

WFRS – 88.9 FM – Smithtown, NY
Issues/Program List
“COMMUNITY BRIDGE”
A 5-Minute Program Heard Saturdays*
at 7:25 AM, 5:00 PM, and 7:55 PM
April – June, 2021

DATE	ISSUE	GUEST AND DESCRIPTION
April 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2021	Pal-O-Mine Therapy Horses Assist Disabled Persons in Smithtown	<p><u>Host:</u> Virginia Beehn</p> <p><u>Guest:</u> Lisa Gatti, Director, Pal-O-Mine Equestrian (Islandia, NY). www.pal-o-mine.org</p> <p><u>Description:</u> With a love of horses and a background of a Special Education teacher, our guest began Pal-O-Mine for therapy of children and adults with physical disabilities. A horse's gait mimics a human's and helps restore balance and physical benefits. About thirty percent of the clients are on the autism spectrum. Spoken commands to the horse helps with speech disorders.</p>
May 1 & 8, 2021	Physical, Mental & Spiritual Health Support for Local Moms	<p><u>Host:</u> Charrie Slater</p> <p><u>Guest:</u> Mandy Arioto, President & CEO, Mothers of Preschoolers (M.O.P.s) (Denver, CO). www.mops.org</p> <p><u>Description:</u> Moms truly deserve a day to be celebrated and especially appreciated. This Mother's Day, we learned about Mothers of Preschoolers and what this group provides to moms all over the world, including 67 countries around the world. MOPS has thousands of chapters throughout the United States, including near Smithtown. MOPS helps mothers with mental health, support, and encouragement in the Lord. This group that gathers together and online offers a safe place to connect with other mothers and have Christian fellowship. Mandy told us about some different ways to become involved, such as finding your local chapter or attending their upcoming national event in September.</p>
May 15, 2021*	Economic Recovery for Small Businesses	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser</p> <p><u>Guest:</u> Dr. Anne Bradley, Academic Director, Fund for American Studies (Arlington, VA) www.tifwe.org</p> <p><u>Description:</u> As small businesses have dealt with seemingly insurmountable odds during the pandemic, Americans have creatively helped each other. Culturally and theologically, work has been defined as secular rather than sacred in America; however, God created us and everything around us. Therefore, our call to a vocation and work is important to God and how we serve others. Whether wage earning in the marketplace or engaging in philanthropy, church, or the political realm, Christians must be committed to God's will. The Institute for Faith, Work and Economics (TIFWE) offers theological resources and practical</p>

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		ways to serve on their website. *This edition of WFRS’s <i>Community Bridge</i> also aired on 5/22 at 7:25 AM and 5 PM; 5/29 at 7:25 AM; and 6/5 at 7:25 AM.
May 22, 2021*	Supporting Small Business Employees’ Safe Return to Work	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Anne Bradley, Academic Director, Fund for American Studies (Arlington, VA). www.tifwe.org <u>Description:</u> Prior employment gains for minority communities were hardest hit by the pandemic and service sector workers who could not work from home suffered the greatest throughout the pandemic. While the virus was serious and had to be contained, the costs and benefits of the lockdowns must be considered: businesses and livelihoods have been adversely impacted. Dr. Bradley encouraged employees in the service sector be allowed to return to work as safely as possible and believes the most essential way to help the local economy is to end ubiquitous shutdowns.</p> <p>*This edition of WFRS’s <i>Community Bridge</i> did not air at 7:25 AM or 5 PM as scheduled on 5/22 due to technical problems but also aired on 5/29 and 6/5 at 5 PM.</p>
May 29, 2021*	The Local Church Key to Economic Rebound	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Anne Bradley, Academic Director, Fund for American Studies (Arlington, VA). www.tifwe.org <u>Description:</u> One positive pandemic outcome in the job landscape is added flexibility for workers and more openness to remote options. Local churches can be a part of the economic rebound. Dr. Bradley suggested that churches open up discussion, identify the needs of the community, assess the talents and skills of their local congregation, and then work towards mobilizing to help match the need with the human resource. Financial assistance could be offered, as well as mentoring of high school drops outs, older adults desiring to switch careers, or stay at home moms wanting a parttime career. Learn more about principles that reduce poverty and increase economic success at the Institute for Faith, Work and Economics website.</p>

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June 5,* 12, 19 & 26, 2021	Rescue of Military Pets in Smithtown	<p><u>Host:</u> Virginia Beehn <u>Guest:</u> Robert Misseri, President, Guardians of Rescue (Smithtown, NY) Public Phone: (888) 287-3864 www.guardiansofrescue.org <u>Description:</u> A program named “Nobody Left Behind” does everything possible to bring a war-time pet back to America. The animal is checked medically and reunited with the returning military person. The Guardians of Rescue also provides shelters for feral animals. All services are at no charge, and they depend on donations of sympathetic persons.</p> <p>*This edition of WFRS’s <i>Community Bridge</i> did not air at 7:25 AM and 5 PM as scheduled on 6/5 due to technical problems.</p>

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April 3, 2021	The Impact of Father Figures on the Fatherless (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Ron Archer, Author, World-Renowned Inspirational Speaker (Cleveland, OH). www.draronarcher.com <u>Description:</u> According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18.3 million children live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home. These children are affected with a greater risk of poverty, behavioral problems, and are more likely to face abuse and neglect, etc. Dr. Ron Archer shared a powerful message of inspiration, encouragement, and hope for fathers and the fatherless. Dr. Archer spoke about five (5) pillars that are the foundations in developing manhood and how God used men of the Bible to do incredible things, even with their faults – thus how God has never called the qualified but qualifies the called.
April 10, 2021	Public Policy in America & the Biblical Perspective on Humanity (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Richard Howe, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Apologetics, Southern Evangelical Seminary (Matthews, NC). www.ses.edu <u>Description:</u> For years, the sanctity of life has been under attack resulting in many moral and political debates about the point at which life becomes life. Recently, legislation was introduced that would allow the termination of life or abortion up to and even right after the birth of a child. Some high-level officials have issued statements committing to supporting this legalized abortion nationwide. Dr. Richard Howe shared how God's Word uncovers the truth and His creation reveals what makes each person valuable. He also addressed questions about what the Bible says about when life begins, ways that we can use physical attributes through science to advantage while relearning the spiritual basis for human value.
April 17, 2021	Coping with Life's Struggles & Mental Health (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Karl Benzio, Christian Psychiatrist, Medical Director, Honey Lake Clinic; Founder, Director, Lighthouse Network; Member, Christian Medical and Dental Association (Greenville, FL). www.lighthouse-network.org ; www.cmda.org <u>Description:</u> Pandemic concerns, financial worries, family burdens, failures...many things can turn routine days into days filled with anxiety, stress, and leave a person wondering what the future holds. Dr. Karl Benzio discussed how people can fix their

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		eyes on God and anchor to His Word to help them get through life's struggles. He also gave tips on not believing our feelings as truth, not isolating and discussed the differences in outcomes regarding two (2) individuals in the Bible responded after they had denied Christ.
April 24, 2021	The Importance of Churches Strengthening Families to Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Sharen Ford, Director, Foster Care and Adoption, Focus on the Family (Colorado Springs, CO). www.focusonthefamily.com <u>Description:</u> Sadly, it is estimated that here in America, more than 3.5 million children were the subject of an investigation/alternative response – with almost 700,000 children determined to be victims of maltreatment. Being overwhelmed, feeling isolated and stressed, raising children can often make a parent feel stretched and yearning for a helping hand to get through the day. Dr. Sharen Ford shared ways the church can be the hands and feet of Jesus, lifting parents up in times of need so that children are well cared for by emotionally healthy parents.
May 1, 2021	American Churches' Support of Global Families in Crisis (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Elli Oswald, Executive Director, Faith to Action Initiative (Nashville, TN). www.faithtoaction.org <u>Description:</u> Natural disasters, unemployment, and the loss of a loved one are some of just a few things that can happen suddenly and throw families here in America and throughout the globe into crisis. Those difficult times often involve making difficult choices. Elli Oswald shared ways believers can fill the gap to support (and care) for orphans, widows, and the fatherless. Ms. Oswald encouraged supporting families of children to help alleviate the possibility of children going to institutions.
May 8, 2021	The Importance of Mothers & Faith in the Home (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Elesha Coffman, Associate Professor of History, Baylor University and Writer, Christian Historical Institute (Waco, TX). www.christianhistoryinstitute.org ; www.baylor.edu <u>Description:</u> Mother's Day is right around the corner and is a time many reflect on mothers, even all the women in our lives – grandmothers, aunts, sisters, friends – who have all played a huge role in shaping us into who we are today. Dr. Coffman

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		talked about how women of the Bible and the early church handled motherhood and what they did to <i>“train up a child in the way he should go.”</i>
May 15, 2021	A Biblical Perspective on Money, Taxes, & Financial Stewardship (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Jim Denison, Chief Visionary Officer, Co-Founder, The Denison Forum (Dallas, TX). www.denisonforum.org <u>Description:</u> Because of the pandemic, the traditional “Tax Day” of April 15 th was pushed out until May 17 th this year. Regardless of the exact date, for many people in America just the mention of taxes can bring much dismay towards paying them. Paying taxes is not typically enjoyable for a lot of people today, just as in Biblical times. Dr. Denison explained why people need to pay taxes and what the Bible tells us about money, taxes, and financial stewardship. He also gave some interesting context behind the biblical accounts of Zaccheus and tax collectors, as well as practical tips on how to teach children about money from a biblical stewardship perspective.
May 22, 2021	Restoration & Healing of Relationships through Biblical Forgiveness (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Steve Diehl, Founder, Speaker, Author, Forgiveness Ministries (Concord, CA). www.forgivenessministries.org <u>Description:</u> Unresolved conflict, careless words spoken, long held resentment...some situations can leave people with feelings of anger, disappointment, and a dislike for another. Steve Diehl shared the effects of sin, the consequence of going through each day/time in life with unforgiveness and how unforgiveness effects a person’s body and soul. He then spoke about the path to biblical forgiveness, how it restores relationships, and the healing effect. Mr. Diehl talked about Forgiveness Ministries and about resources to help listeners learn more about the steps and principles that will help them experience the fullness of God’s love.
May 29, 2021	The Importance of Serving, Our Freedoms, & Pursuit of the American Dream (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Rev. Dr. Paul McCullough, Minister, Leader, Veteran, Mentor, American Bible Society (Philadelphia, PA). www.americanbible.org ; Brad Dacus, President, Pacific Justice Institute (Sacramento, CA). www.pacificjustice.org ; Dr. Carol Swain, Award-Winning Political Scientist, Author, Speaker, & Commentator (Brentwood, TN). www.carolmswain.com

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		<u>Description:</u> Here in the United States of America, we are blessed to pursue our dreams and read the Bible freely. This year for Memorial Day Weekend <i>Community Bridge</i> Program honored the freedoms we receive here in America and celebrated those who have served in our country's Armed Forces. The program featured Rev. Dr. Paul McCullough who talked about serving the armed forces, Brad Dacus, who explained the importance of religious liberties, and Dr. Carol Swain, who shared the impact of pursuing the American dream.
June 5, 2021	Removing Barriers & Unlocking Brighter Futures for Individuals with Criminal Justice Histories (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> James Ackerman, President and CEO, Prison Fellowship (Lansdowne, VA). www.prisonfellowship.org <u>Description:</u> The adult correctional population in the United States— those who are either on probation, on parole, or incarcerated – is approximately 6.4 million people. Statistics reveal that the population in the nation's prisons and jails has increased 500% over the last 40 years, making the U.S. the world's leader in incarcerations. James Ackerman talked about some of the reasons for this increase, ethnicity, etc. Mr. Ackerman also highlighted the human impact of the incarcerated and the two different outcomes for those who go to prison when and if they return. He shared an example of a man who was in prison and how he got involved with Prison Fellowship. Mr. Ackerman encouraged the church to reach out with Prison Fellowship through Angel Tree at Christmas, Justice Advocates, and Celebrate Recovery local chapters.
June 12, 2021	Navigating Challenges & Effective Parenting in Today's Culture (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Danny Huerta, Vice President, Parenting and Youth, Focus on the Family (Colorado Springs, CO). www.focusonthefamily.com <u>Description:</u> Growing up brings with it many adventures for children and often, and they rely on their parents and grandparents to help them navigate through the uncharted waters. But parenting also has challenges that are new to parents in America's ever-changing society. Dr. Huerta discussed how the role of a parent/grandparent has changed over the years and some of the challenge's with which parents/grandparents are confronted. He shared that the goal in effective parenting is to

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		shape your child to be a contributor to God's kingdom, not to be happy as the world urges – even if it means difficult times. Dr. Huerta shared scripture that instructs parents to teach the Word of God to your children, some traits of effective parenting, and practical examples of what to encourage kids and build life in the home. He talked about an assessment listeners can take to see the strong areas the parent has, what areas the parent needs to work on, as well as resources to help them after the assessment.
June 19, 2021	Overcoming the Challenges of Fatherhood & Thriving as a Dad (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Jim Daly, President and Chief Executive Officer, Focus on the Family (Colorado Springs, CO). www.focusonthefamily.com <u>Description:</u> Fatherhood is a time of great joy but underneath the surface of masculinity, power and strength lies an enormous amount of pressure, unknown challenges, and the fear of failure for many dads. Fatherhood can be a source of stress – the responsibilities can strain marriages, shrink finances, and stretch emotional limits. Jim Daly talked about being a dad as a lifelong commitment and gave some examples of the pressure's dad's face, along with the importance of having a father in a child's life. He also shared ways to overcome these challenges and how to thrive as a dad today.
June 26, 2021	Economic Recovery for Small Businesses (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Anne Bradley, Vice President of Economic Initiatives, Institute of Faith, Work & Economics (IFWE). (Tysons, VA). www.tifwe.org <u>Description:</u> As the pandemic gripped America last year, normal lifestyles were suddenly disrupted and replaced with social distancing, masks, remote learning/working, etc. One of the hardest hit areas were small businesses. Dr. Anne Bradley recounted some of the challenge small businesses are encountering now and how having a solid biblical and economic understanding concept can be applied to help businesses recover. Dr. Bradley also addressed unemployment, remote working/learning, the condition of the current U.S. job market, and the current job trends for individuals entering the job market.

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April 1, 2021	Serving the Health Compromised	One local Kansas Police Chief posed a challenge to every one of his officers, “What positive impact will you make in your community today?” Well, one officer wasted no time in spreading kindness. Over the weekend, the Hutchinson Police Department posted a photo on social media showing Officer Wells mowing the yard of a woman with health issues and was struggling to get the job done on her own. So, the officer stepped in and kindly offered to finish mowing the lawn for her.
April 2, 2021	Adoption Awareness	Gary and Pamela Willis have been fostering children for several years and even have five biological children of their own...so the idea of adoption never crossed their mind. But when Pam heard about 7 siblings who needed a home after their parents died in a car crash, Pam said, “I can’t explain it – I just knew I was supposed to be their mom – it’s what God wanted us to do!” The children, ranging from ages 1-12 years, had experienced extensive trauma early in life, but now have a new permanent home with Pam and Gary after being officially adopted.
April 5, 2021	Help for Families Facing Eviction	As the 6th grade class’s monopoly champion, Marjy Stagmeier knew that one day she would grow up to be a landlord... but what she didn’t know is what a positive difference she would make! After investing in old, affordable apartment communities, Marjy launched her own 501c3 nonprofit that provides free on-site services to families and —and <i>Star-C</i> has since become a blessing for families. <i>Star-C</i> has now raised over \$9 million, giving the ability to help over 3,000 families avoid eviction.
April 6, 2021	Law Enforcement Officers Assisting the Elderly	Some law enforcement officers take their duty “to protect and serve” very literally. Last month, a team of officers in Tallahassee, Florida, received a distress call from a woman trapped in her home. What they discovered is that she uses a wheelchair to get around, but the wooden ramp leading to her front door had fallen into disrepair and she could not get to her vehicle. The woman said she did not know who to contact for the repair, so the officers said they’d make some calls. Well, the very next weekend, dozens of law enforcement officers and their families showed up — on their day off — to tear down the old ramp and build her a brand new one!

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April 7, 2021	Fighting Childhood Cancer	Tackling childhood cancer and homelessness is a serious challenge, but an 8-year-old cancer survivor is fighting for the cause one box of cookies at a time! “Lilly” was born with a rare form of bone cancer and she’s celebrating her victory of the disease by giving back some of the proceeds from her Girl Scout cookie sales. Lilly has sold over 32,000 boxes of cookies in just three months and most of the funds are going toward cancer research and feeding the homeless.
April 9, 2021	Assisting Homeless Mothers	Now everyday in California we hear new reports of those returning to a cycle of homelessness! While millions of dollars come in each year to end the crisis, nothing more than bandages are offered. A Christian nonprofit called <i>Acrea of Hope</i> is helping homeless mothers and their families by providing housing and long-term assistance! The charity currently has 12 housing units on its campus, where each family is offered life skills training, professional counseling, and spiritual mentoring.
April 12, 2021	Clothing for the Needy	If there’s a young person in your life who’s in need of a fresh summer wardrobe, then send them over to the <i>Kindness Closet</i> ! Fifth grader “Andi” always enjoyed helping others in need by bagging up clothes she’d outgrown and delivering them to Goodwill... but this year, when she heard that some of her own friends wished for better clothes, she knew it was time to raise the bar! So, she created a one stop shopping center – at her own school! Andi approached her principal with her idea to create a <i>Kindness Closet</i> , a place students can visit during the school day to "shop" for clothes.
April 13, 2021	Helping the Physically Impaired Overcome Obstacles	He may only have a half a heart, but in everything he does, it’s done with a heart full of passion! After undergoing multiple heart surgeries from birth, 21-year-old Bobby Zabarasky has spent a lifetime defeating obstacles and pushing forward, no matter what. Despite suffering with severe cognitive damage and impaired mobility, Bobby has gone on to accomplish anything and everything he sets his mind to, from studying computer science to competing as a swimmer in the Special Olympics!
April 15, 2021	Meeting the Community’s	A community in Hawaii is spreading the “power of aloha” after coming together to purchase a car for a selfless young man. It all started when 22-year-old Aina Townsend found a brown wallet left behind in one of

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	Transportation Needs	the shopping carts at a local grocery store. After figuring out who it belonged to, Aina decided to return the wallet to its owner. Chloe and her husband were so overwhelmed by the kind gesture that they and several others in their community started a GoFundMe page to help Aina buy a new car.
April 16, 2021	Mortgage Payment Assistance	Thirty years ago, when Jessie Hamilton worked as a cook on the campus of Louisiana State University, she developed a family-like bonds with many of the students. That is why when a group of fraternity brothers learned their “second mom” needed help to retire, she didn’t even need to ask. This group of fraternity brothers, who still keep in touch with one another, started tag teaming for financial donations to pay off her mortgage and give her a nice little cushion, as well. With donations averaging between \$600 to \$1,000 from about 900 alumnae, the group raised over \$50,000!
April 19, 2021	National Volunteers Week	All systems are “go” for National Volunteer Week! A time when folks across America recognize volunteers for their vital support in their communities. So today we recognize eighty-five-year-old Everette Burkard! He’s been a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels in Nevada County, California, for 30 years. Mr. Burkard has clocked over 47,000 miles delivering meals to older adults facing hunger and isolation. Over the years, Mr. Burkard served on his local school board, spent five years as a volunteer firefighter, and 20 years playing his guitar every Sunday morning at senior centers around town.
April 21, 2021	Helping Amputees Retain Dignity	It was 8 years ago this week that Heather Abbott’s life was changed forever after her left leg was injured in the Boston Marathon bombing. Despite multiple surgeries, she made the agonizing decision to undergo an amputation. . . . a procedure that would not only cost tens of thousands of dollars, but also her dignity! Thankfully, with the help of multiple donations, those costs were covered, and she was gifted a prosthesis to help her return to normal life. But then she thought, what about the people in my position who can’t cover those costs? That is when she started the <i>Heather Abbot Foundation</i> . Since December 2014, her organization has raised more than \$1 million and helped provide customized prosthetic devices to more than 42 amputees across

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		the US, so they can play sports, stay active, and just as importantly, regain their dignity!
April 23, 2021	Providing Meals during COVID	Like many who took up new hobbies during quarantine, 15-year-old “William” took up baking as a hobby to help pass the time. But unlike many of us, William harnessed his hobby for good, and over the past year has raised \$100,000 for a local Tennessee food bank — all by making and selling his very own vanilla extract. When William noticed reports on the news of people struggling with food insecurity amid the pandemic, he said, “Hey, I can make this myself and help people in need!” Before long, the idea for <i>Vanilla Feeds Tomorrow</i> was hatched! Each bottle of vanilla extract sold provides 42 meals for those in need. So far, he's helped provide 300,000 meals total.
April 26, 2021	Tribute to Front-Line Workers	As part of a tribute to front-line workers fighting the coronavirus, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels and the Air Force Thunderbirds will fly over five cities this week. The Blue Angels will visit the skies over Detroit, Chicago and Indianapolis on Tuesday and the Thunderbirds will fly over Austin and San Antonio on Wednesday.
April 27, 2021	Honoring Our Veterans	To most people, Ken Potts is a humble man of few words, but to those in his community, he’s a remarkable hero! Ken is one of two remaining survivors who was aboard the USS Arizona battleship during the attack on Pearl Harbor. On the morning of December 7, 1941, as soon as the attack began, Ken used a small boat to rescue over 100 sailors who would’ve otherwise drowned in the waters of Pearl Harbor. To honor our brave hero, the governor of Utah recently declared April 15, 2021, to be the state’s official “Ken Potts Recognition Day,” a fitting celebration as he reached an incredible milestone: his 100th birthday!
April 30, 2021	Fighting Covid Overseas	With COVID cases on the rise in India, several Christian organizations are rising to the occasion bringing practical relief, encouragement, and hope to people who are suffering. Samaritans’ Purse is on the ground supporting a local hospital in one hard hit area, supplying much need medical supplies and working with local partners to provide food to more than 1,000 families in need. World Vision is also preparing to distribute funds for beds and oxygen devices in 93 hospitals.

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May 3, 2021	After School Programs	if you're a parent or grandparent, you know that virtual learning is certainly a challenge for your kids, but it's also a challenge for you as you balance all of life's demands. Well, Jennifer Maddox is helping families find that balance with her non-profit, after-school program <i>Future Ties</i> , which provides mentoring, tutoring and a safe place for Chicago's youth to learn. Jennifer transformed her center into an e-learning hub where laptops and WiFi are provided for children who don't have computers or dependable internet access, and they can also grab breakfast and lunch at the center.
May 5, 2021	Supporting Veterans through Creative Arts	A homeless retired U.S. Army Sergeant who spent his money helping other veterans battled Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) with his passion for art was just gifted a brand-new home in Virginia. <i>Hero Homes</i> , a non-profit organization designed for veterans, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday to hand over the keys to a finished home to Vainuupo Avegalio. As a visual artist, Avegalio spends his time volunteering at prisons and works with at-risk youth to help prevent suicide through his art workshops.
May 6, 2021	Hunger in America	One organization is taking a bite out of hunger by offering a classic lunch to those who need a little extra support during the pandemic. Volunteers with <i>Club Sandwich</i> are making up to 2,200 sandwiches a week and delivering them to seven missions in the Toronto area. What started as just a single sandwich has since grown to a team of 400 volunteers that has distributed 55,000 sandwiches since it began last May.
May 7, 2021	Teacher Appreciation	She started out as the school custodian. Years later, she is its most beloved teacher! On Tuesday, during Teacher Appreciation Week, a Texas community is honoring Wanda Smith, once the custodian at Brenham Elementary School. She had always dreamed of being a teacher, and so, after nine years of attending night classes while also providing for her family, she finally became a certified teacher in 2010. This week, Brenham's Mayor honored declared May 4th "Be the Best You Can Be" Wanda Smith Day in honor of one of Wanda's favorite phrases.

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May 10, 2021	Mother’s Day Reunion	Joyous reunions among vaccinated parents and children across the country marked this year’s Mother’s Day, the second one celebrated during the coronavirus pandemic. Some families separated by worries of transmitting the virus saw each other for the first time in more than a year! Last Mother’s Day, Jean Codianni celebrated with bacon and eggs over FaceTime. This time, she flew to New Jersey to surprise her 74-year-old mother, now that both have been vaccinated against COVID.
May 11, 2021	9/11 Remembrance	Twenty years after the attacks of 9/11, the families of the victims of United Airlines Flight 93 keeping the memory of their heroes alive by honoring others for their acts of selfless heroism. An annual reward for heroism is now being offered by Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial. The hope is twofold – to honor a hero’s sacrifice, and also to educate the public on what happened aboard the hijacked plane.
May 12, 2021	Spreading Kindness	Some are calling him America’s Chief Kindness Officer – an 8-year-old boy in Virginia has been going the extra mile to help the homeless in Washington DC. “Zohaib” says it’s a problem he sees with his own eyes and feels in his own heart... and so as part of Global Youth Service Day, Zohaib and other homeless advocates headed to the outskirts of DC to pass food, toiletry kits, and supplies to people in need. Each kit was filled with donations from local companies to whom Zohaib personally reached out.
May 14, 2021	Battling Childhood Cancer	As a young student is in a fight for his life against leukemia, his teacher is going the extra mile to make sure he comes out a winner! A veteran teacher of 35 years, Barbara Heim makes a 25-minute drive EVERY DAY to deliver the day’s lesson to second grader “Harrison,” ensuring that he keeps his spirits up and his learning on track as he goes through treatment. Harrison’s mother says, "It's not like a teacher is coming from school to teach, she's like an aunt who is coming over to hang out and she is always bringing a smile!"
May 17, 2021	Food Pantries & the COVID Pandemic	For these two friends, it is more than about delivering groceries, it’s about building the community. Over the past year, Maria Accardi and Constance Merritt have seen food pantries take a hard hit during the pandemic, and so they responded by hand-delivering groceries and

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		other essential items to their community. They even started the Kentucky based non-profit <i>Bringing Justice Home</i> to “create a community where everybody has what he or she needs to live a healthy life.”
May 19, 2021	Retraining Veterans to Enter the Workforce	Retraining veterans and rebuilding manufacturing... two of America’s biggest challenges today, and one former service member has found a solution for both! Navy veteran Hernan Prado sold everything he had to start his school, <i>Workshops for Warriors</i> . The goal was simple: train veterans over a four-month period to work in trade programs like welding and manufacturing, allowing them to take on good jobs with decent salaries. Today, graduates work at companies such as Space X, Ford, Boeing, earning an average salary of \$60k a year!
May 20, 2021	COVID Vaccine Availability	In of the poorest areas of Detroit, Keenon Carreker walks up to a Salvation Army mobile soup kitchen for a hot meal, and he left with a bag of food and his first COVID vaccine! Mobile care teams consisting of nurses are teaming up with the Salvation Army Bed & Bread trucks as they cruise Detroit to take vaccines to those most in need.
May 24, 2021	Christian Persecution	Now millions of persecuted Christians in the world are struggling to have a voice, but a young woman is devoting her to life to helping them be heard. Last year, Gia Chacon launched <i>For the Martyrs</i> after witnessing firsthand the persecution of Christians in South America, the Middle East, and beyond for refusing to renounce their faith in Christ. This nonprofit provides aid through food, clothing, transportation and Bibles and advocates for persecuted Christians through marches in major US cities. Her group will host its second annual <i>March for the Martyrs</i> event in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021.
May 25, 2021	Substance Abuse Recovery	After spending 10 years in prison, a former inmate is helping others find freedom through fitness! After being released for the crime of drug trafficking, “Hector” had trouble finding a job on the outside because of his past. But thanks to his passion for fitness, he eventually prevailed making name for himself in the New York fitness scene... Now, he devotes much of his time helping others do the same. His non-profit, A

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		<i>Second U Foundation</i> , helps formerly incarcerated men and women get certified as personal trainers and build careers in the fitness industry.
May 27, 2021	Hunger Relief with Food Pantries	In a year where it has been hard not to focus entirely on our personal struggles, one woman decided it was the perfect time to give back. When the pandemic first hit, Rhonda Lee, a native of Jackson County, West Virginia, saw a great need in her hometown. She quickly decided to take matters into her hands and began using her own money to run a food pantry right out of her basement! Each week, she would take out a portion of her paycheck, sometimes as much as \$200, and put it toward serving others. Even after she was laid off from her job in June last year, she pushed through, saving up enough money to keep the pantry going to this day!
May 28, 2021	Veteran’s Mental Health	Some of the strongest bonds in life are developed by soldiers on the battlefield, and the same is true with Military Handlers and their K-9 counterparts. So, it is heartbreaking when they have to part ways following their service. That is why one organization, <i>American Humane</i> , is making sure those bonds are never broken. Since 2014, the nonprofit has been working to ensure that military handlers are reunited with their canine companions once the dogs are officially retired.
June 2, 2021	Building Homes for Returning Veterans	A New Jersey veteran was left "absolutely speechless" after a charity gifted him with a brand-new smart home in honor of the recent holiday. Marine Sgt. Aaron Alonso was given less than a 1% chance of survival after stepping on an IED in Afghanistan in 2014, and he knew that life would never be the same for him. But when <i>Tunnels to Towers</i> (a charity conceived after 9/11), heard Sgt. Alonso’s story, they began building him a custom smart home in 2019.
June 5, 2021	Therapy of Bird Watching	While there is nothing like enjoying God’s creation this time of year, for some people that’s not possible due to physical challenges. Since 2015, Virginia Rose has been helping mobility-challenged people like herself participate joyfully in her favorite pastime: birding! Because navigating trails with a wheelchair can be impossible, she founded <i>Birdability</i> , a non-profit group that helps people find birding locations that fit their needs. So far, the group has mapped out more than 500 birding sites across the US.

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June 8, 2021	Leaving Notes of Hope	A woman who nearly leapt to her death from a bridge in 2018 now returns to that site regularly to post messages encouraging others who are battling thoughts of suicide! At only 18 years old, “Paige” found herself standing at the edge of the Wearmouth Bridge in England one evening, thinking about ending it all, when a pair of Good Samaritans approached her, and said “You are worth so much more than this.” That, she says, not only stopped her from jumping, but changed her life. The next day, Paige wrote those eight words on several pieces of paper and posted them all over the bridge. That’s where her campaign, <i>Notes of Hope</i> , began.
June 10, 2021	Helping At-Risk Youth through Farming	As the US prison population has seen a steady decline over the past 10 years, one organization is reclaiming state prisons and turning them into year-round farming centers for at risk youth! <i>Growing Change</i> creates an environment where youth on the edge of the crime can learn life skills, sustainable farming practices, and animal husbandry.
June 14, 2021	Honoring the American Flag	It is Flag Day here in the US and one California teenager is doing his part to honor Old Glory. Seventeen-year-old “Christian” decided to restore a massive concrete American flag in his local California park for his Eagle Scout project. Christian said he noticed that the concrete flag memorial was full of graffiti, skid marks, and all sorts of dirt... and after doing a little research, he discovered it was made during World War II to honor veterans. So, he and a few other Scouts decided to go to work on it... sanding down the flag and giving it a fresh coat of paint.
June 16, 2021	Cleaning Up America	What would you say is ideal way to spend a 3-week vacation? Well, for one Colorado woman, it meant picking up trash across the country! Having about a month off from her job at a campus recreation center, 24-year-old Stefani Shamrowitz decided to take a nationwide trip to help clean up the environment. She has now driven over 70 hours through over a dozen states including Arizona, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, picking up over 126 bags of trash.
June 17, 2021	Life Saving Transplant	When a woman marries, she’s generally showered with gifts. But one bride recently decided it was better to give than to receive... and she has given the gift of life! Just two days after she had taken her vows,

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		Debby Strickland in Florida swapped her wedding dress for a hospital gown in order to donate a desperately needed kidney to her husband’s close relative. Having lost a brother to cystic fibrosis while waiting for a lung transplant, Debby knew time was of the essence, scheduling the life-saving surgery for just 48 hours after her nuptials.
June 18, 2021	Clothing for the Needy	A Rhode Island teen is being praised for his good deeds after he started buying repossessed storage units to help previous owners recover their belongings. For “Shane,” the decision to buy the storage units initially started out as a way for him to make some extra cash over the summer, but it wasn't long before the teen realized that he shouldn't profit from the items and that he should find a way to return them to the former owners, So that's exactly what he's done—since embarking on the project last summer, Shane has helped reunite several families with the contents inside their former storage units.
June 21, 2021	Assisting Youth with Down Syndrome	For 14-year-old “Caleb,” who has Down Syndrome, exercising was way down at the bottom of his list of passions. He could barely cross a pool, could not ride a bike without help, and saw the treadmill as a chore. But when he met 21-year-old Chris Nikic, who also has Down Syndrome, he found a new hero! Last year, Chris competed in that grueling, 140-mile Ironman race— the first person with Down Syndrome to ever cross the finish line. Recently, Chris took young Caleb under his wing, worked out with him, and encouraged him to one day run a triathlon of his own!
June 24, 2021	Uniting the Community	It is said that giving connects people together – well, a group of police officers are proving that once small act of giving also connects the community together! Earlier this week, Chicago police officers surprised a group of children with a new basketball hoop – after seeing them playing instead with a milk crate – and even stuck around to shoot some hoops in the neighborhood. Photos shared on social media show a group of at least nine officers opening the box and reading the directions to assemble the hoop for the children. Once the hoop was up, the officers then played a quick game of basketball with their new friends!

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June 25, 2021	Life-Saving Donations	After spending more than a year apart from each other, two co-workers who were catching up on old times turned to a life-saving conversation! Susan Ellis and Tia Wimbush both work at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and ironically, both of their husbands were on a waiting list for kidney transplants. As they compared notes, they suddenly realized they might be potential donor matches for the other’s husband. After the tests were run, sure enough, Tisa and Susan were matches “made in heaven” for another’s husbands.
June 28, 2021	Donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Hospitals	Paying it forward just got a whole lot more creative, thanks to one New York Mom. When more than 100 Amazon packages of face masks were mistakenly delivered to Jillian Cannan, she created DIY face mask kits for kids at local children’s hospitals where PPE is still required. Amazon said that she did not need to return the packages, so Jillian got crafty with the project she calls <i>Package Gate 2021</i> . Each kit contains paint supplies and stencils for creating a colorful, custom face mask.
June 30, 2021	Cleaning the Community	A small “mom-and-pop” coffee shop has found a positive way to turn vandalism into a community project. When the owners of the Nashville-based Caliber Coffee found a fence outside of their parking lot vandalized, instead of calling the cops, they brought in the artists to help paint a mural!