	SUNDAY/ FUNDAY MARCH 26TH FAMILY FRIENDLY DECEMBER \$15 WINTER (JAN/FEB) \$20 MARCH/GATE \$25	SUNDAY MARCH 26TH OYSTER ROAST VIP LOUNGE DECEMBER \$55 WINTER (JAN/FEB) \$65 MARCH/GATE \$75
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THE ACWORTH'S MAYOR'S DESK

Happy New Year Acworth! We are excited for a wonderful 2023. With so many blessings in our city last year, we look forward to embracing all the good things to come as our community prospers with growth in our leadership and city projects as we continue working together making Acworth the best place to call home.

Last month, Chief of Police Jesse Evans was sworn into office at the Acworth Community Center. We are so pleased to have Chief Evans joining Acworth in such an important leadership role and working hard to fill the big shoes that Chief Wayne Dennard created with his over 20 years of service to our city. Chief Evans has most recently served as Chief Assistant District Attorney in Paulding County, and last summer began intensive training to prepare for this important new position. A North Cobb High School graduate who grew up right here in downtown Acworth, we couldn't be more grateful to have such a good fit to lead our Acworth Police Department. His love for his community is strong, and Acworth is lucky to have such a knowledgeable and selfless leader on board to keep our city safe. We look forward to everything Chief Evans will achieve in Acworth, and we want to thank Chief Dennard for his steadfast love, leadership, and friendship that he has given to our city with his years of extraordinary service.

January is such a special month in Acworth, and we invite you and your family to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day with us. On Monday, January 16, the Acworth Achievers will host the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Celebration in the Parkside District of Acworth. The event begins with a reception breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the Roberts School followed by a unity walk to the Acworth Community Center at 9:15 a.m. The unity walk brings us together as we walk arm in arm to show our love and respect for every member of our community. We look forward to this annual tradition celebrating the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Following the unity walk, a program will take place at the Acworth Community Center. We encourage you to turn this day off into a day on by celebrating with a local service project. For more information on how to get involved, please visit www.acworthparksandrec.org.

As always, for the latest information on any of our events and projects, you can visit www.acworth.org, sign up for our e-news blasts on our home page, "like" City of Acworth on Facebook, or follow us on Instagram at @cityofacworthga.

May God Bless You and Your Families, Tommy

**CHIEF JESSE
EVANS**

On December 1, 2022, Mayor Tommy Allegood swore in Officer Jesse Evans as the Acworth Chief of Police. Chief Evans succeeds Chief Wayne Dennard who currently serves as the Public Safety Director for the department. Chief Evans thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen as well as City staff for their support in continuing the trajectory and vision for the department, and further thanked the public for their support and attendance. Chief Dennard and Chief Evans are pictured at left.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION**

The Acworth MLK Celebration and Day of Service will be held Monday, January 16, 2023. The community is welcome to join us for a light welcome breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the Roberts School Community and Education Center. Following the welcome breakfast, the Unity Walk will begin at 9:15 a.m. and leave from the Roberts School and finish at the Acworth Community Center. Our program honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will take place at 10:00 a.m. in the Tanyard Creek Overlook of the Acworth Community Center. After the program concludes, we will begin our service project helping an organization in our community. MLK Day of Service merchandise will be for sale at the Acworth Community Center leading up to and on the day of the event. All proceeds will go towards the Acworth Expanding Horizons and Acworth Achievers programs. For more information on the Acworth Expanding Horizons and Acworth Achievers programs, please visit www.acworthexpandinghorizons.org. For additional information, please contact Jordon Gonzalez at jgonzalez@acworth.org

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA POLAR PLUNGE

Special Olympics Georgia is proud to present the 14th Annual Polar Plunge which will be held on Saturday, February 25th at Cauble Park in Acworth, Georgia, and the plunging will occur between 9:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Polar Plunge is one of Special Olympics Georgia "coolest" and largest fundraising events through the efforts of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Program (LETR). All proceeds raised go to help provide 26,620 Special Olympics Georgia athletes free year-round sports training. For more information and to register, visit polarplungega.org.

**ACWORTH'S SENIOR
LUNCHEON**

Join us every third Wednesday of the month for lunch and bingo at the City of Acworth's Senior Luncheon. This program is FREE to all seniors but you must RSVP to attend. Reservations will be accepted the week prior to the event. The event is the 3rd Wednesday of the Month at the Acworth Community Center (4361 Cherokee Street Acworth, Ga 30101) RSVP: (770) 917-1234

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Learn how to line dance with knowledge, technique, and style all while staying fit! Join Leslie in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no experience is needed and all you need is a smile and your own two feet. Intermediate, beginner, and evening classes meet on Tuesdays in monthly sessions. Additional information and registration are available at www.acworthparksand recreation.org.

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ABA’S GIFTS OF LOVE

At the December ABA Luncheon, Kim Wigington, Brookwood Christian and past president of ABA presented checks to the following schools and non profit organizations.
Acworth Baseball Association, President Kyle Steele; Acworth Football and Cheerleading Association, Tim Banks; Expanding Horizons Program, Program Coordinator Jordon Gonzalez; Horizon Field, Program Coordinator Lauren Ham; American Legion/Ron Asby PTSD Dog Donation, Commander Naomie Munevar; Allatoona High School, Assistant Principal Chris Murray; Allatoona High School Shop with a Buc Program, CTAE Teacher Emily Varner; North Cobb High School, Coach Shane Queen; North Cobb High School Shop with a Warrior Program, Principal Matt Moody; Kennesaw Mountain High School, Principal Nathan Stark; Kennesaw Mountain Shop with a Mustang Program, Assistant Principal Billy Richardson; Brookwood Christian School, Principal Kim Wigington; Cornerstone Preparatory School, Marsha Robbins and Amy Freiler; The Link School, Rebecca Sartain; Acworth Turkey Chase Donation, Recreation Coordinator Eddie Lacher; YMCA Summer Lunch Program, Erica Swales.



ACWORTH’S GOLF CART PARADE A HUGE SUCCESS

The wintery weather of rain and cold temperatures didn’t dampen the spirits of Acworth’s hardy golf cart owners. Over 70 golf carts, bedazzled in lights, ornaments, and glittering trim, drove the streets of Acworth on Wednesday evening, December 21 at 6:00 pm. Lots of laughs took place as themed carts with Elivs, the Grinch , Cousin Eddie and more rolled past Acworth’s businesses and residences. Pictured above with their tribute to Elvis Golf Cart is Charlene Fisch (the shortest lady in the photo) with family and friends.

ART EXPLOSION WINTER BREAK CAMP

It’s time to get those creative juices flowing! Our Art Explosion Camp has a full week of non-stop art projects and activities. Throughout this fun week of camp, we will work with different art styles like fabrics and dyes, watercolors, paper making, paint, clay and more! We will also go on a fun, art-themed field trip included in your costs! Prepare to roll up your sleeves and create your next masterpiece. Campers are encouraged to dress in clothing ready to get painted, stained and splattered! Camp will take place Monday February 20 through Friday, February 24. Camp hours are 9:00am - 4:00pm and early drop off and late pick up are included in the costs. This camp is open to children ages 6-13. The cost of this camp is \$125 for City of Acworth residents and \$150 for non-residents. Registration and additional information are available at www.acworthparksandrecreation.org.



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PIEDMONT CHURCH’S LOVE DOES PROGRAM

For over a year, the Bright Side has written each month about the Love Does Program at Piedmont Church. This program is funded by the congregation with FREE WILL GIFTS - meaning they donate money over and above their tithing commitment.

Below is a brief breakdown of what Love Does has contributed to our frontline ministries and local schools in our community.

January: Over 8500 soup cans were given that stock, store house, ministries, MUST Ministries, and various other local school and partner food pantries

February: Seven Sensory rooms were funded in Cobb and Marietta schools for a total of \$17,500. Refurbished the Special-Needs Cobb adult home for \$10,000. Love Does supported Camp Trach Me Away, Tommy Nobis Center, Brookwood Christian School and Grace Point School for the Dyslexia. And provided the buses for all special-needs dances in Cobb ALL TOTALING \$31,500 donated for special needs children and adults in our community.

March: Piedmont donated funds to purchase over 96,000 eggs and candy for the Northeast Cobb egg drop. Raised \$24,500 that was given to all the Northeast Cobb Schools and Marietta City Schools. (Pictured above are Marlon Longacre presents the principals of these schools with a check from the Egg Drops.

April & May Piedmont Love Does program fed 17 schools with over 1600 teachers breakfast and lunch

June: Gave \$55,000 to local Frontline ministries and partners including \$25,000 to build MUST Ministries chapel in their new shelter and \$10,000 for their local summer lunch program.

July: Over 742 fully loaded backpacks were given to local schools for kids in need

August: Over \$24,500 worth of undies were donated to local shelters and schools as well as over 21,000 diapers donated to local shelters and Frontline ministries

September: Love Does donated \$5000 to Wreaths Across America and donated \$6000 to seven local high schools’ NJROTC and JROTC programs

October/ November:

Love Does donated over 640 love does grocery bags to local schools for holiday meals including turkeys for each bag. See photo at right.

December: Love Does raised money to purchase meal plans for ten homeless KSU students (who have graduated out of the foster care program) and money to provide scholarships for kids to attend summer camp.

Totals for 2022

Over 10,000 hotdogs and hamburgers cooked

Over 1718 volunteer hours accrued from Love Does Events

Over \$300,000 dollars given through the Love Does program

Marlon Longacre is the Associate Pastor at Piedmont Church and the Director of the Love Does Program.



JANUARY 2023 LOVE DOES PROJECT

The Souper Bowl of Giving is January’s Love Does project. All the front-line food shelters need help restocking their pantries. They are extremely low in soups. Please be on the lookout for sales.

Front-line shelters such as KSU Cares, The Children’s Haven, Cobb Center for Young Adults, Special Needs Cobb, Foster4Love and Georgia Military Care need laundry detergent. If you want to participate with this program, email Marlon at marlon.longacre@piedmontchurch.tv.

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MARIETTAFBC.ORG/WOMENS-MINISTRY

SETTING AND REACHING GOALS

BY MARLON LONGACRE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR PIEDMONT CHURCH

So many of us take the week after Christmas off to relax and begin to think about next year's goals and dreams. If I had one wish for all of you it would be for you to know the dream and vision that God has for your life. Everything that God wants to do in your life will start with a dream. The bible tells us in Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish." You must have a dream for your life. The two most important things, the hardest things in life -- are: 1) Thinking bigger than you have ever thought before, and 2) Getting started.

With this month's EPIC Emails, we are going to look at how you get started. In Genesis 24, there is a passage with ten practical steps on how to reach your dreams. This month's column will address the first five steps. You cannot skip any of these steps. They are a process -- God's process -- for how to reach your goals. Genesis 24 talks more about success than any other chapter in the Bible. If you follow these things, I guarantee that they will help you reach your goals.

1. DETERMINE YOUR POSITION

You must evaluate your present condition. Do a self-assessment. Honestly look at your own life. If I were to call you on the phone and ask you for directions to your house. The first thing you would say to me is "Where are you at right now? Starting the goal, you first say, "Where am I?" In each step, I will give you at least one question to ask yourself. The question you ask in this step is this: Where am I now? Why am I where I am? What would I like to change in my life? Where am I now? This step may require a little humility. It is ok to ask for help. I got up early this morning and talked to God first before I talked to anyone else. I have heard Ike say too many times "You cannot rise up above in public what you are not in private with God." I have many dreams, but before reaching them I must develop my quiet time.

2. DEFINE YOUR PURPOSE.

If you are to reach your goal, the second thing is defining it. Be clear, be precise, get a picture of it. Visualize it. A fuzzy goal will never be achieved because you do not know how to get there. You do not know when you will be there. You must be specific, clear-cut. You focus on your target. You define it.

Three questions to ask yourself here: 1. Where do I really want to be? Ask yourself that. Force yourself to think bigger by asking yourself tough questions. 2. What do I really want? What do I really want in life? 3. How will I know when I get there?

When you set a life goal, you must be specific. You say, "I want more income." How much? You say, "I want to travel." Where? You say, "I want to witness somebody." Who? You say, "I want to read the Bible." How often? Be specific about it. "I want a job." What kind of job? Define your purpose.

Proverbs 16:9 reads "We can make plans, but it is the Lord that determines our steps." Please as your setting goals for 2023 stay connected to God. Develop that quiet time. Remember God is far more interested in your development than He is about you reaching your goals.

3. YOU MUST DISCOVER A PROMISE

You do not look at your own resources. You do not look at your own abilities. You do not look at what you can do. You look at God. You look at what He wants to do, and you find a promise. You do not worry about all the "How's" and all the problems. That is another stage later. Right now, you simply discover a promise.

Do you believe that faith can move mountains? He can move mountains and it is through the power of believing that God acts. When you study the word of God and you find that every time God moved out of heaven, moved on earth, and did a miracle it was because somebody believed. God is going to do a miracle through you in 2023 because you believed and claimed a promise from God.

The fourth step that Genesis 24 teaches us on how to reach our goals in 2023 is:

4. YOU MUST DESCRIBE THE PROFIT

In any goal, whether it is a personal goal or a church goal or a family goal or whatever, the next step is to describe the profit. Every goal must have a payoff, or you will not be motivated to achieve it. There must be a reward. There must be a payoff, a profit. Settle the value of the goal in your mind and say "I'm going to give my time and my energy to this because I know it's worthwhile. There's value to it." Describe the profit and know exactly what it is.

Questions: Why do I want it? In reaching any goal, before you can reach it, you must stop and ask, "Why do I want it? What is the reward, the prize, the payoff? How will I feel when I achieve it?" Visualize it in your mind. This produces a powerful desire, and you must have a consuming desire. Most people in life are not consumed by anything. They are lukewarm about it all. When you have a consuming desire, you will reach your goal.

God is not the author of chaos. Ephesians 2:10 and Jeremiah 29:11 talks about how God plans. If God plans, then we are to plan. It is biblical to plan and set goals.

5. DESIRE IN PRAYER

The question you ask yourself on this step is: How often do I pray about my goal? You may have never thought about it, but your prayer life reveals two things:

1. It reveals your desire. How badly do I want my goal? Just look at your prayer life and how much you pray about it. A lot of times God delays an answer, delays a goal, just to see if you really are serious. He is saying, "Is this just a passing whim or is it really a gut level desire of your life? I want to see how much you pray for it." If it is just a whim, you will mention it once. If you are serious about it, you will bring it to me until it happens.

2. It shows your reliance on God. Prayer says, "This is how I'm depending on God." If I do not think I need God, I will just go out and achieve it on my own. But my prayer life shows how much I am trusting God to help me with the goals. Pray regularly.

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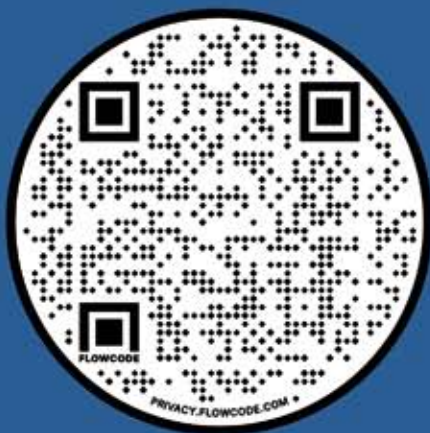


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BOUTIQUE PILATES STUDIO TO OPEN IN ACWORTH

Club Pilates, the nation’s largest premium boutique Pilates brand, will open its doors in Acworth in January 2023. An international brand, Club Pilates is a low impact, effective fitness routine loved by people of all backgrounds all over the world. These full-body workouts strengthen muscles, improve posture, and correct muscle imbalances, helping members feel their best and live life to its fullest, all while offering a low impact workout that can accommodate everybody.

In anticipation of the new studio, to be located at 3450 Cobb Parkway, Suite 2-250 (in the Plaza with FIVE GUYS), Club Pilates Acworth is offering 20% off the first three months of membership & no enrollment fee for their founding members.

The Acworth location is owned and operated by local small business owners, who are passionate about advancing health and wellness.

The bright studio welcomes members into a supportive atmosphere where they can choose a class type for every BODY - from high intensity and strength training to mobility and recovery. Experience the benefits of a workout using a variety of exclusive equipment, including Reformers, EXO chairs, TRX, TriggerPoint and springboard.

Club Pilates not only has nearly 800 studios open in North America, but is also one of the largest providers of a comprehensive Pilates Teacher Training Program in the world; the 500-hour program is designed to thoroughly and safely teach group Reformer Pilates classes along with TRX and Triggerpoint.

For more information about how to become a Club Pilates member in Acworth, please visit clubpilates.com/acworth and sign up for our Free Intro Class, or call 678-918-9988.

TOWN CENTER CID CELEBRATES

This year has been one of celebration and reflection as we celebrated our 25th Anniversary. So many community members, business leaders, and partners have been a part of the success here in Town Center. In our 25 years we have seen incredible growth and with the help of our partners, we have been able to complete transformational projects that make a difference. Together, we have imagined a vibrant future for Town Center. Today, Town Center looks very different than it did 25 years ago. We have grown from a more rural area when Barrett Parkway was called Roberts Road with just two lanes to now a vibrant community with the second largest university in the state, growing businesses in all sectors, connected and activated greenspaces and trails, and an increasing residential community.

Some key stats from our recent fiscal impact study shows just how quickly Town Center is growing and fulfilling our role as a regional activity center:

- Town Center supports more than 35,000 jobs at over 1,500 businesses;
- We have a diverse job market that has experienced rapid growth over the past 15 years, outpacing the county’s growth by 30%;
- Our businesses welcome over 35,000 employees from around Cobb as well as Cherokee and Fulton counties each day
- Town Center is now home to more than 13,000 residents with almost two-thirds being Millennials and young professionals

We have had so much to celebrate this year. In addition to acknowledging our milestone, we completed several key projects in 2022. We began the year with a brand refresh and a coming together of the CID and Alliance to be the Town Center Community. We imagined together to create a mall vision framework to plan for the very best future for Town Center. We officially broke ground on the third and final phase of South Barrett Reliever, our largest infrastructure project to date. And this fall, we recognized and honored our founding executive director and community members that have made significant contributions to the CID with the creation of the Lanie Shipp Hoover Fund and the Townies.

CIDs were created to work together, bring communities together, and create a shared vision together. This is where the secret sauce can be found in Town Center. It is our people and how we come together to create community. This community, Town Center, is special. The future is so bright, and we will continue to invite you to imagine with us, because WE ARE better together.

NOONDAY SHANTY 5 AND 10 K

Kick off your spring running season and enjoy the scenic views along Noonday Creek Trail while supporting future greenspace and trail projects in the Town Center area. This event will feature two USA Track & Field certified race lengths, a paved course on the trail and roadway. Runners, walkers, and families are all encouraged to participate.

Mark your calendar for March 25, 2023, 10K Start: 7:45 am; 5K start: 8:00 am. Register for 5K is \$30 until March 21, for 10K is \$35 until March 21. https://raceroster.com/events/2023/59555/noonday-shanty-5k10k. Brought to you by Town Center Community Alliance.

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KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

BY DANA DORRIS, 2010 AND 2022 PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



It's that time of year where most people are focusing on goals and resolutions for the new year ahead. Whether or not you're a fan of new year resolutions, most agree that setting goals is a must. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once said, "A goal without a plan is just a wish." In business, there are a few tips to help prepare your business for the coming year.

1. Considerable thought - What do you trying to accomplish for 2023? Is it more sales, improve client retention, or possibly improving your product offering? You have a clean page of your book, what do you want to change? Write down what you want to accomplish. Then consider collaboration time with your team. You might be surprised that your front line employees could share an idea that is a game changer for your business this year. In addition, good collaboration creates better employee

satisfaction and buy-in to execute your goals.

2. Creating your plan - Once your goals are established, create quarterly plans for faster execution. I recommend a simple outline that not only represent your goals, but map out the action items that are going to help you reach your goals. At the end of each quarter, rewrite your plan and add in new goals as the priorities change.

3. Execution of your plan - Focus on lead indicators which are performance measures that tend to indicate future performance. I always like to use the example of losing weight. If you want to lose 10 pounds, focus on actionable processes to achieve the goal. Instead of stepping on the scale each day (lag indicator), measure each day that you follow a healthy diet or track your exercise. Focusing on your lead indicators will result in goal achievement. It's the secret to accomplishment!

4. Financials - Map out your financial goals. January is a great time to pause, review and assess your bottom line from the prior year. Once you've established your sales goals and budget. Take time to develop your forecast by month.

5. Measurement- Don't forget to see how you measure up each month. Measurement is important and communicating your execution to your plan with your team is crucial. Determine what works best for your business, but keep a public scorecard so that everyone stays energized and engaged with winning as a team.

Creating goals, forecasting and dreaming of the future are all things I thrive on. Even though business goals are serious, there isn't any reason not to have fun with them in your work environment. Dream big and write your future.

Dana Dorris is Senior Partner of Risk & Insurance Consultants of North Georgia. To contact her - email her at ddorris@riskinsuranceco.com

ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

BY KELLY NAGEL, 2023 PRESIDENT

I am humbled, honored and enthusiastic about leading the Acworth Business Association in 2023. The ABA was an integral part of launching Nagel's Bagels. We are looking forward to a fantastic year in 2023. We have made some changes for this upcoming year that we hope will help simplify and make it easier to renew your membership. The goal is to make participation easy so that you can get the most out of being a part of this association. We strive to minimize the 'red tape' and create environments that are conducive to making connections

and getting business done so we can all grow, thrive and give back to others.

This year, we have changed the membership packages as one way to help reach that goal. The Presidential Package is still by far the best value for your dollar by including luncheons and sponsorship at all of our events in one package at an extreme discount.

The thing is, genuine authentic connections help business. Not just your business, but those around you. Helping others grow their business also has a way of helping you. Zig Ziglar said, "You can have everything you want in life as long as you help enough other people get what they want."

For 2023, I challenge all of us to Facilitate Connections. And although connections will benefit your business, the key is to focus on helping others. Maybe you can mentor someone new to your industry or join a mentoring program in one of the area schools. You can introduce someone who is new to networking to others in the room. Most importantly, get to know people on a personal level, not just through an electronic device. Nothing is as powerful as a personal connection and the more you make, the better we all will be.

Don't forget to go ahead and put our regular monthly events on your calendar so you don't miss any chances to connect with others. Here are the events:

I am looking forward to getting to know all of our members better this year. I am challenging myself as well as all of the ABA to reach further than they have before, to learn new things and to facilitate connections for themselves and others.

Let's have a great year of success and growth!

Kelly and her husband, Rich, own Nagel's Bagels on Main Street in Cartersville. Email Kelly at kelly@nagelunlimited.com.

ABA NETWORKING EVENTS

Luncheon - 1st Thursday - 11:30am @ the Acworth Community Center

Morning JOLT - 2nd and 4th Tuesday - 7:45am @ the Cowan Historic Mill

Alive After Five - 2nd Thursday - 5:30pm @ (check the ABA calendar online for rotating venues)

Women's Business Luncheon - 3rd Thursday - 11:30am (check the ABA calendar online for rotating venues)

Visit www.acworthbusiness.org

KBA NETWORKING EVENTS

Luncheon - 2nd Tuesday - 11:00-1:00 @ Kennesaw Rec Center, 2737 Watts Drive. K

Alive After Five, 3rd Tuesday - 5:30 pm. (check the kba calendar online for rotating venues).

Wake Up KBA, 4th Tuesday of every month, 8:00 to 9:00 am. (check the kba calendar online for rotating venues)

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BROOKWOOD CHRISTIAN SHARES HOLIDAY JOY
KRISTEN WIGINGTON

Brookwood Christian’s elementary school students spread some major holiday cheer around town this season. Starting with singing Christmas carols to residents of a local retirement and memory care community, Dogwood Forest.

Accompanied by parent and teacher volunteers, the students gave two performances during their time at Dogwood Forest. Coordinating in Brookwood Christian sweatshirts, created and designed by one of their parents.

The group of carolers started in the the memory care unit to an intimate group of residents. Later, many gathered around the lobby as they sang a medley of new and classic Christmas carols.

BROOKWOOD’S FIRST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Brookwood Christian School held its first Christmas pageant earlier this December. For the past month, a group of Brookwood Christian school students have tirelessly rehearsed after school five days a week. Mixed with classic Christmas carols, the pageant follows The Star of Bethlehem as depicted in the second chapter of gospel of Matthew. Showing King Herod’s disdain for The King of King’s birth. Concluding with The Three Kings delivering their offerings to the Messiah.

However, Mrs. Mary Claire Branton, Brookwood Christian School’s drama teacher wrote the classic tale with a twist. She wove her students personalities into the creation of the script. In doing so, she was able to write a perfect role for each performer. This made each of her students feel more comfortable and confident in their performances.

On the nights of both incredible performances, parents volunteered to bring in dinner before the performances, work backstage, and manage costumes. Between the two nights the pageant’s showings, more than one hundred attendees came out to support for the dedication of so many. Brookwood Christian School wants to wish our community a merry Christmas and to thank everyone who made this year’s pageant possible.

**RE/MAX AROUND ATLANTA ACQUIRES
RE/MAX UNLIMITED**

RE/MAX Around Atlanta is expanding its presence with the acquisition of RE/MAX Unlimited in Kennesaw, Georgia, the company has announced. The acquisition brings 40 new agents to RE/MAX Around Atlanta, bringing the brokerage’s total agent count to 150 under the leadership of broker/owners Megan Wyatt and Kristen Jones, a release stated.

Located in West Cobb County, RE/MAX Unlimited serves the Northwest metro Atlanta housing market. The brokerage was founded in 1996 by owners Pam and Gerry Rogers. Effective immediately, the office will now operate under the RE/MAX Around Atlanta name. RE/MAX Around Atlanta now operates five office locations throughout metro Atlanta, the release noted.

We are excited to welcome all of the outstanding sales associates from RE/MAX Unlimited to the RE/MAX Around Atlanta professional family. The increased REALTOR® base will add dynamic services and more geographical market depth for all of our clients,” said Kristen Jones, broker/owner of RE/MAX Around Atlanta.

The company says RE/MAX Around Atlanta and RE/MAX Unlimited have shared a legacy of success over the past 20 years, including being recognized as RE/MAX Brokerage of the Year for Georgia. The two firms achieved more than \$750 million combined sales volume in 2021.

Editor’s note: Our friend and RE/MAX Around Atlanta realtor, Kim Galletta, shares that she loves having her office seven minutes away from home!

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MARIETTA NEWS



2022 MARIETTA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

DR. DWIGHT "IKE" REIGHARD, MUST MINISTRIES

Dr. Dwight "Ike" Reighard is the President and CEO of MUST Ministries, which serves nearly 60,000 people a year struggling in poverty. Reighard has successfully combined business experience with ministry and has an outstanding reputation for transforming communities through serving others from 2011 to present. During Reighard's tenure, he has led the organization through the planning and opening of one of the country's most unique homeless shelters, the MUST Hope House; the launch of the MUST Mobile Pantry, which will serve nearly 17,000 families in its first year by bringing healthy foods to areas of food deserts; and serving an plethora of need during and after the pandemic to include helping several other local nonprofits by sharing food and resources.

Pastor Ike is also the senior pastor at Piedmont Church whose mission statement is serving the community in which we live, work and worship is the foundation for the spiritual journey from ordinary living to an extraordinary life through the transforming power of Jesus Christ. By engaging and partnering with our community, our aim is to serve as an inspiration and catalyst for improving the lives of our members and our neighbors.

Reighard has a heart for serving others in everything that he does, all without ever expecting anything in return. His smile, faith and advantageousness make it impossible to not feel warmth, hope and inspiration when he is in the room. He goes above and beyond in all that he does, ushering MUST Ministries to a level that likely no one could ever have dreamed of. Whether through MUST, Piedmont Church, his many volunteer efforts, school chaplain work, his media appearances or speeches, Reighard has changed the lives of millions of people, all with a humble heart and presence of gratitude. Pictured above is Dr. Reighard with his family.

MID-WINTER CAMP,

The City of Marietta's Parks & Recreation Department is pleased to announce registration for its Gem City Mid-Winter Camp, February 20– 24, for children ages 6 – 12, at Custer Park Sports & Fitness Center, 545 Kenneth E. Marcus Way, is now open.

Price is \$75 per camper for City of Marietta resident or \$100 per camper for non-City resident. Regular camp hours are 9:00am - 4:00pm with extended hours available for \$20 extra per child. Extended Hours are from 7:30am - 6:00pm.

Important details for camp: Campers must provide own "cold" sack lunch. Please have child eat breakfast before arriving to camp. Reusable water bottle is required.

Register in person at Custer Park, by phone at 770-794-5630



MARIETTA TREE KEEPERS

Keep your 2023 New Year's Resolution of giving back to your community and come out and join us for our January Tree Planting. We will be planting trees at The City Club Golf Course at the Hilton/Marietta Conference Center in Marietta. The address is: 510 Powder Springs Street, Marietta, Georgia 30064. The date is Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 9:00am.

Meet at the back of the clubhouse for golf cart transportation to the site on the grounds. Location phone number is 770-528-GOLF (4653). Directions: From I-75 take exit 263 (120 South Loop), go west 3.5 miles to Powder Springs Street (360), turn left, approximately 1/4 mile on the right, turn into the entrance of the Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Conference Center. The City Club Marietta clubhouse is to the left of the hotel.

The Bright Side Newspaper is online
WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM/WEB.NC.PDF



MPD SHOP WITH A COP A SUCCESS!

The Annual MPD SHOP WITH A COP event took place December 6, 2022 at the 210 Cobb Parkway Walmart, and due to help from our community, assisted a new record number of children.

As we have done in the past, Teachers and Administrators from the Marietta City School System nominated children that might not have otherwise been able to celebrate Christmas. Up from last year, SIXTY TWO children were able to participate this morning! With the cost of all goods rising, each child was allocated approximately \$250 to spend on themselves and their family. Their parents completed a list of things that would best benefit the child, including clothing sizes. Each child then went Christmas shopping, paired with an MPD Officer, Ambassador, Police Civilian Representative, or Volunteer.

As if that was not already amazing enough, the story does not stop there. Santa made an appearance to talk and take photos with the children after they finished shopping. Walmart provided a room for us to gather, as well as snacks and drinks for all the participants. Volunteer “elves” from WellStar Kennestone Hospital gift wrapped each item the children purchased as presents for their families. Volunteers from Riverstone Church brought arts and crafts for the participants to make while they waited for their presents to be wrapped, and their friends to finish shopping. Local volunteer, Gisela Magnus, knitted hats and each child was able to pick one out to take home.

This annual event would not be possible without the support of several Marietta business and organizations. This was truly a shining example of our community coming together to support a cause.



SHELLEY ELDER HONORED

Cobb Community Foundation (CCF) presented Shelley Elder with the 2022 James L. Rhoden, Jr. Award for Visionary Philanthropy at the Monday Marquee meeting of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce in December.

The James L. Rhoden, Jr. Award for Visionary Philanthropy was created by the Board of Cobb Community Foundation in conjunction with its 10th anniversary in December 2003, to honor founder, Jim Rhoden. The award is voted on annually by the Board to recognize and honor a Cobb business and community leader who makes significant contributions to our community through gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Nominees are recognized in Cobb County for their commitment to improving the quality of life for Cobb residents and meeting critical needs of the community as demonstrated by their leadership and/or service work.

Shelley serves on the boards of the YMCA, LiveSAFE Resources, The Extension, Cobb County Schools Foundation, Kennesaw Public Safety Foundation, North Cobb Rotary, Town Center Alliance, and Kennesaw Business Association.

Elder humbly accepted the award saying, “I’m so proud to be part of these efforts ... where we give and keep giving because that’s what’s important for our community.”

Shelley is a partner at Crane Elder Law Firm where she works with her son Stephen. Their firm is well known for compassionately working to meet the needs of the community. We are proud to name Shelley Elder as this year’s recipient of the James L. Rhoden Visionary Philanthropist award. pictured above l-r Shari Martin and Shelley Elder.

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