

KYOR – 88.9 FM – Newport, OR
Issues/Program List
“COMMUNITY BRIDGE”
A 5-Minute Program Heard Saturdays*
at 6:25 AM and 6:55 PM
April - June, 2023

DATE	ISSUE	GUEST AND DESCRIPTION
April 1, 2023	Creating a Community, Sharing Needs and Christ	<p><u>Host:</u> Carmen Shantz <u>Guest:</u> Pastor Tony Ward, New Life Church, (Longview, WA). https://www.newlifelv.com/ <u>Description:</u> Within our society, people often do not know their neighbors but they still have real needs, and need real relationships. While some are closed to what is going on in their lives, many are open. At one Longview church, they are trying to not just give lip service to caring for their community, but to actually meet needs caused from homelessness or poverty in practical ways. Church members provide meals and are in contact with people down in their community house, through a jail ministry every first Sunday of the month, and by providing food, blankets and clothing at the Alabama Street homeless transition camp. For homeschooling families, they provide an interactive ministry environment to provide a social community. Those to whom they outreach are invited to church and they are asked to share what is going on in their lives and then prayer requests are passed onto their prayer group. Many of those who are helped will attend church and even some will come back to help others in New Life Church ministries.</p>
April 8, 2023	Youth Shelter Provides Safety and Empowerment in Oregon	<p><u>Host:</u> Carmen Shantz <u>Guest:</u> Livia Christensen, Executive Director, Youth Empowerment Shelter (YES), The Dalles, OR. https://yeshelter.org/ <u>Description:</u> For many youth, the challenges of life in the 21st century are overwhelming. Youth Empowerment Shelter (YES) helps youth in the mid-Columbia Gorge region find the hope, confidence, and skills they need to achieve stability and success in their lives. The mission of YES is to provide youth in crisis a place of physical and emotional safety while assisting them to build positive relationships and develop their individual potential. Today, YES provides youth in crisis with physical and emotional safety through the YES House. They also provide a wide range of other supports that help youth and families live healthy, productive lives.</p>

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April 15, 2023	Shelter Care Offers Housing in Oregon	<p><u>Host:</u> Carmen Shantz <u>Guest:</u> Michelle Handkess, Executive Director, ShelterCare, (Eugene, OR). https://sheltercare.org/ <u>Description:</u> ShelterCare provides a range of housing programs and services to individuals and families who are experiencing, or on the verge of, homelessness. Their mission is to provide compassionate housing and behavioral health services for individuals and families wanting a safe and stable home in their community. In 2021-2022, they helped 1,813 people move forward on their journey toward housing stability and independence.</p>
April 22, 2023	Helping Hands: Sustainable, Hopeful Lives Near Newport	<p><u>Host:</u> Carmen Shantz <u>Guest:</u> Allen Evans, Founder and President, Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Center, (Seaside, OR). https://helpinghandsreentry.org/ <u>Description:</u> Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers was founded by Alan Evans, who was homeless for over 25 years. He was removed from an abusive home and sent to foster care at age 11, but when his circumstances didn't improve, he ran away and was homeless and addicted by age 13. Without adequate help to address childhood trauma and to access resources, getting arrested became getting rescued. But his arresting officer asked to hear his story, and offered him a hand. Evans started Helping Hands to give other homeless people what he himself had needed: a helping hand to a sustainable life through Resources, Recovery, and Reentry. Their programs are Trauma-Informed, Data-Driven, and Person-Centered. They take the time to learn each individual's story and help connect him or her to the appropriate local resources and services to meet their unique needs. Helping Hands serves homeless men, women, and children who are ready to make sustainable changes to improve their lives. Participants must be ready to be clean and sober and must not be registered sex offenders of any class (10% of the people they serve are children).</p>
April 29, 2023	Issues of Concern to the Newport Community	<p><u>Host:</u> Carmen Shantz <u>Guest:</u> Jenny Burkhiser, National Community Bridge Host, and Vance Dillard, Senior Director of Programming, Family Radio, (Shenandoah, IA, and Franklin, TN). www.familyradio.org</p>

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		<p><u>Description:</u> Family Radio (FR) often hears from leaders in communities who are addressing problems with faith and hope often being their motivation. According to a recent FR survey, the top issue showing up across the network’s communities include homelessness, hunger and poverty. The second issue is inflation. Third on the list is mental health and addictions. Your opinion matters so please request a survey by emailing info@familyradio.org.</p>
June 3, 2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Janus Youth Programs Create Paths to Success</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Carmen Shantz <u>Guest:</u> Alaire DeSalvo, Program Director; Tynna Purtteman, Program Supervisor, Janus Youth Programs, (Longview, WA). <u>Description:</u> Living in cars. Moving from motel to motel with their families while struggling to stay in school. That is what 1 in 20 Cowlitz County youth face daily. Janus Youth Programs creates paths to success by partnering with youth, families and the community. They offer a vibrant community where every child, youth, and family has a safe place to live, prosper and achieve the life they envision. They strive to create a safe, nurturing environment which promotes trust, honesty, direct communication and personal/professional growth. They believe every child deserves a family or support network which can provide safety, nurturance, a sense of belonging, teaching and guidance and connection to the larger world. They encourage creativity, innovation and risk-taking to respond to the rapidly changing needs of children, families, and community. They actively build partnerships to strengthen community planning, advocacy, and delivery of services to children, youth, and families. They work constantly to improve the quality of everything to be responsible stewards of community resources.</p>
June 10, 2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Hunger in Oregon</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Carmen Shantz <u>Guest:</u> Pastor Dennis Kreiss, Pine Grove Community Church (Pine Grove, OR). www.pinegrovecommunitychurch.com <u>Description:</u> This local church has provided a food pantry for residents for the past 30 years, but they are now looking to expand the program as they encounter more residents struggling with food insecurity. He shared story of a man he helped with food while he was unemployed. The man was able to later get a job as a chef and</p>

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		invites him over for the best BBQ he has ever eaten. The church is small, but they provide food as they are able from donations primarily given by church members.
June 17, 2023	Mental Health Needs in Oregon and Looking Glass Services	<u>Host:</u> Carmen Shantz <u>Guest:</u> Tyler Mack, Director of Marketing and Development, The Looking Glass Community, (Eugene, OR). https://www.lookingglass.us/ <u>Description:</u> The Looking Glass Community Services offers a range of programs and services that may be creatively combined to serve children, teenagers, adults, and families. Our highly qualified mental health professionals evaluate each young person’s needs and recommend programs and resources to help.
June 24, 2023	Diamonds in the Rough Offers Transformation in Newport	<u>Host:</u> Carmen Shantz <u>Guest:</u> Carlos Villareal, Director of Operations, Diamonds in the Rough, (Newport, OR). https://diamondsintherough.org/ <u>Description:</u> Many who struggle with addiction display surface issues including, but not limited to, chronic unemployment, lack of education, marital discord, anger management, use of profanity, laziness, apathy, thrill-seeking, and lack of judgement. “Diamonds in the Rough” educates, mentors, and transforms those in need who enter our care, by using a multi-staged process. This process is structured and requires commitment and discipline to complete. The program addresses core issues and mentioned surface issues that their “diamonds” struggle with while being addicted. As a Christ-centered outreach they provide mentorship that cleanses, revives, polishes and restores those who enter their program.

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April 1, 2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Effectively Sharing Faith and Values with Traumatized Children</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(25-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Lydia Kaiser, Corporate Communications Specialist, International Headquarters, Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) (Warrenton, MO). www.cefonline.com/natcon <u>Description:</u> Tragedies impacting children are daily in the headlines, whether it is the after effects of the pandemic, a school shooting in Uvalde, TX, or a massive earthquake in Syria and Turkey. After experiencing terrible events like an accident, crime or natural disaster, children can experience trauma and need the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. CEF is a Bible-centered organization with a purpose to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with boys and girls and to establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living. While their primary US school and home-based ministries include the <i>Good News Club</i> and the <i>5-Day Club</i>, CEF reaches out to children in trauma with physical supplies, counseling and the booklet, <i>Do You Wonder Why?</i> that explains to children and their parents why there is suffering in the world but also hope in Jesus Christ.</p>
April 8, 2023	<p style="text-align: center;">The Cultural and Spiritual Impact of Passover to Christians</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(25-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Rev. Malcolm Hedding, Member, International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, (Jerusalem, Israel and Nashville, TN). www.int.icej.org <u>Description:</u> Christians in America and throughout the world are preparing for what is one of the most important celebrations of the year...the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (after his crucifixion and burial). Leading up to this triumphant celebration is the ancient Israeli celebration of Passover that we read about in the Old Testament of the Bible. To previous generations, the week of Easter was significant – if not more significant than – Christmas. But today’s society does not seem to observe the events leading up to Easter as noteworthy, even in our American Christian culture. Rev. Malcom Hedding explained what Passover is and talked about the Passover Seder and some of the events/celebrations – such as the Celebration of Pentecost – that are not celebrated much in today’s U.S. Christian society. He shared how Christian families now must realize it is their responsibility to bring their children up in the Lord and make sure they follow Jesus. He emphasized the need</p>

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		for liturgy, devotion, and/or celebration that involves children. He also shared a Christian Passover Seder Liturgy document for listeners to use to celebrate the Passover Lamb this Easter.
April 15, 2023	Inflation and Health: Health Care Sharing Ministries (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Anthony Hopp, Chief Purpose Officer, Samaritan Ministries, (Peoria, IL). https://www.samaritanministries.org/ <u>Description:</u> As inflation has hit a 40-year high, many Americans are being faced with tough decisions on how to tighten their budgets — and unfortunately, many are cutting medical care at the expense of their health. In fact, a survey found that high health care prices drove 38% of American adults last year to delay or skip treatment and cut back on driving, utilities, and food or borrow money to pay medical bills. One option is a health care sharing ministry such as Samaritan Ministries (Samaritan). Launched in 1994 with 10 households sharing medical needs, Samaritan now serves more than 80,889 households and provides a way for Christians to share not only financial costs of medical care but also to convey and to receive spiritual and emotional encouragement from other believers. Members pray for other members, send shares to assist with bills, and often mail cards and letters of encouragement. Healthcare sharing is a way to save money and ensure that a Christian family’s hard-earned dollars are supporting only those services that are consistent with their faith.
April 22, 2023	Engaging in Civil Discourse and Kindness (25-minute program)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Shaunti Feldhahn, Author of “The Kindness Challenge,” Social Researcher and Speaker (Norcross, GA). www.jointhekindnesschallenge.com/ <u>Description:</u> One of the most important educational, political, and social issues of today is related to civility in a democratic society. America’s past, present, and future depend on this essential process where citizens gather, listen to each other, debate, make up their minds, and determine a course of action. Sadly, the level of civil discourse in America is suffering. The country seems split almost perfectly in half, with neither side able to compromise or back down. Shaunti defined kindness as not being “nice” but doing what is in a person’s best interest. In

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		<p>her research, she discovered three things to improve civil discourse in any relationship: 1) Nix the Negative, 2) Practice Praise, and 3) Be Generous and she shared how can we apply them to engaging in civil discourse with others through the “30 Day Kindness Challenge.” While “venting” has been considered helpful to keep anger and bitterness from building up, this actually create more anxiety and anger. If one instead focuses on genuinely trying to find positive aspects of the other person, a change in attitude will often occur towards the other person and his or her perspective. Shaunti encouraged self-assessments and to join the 30-Day Challenge today.</p>
April 29, 2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Help and Hope for Single Parents to Raise Thriving Youth</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(25-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guests:</u> Rob Jackson, Licensed Counselor, MS, LPC, Focus on the Family, (Altamonte Springs, FL). https://www.focusonthefamily.com/get-help/ <u>Description:</u> Today, single parent families are about 30 percent of the population (mostly headed by the mother only) and have become even more common than the so-called “nuclear family” consisting of a mother, father, and children. Life in a single parent household can be quite stressful for both the adult and the children. The single parent may feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities of juggling caring for the children, maintaining a job, and keeping up with the bills and household chores. Typically, the family’s finances and resources are drastically reduced following the parents’ breakup. Rob emphasized the importance of faith, finances, and family for the single parent, as well as how the single parent can help family members face these difficulties by talking with each other about their feelings and working together to tackle problems. Support from friends, other family members, and places of worship can help, too. Rob gave practical examples for ways to support single parents or to gain support and shared that consulting a licensed mental health professional may be necessary.</p>
May 6, 2023	<p style="text-align: center;">How to Keep Your Peace – and Kids Safe at School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(30-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Josh Weidmann, Author, Pastor and Certified Biblical Counselor, (Denver, CO). https://joshweidmann.com/ <u>Description:</u> Americans are feeling more anxious than ever before, with Christian families especially feeling concerned after</p>

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		<p>the latest school shooting at a private Christian grade school in Nashville that left three students and three adults killed, including the head of the school, in late March. While the Columbine shooting of 1999 occurred over twenty years, Josh remembers comforting families and the importance of the Gospel to those impacted. Anxiety is something Josh has struggled with most of his life. After years of praying that God would just take his anxiety away, he realized that while anxiety may never leave, he can still glorify God through moments of trial and suffering. Josh wrote a book, <i>“The End of Anxiety: The Biblical Prescription for Overcoming Fear, Worry and Panic,”</i> in which he shares what God has taught him through such tragedies and that there is hope to continue. He recommended that parents take precautionary measures to protect their children, whether in public, private, Christian or home schools to the best of their ability and then leave the rest up to God.</p>
<p>May 13, 2023</p>	<p>Honoring the Special God-Given Role of Mothers in Your Life (30-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Leslie Means, Former TV Anchor, Mother, and Author of the book, “So God Made A Mother,” <i>Her View from Home</i>, (Kearney, NE). https://herviewfromhome.com/ <u>Description:</u> C.S. Lewis once said “Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.” Motherhood is a critical role in the lives of children, bringing much joy and immeasurable love. However, the sacrifices of motherhood are many. Leslie started <i>Her View From Home</i> in her tiny closet in 2016 and almost gave up on the website when she was expecting her third child. However, she received a story submission from a woman who wanted to share about her friend who had died by suicide from postpartum depression and after the article went live, the website exploded with viewers. <i>Her View from Home</i> has become a go-to resource for mothers seeking insightful, encouraging advice on motherhood, pregnancy, marriage, relationships, grief, child loss, faith, mental illness, and life. No two mothers are alike. No two experiences in motherhood mirror each other. But something powerful happens when stories of motherhood come together—they speak love, worth, value, and beauty. They take the</p>

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		<p>undefinable experience of motherhood and give it shape and substance and strength and support for mothers.</p>
<p>May 20, 2023</p>	<p>Financial Security and the American Housing Market (30-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Bo Hanson, CFA and CFP, Financial Advisor and Co-Host of <i>The Money Guys</i> Podcast (Franklin, TN). https://moneyguy.com/resources/home-buying-checklist/ <u>Description:</u> With the March collapse of three US banks, Silvergate, SVB, and Signature Bank, and a big global lender like Credit Suisse in only three weeks, fears of a full-blown financial crisis are looming. However, Bo assured listeners that if funds are diversified and under \$250,000, they will be FDIC insured and not at risk. Bo shared in his analysis of the housing market: that home prices continue to rise, demand is concentrated in specific areas, inflation is driving demand for homes, and the suburban migration is real. For those considering purchasing a home, plan to live at least 5-6 year in your new home, review qualitative factors such as schools in the area, needs for number of rooms and space depending on number of family members, as well as consider your security, amount of emergency fund and down payment needed, as well as cash flow and credit score. More information for potential homeowners can be downloaded by accessing their Housing Checklist.</p>
<p>May 27, 2023</p>	<p>Honoring American Military Members and Veterans' Service (30-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Christian Irvine, Veteran and former “Green Beret” of the United States Army Special Forces and President of the <i>Semper Grati Project</i>, (Franklin, TN). https://www.sempergratiproject.com/ <u>Description:</u> Memorial Day is when we remember and honor those who have lost their lives in service to our country. As an active veteran and former “green beret” member of the United States special forces serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, Christian sees the holiday as an opportunity to honor veterans that have fallen, his fellow friends and comrades, and the Gold Star Families who have lost a loved one in service. For those who made it home, some of their needs are related to Veterans Affairs (VA) Claims, Career Transition, and Mental Health. <i>Semper Grati Project</i> (SGP) is a 501c3 providing solutions for the biggest challenges faced by veterans, improving quality of life</p>

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		<p>and creating opportunities for individuals and their families for generations. SGP provides resources and equips veterans with the support they not only need but deserve. SGP applies funds on an as-needed basis to provide specific resources such as VA claims, medical, and legal consultation, career services, or life insurance products that would otherwise be cost prohibitive. Christian shared that the best way we can say thank you to a veteran or his family is to fly an American flag proudly.</p>
June 3, 2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Celebrating the Uniqueness of Every American Girl (25-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Patti Garibay, Founder and Executive Director, American Heritage Girls (AHG), (Cincinnati, OH). www.ahg.org <u>Description:</u> Modern society is constantly shifting the definition of womanhood. With schools actively removing the word “female” from curriculum and high-ranking government officials refusing to answer basic biology questions about what it means to be a woman, young girls are in desperate need of positive, godly female role models. Patti shared, “Girls need strong female role models now more than ever before. In a world looking to erase femininity, girls need women who embrace their God-given womanhood and empower them to love what makes them a godly girl”. At AHG, girls not only have the opportunity to foster relationships with their Troop leaders and mentors, but also other Troop members. These relationships are crucial for a young girl looking for clarity regarding femininity. AHG offers hands-on badge programs that girls can do at home, as well as service projects, leadership opportunities, outdoor adventures, virtual connections, and so much more. AHG has emphasized Christian values and family participation as it promotes a healthy sense of community and connection for girls. You can start or join your local club today.</p>
June 10, 2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Is College Worth the Investment? Today’s Higher Education Landscape (25-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, Senior Vice President of Higher Education with Faith Search Partners, (Carrolltown, TX). https://faithsearchpartners.com/ <u>Description:</u> The pervasive issue in U.S. higher education has been and continues to be the decline in student enrollment. According to recent study, postsecondary enrollment was down 2.6% from last year for a total decrease of 5.8% from</p>

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		<p>2019. Enrollment continues to suffer due to a complex layering of issues including the “enrollment cliff”—shifting demographics and the decline in the U.S. birth rate, recruitment competition amidst a shrinking pool of candidates and skepticism about the overall value and rising cost of education versus higher-paying jobs that may not require a college degree. Dr. Westmoreland maintains that despite these concerns, a college investment is still worth the investment because of the increased career stability and satisfaction, the ability to make an impact on one’s community, and that with more and more careers requiring advanced education, a college degree can be critical to success in today’s workforce. As a former college president at two universities, Dr. Westmoreland shared his advice for success to students: 1) Go to class, 2) read, 3) connect with one faculty member and make one friend, 4) listen more than talk, 5) and finally, trust the Lord with all one’s heart and lean not on one’s own understanding.</p>
June 17, 2023	<p>Fatherly Wisdom and Lessons Learned Along Life’s Journey</p> <p>(25-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guests:</u> Jason Frentsos, Midday Host; Tom Evans, President & General Manager; and Vance Dillard, Sr. Director of Programming, Family Radio Network (Franklin, TN). www.familyradio.org <u>Description:</u> A recent report of Christian fathers identified three most common challenges navigate in life as a father: the feelings of being a failures, the need to be more intentional, and a struggle with discipline. As a father of four children, Jason leans on his brothers in Christ for support, and feels that his role is to be a source of strength in the family, to be a defender in the home. Ephesians 6:10 encourages us to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might and Jason shared that’s where a dad can really step in to be a force and to be that strength and to be a father figure. Tom Evans, also father of four, shared that God is teaching him that there is nothing that he can do that will stop Him from loving His child. The same is true of Tom with his earthly children, that he will always love them and share the Gospel with them. Lamentations speaks of how God’s mercies are new every morning and great is His faithfulness. Even if one</p>

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		<p>makes a mistake as a father, God’s mercies are new. Vance is the father of four daughters and one stepson, as well as twenty-one grandchildren and one great grandchild! He emphasized that children are a blessing and a reward. Vance shared a compelling story of how a wayward daughter came back to Christ after hearing from a Christian conference about Jesus making us white as snow. He encouraged those who do not have a close relationship with their fathers to reach out and take the first step to begin a relationship today.</p>
June 24, 2023	<p>Standing Boldly for Biblical Truth in Today’s Culture (25-minute program)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Paul Batura, Vice President of Communications, Focus on the Family, (Colorado Springs, CO). www.focusonthefamily.org <u>Description:</u> As C.S. Lewis once said, “When the whole world is running toward a cliff, he who is running in the opposite direction appears to have lost his mind.” This seems to never have been so true! There are countless attacks on God’s design of male and female, the fight for the lives of millions of unborn babies continues, and our culture is running hard away from biblical truths. However, it can be intimidating to run up against the prevailing wisdom of the world. Maintaining a biblical position on certain issues today threatens livelihoods. Yet, Christians are reminded over and over again in the Scriptures to “Be not afraid.” It’s the thoughtful Christian who wisely and appropriately engages difficult topics, and in a loving but truthful manner. It’s more art than science, and honesty is key when it comes to motive. Are we looking to persuade and win an argument for egotistical reasons – or are we being led by the Holy Spirit and allowing ourselves to be used to bring honor and glory to the Lord? One may try and convince someone of the rightness of a biblical truth – but only the Holy Spirit can convict them of it. The bottom line is to share the Gospel.</p>

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FAMILY STATIONS, INC. Issues/Program List
“FAMILY NEWS TODAY” with Host Jason Frentsos
at 5:57AM, 6:57AM, 7:57AM, & 8:57AM Eastern/Mountain
at 4:57AM, 5:57AM, 6:57AM, & 7:57AM Central/Pacific
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April 3, 2023	Disaster Relief	Christian groups, including <i>Samaritan’s Purse</i> and <i>Convoy of Hope</i> , have deployed disaster relief teams to help survivors in the wake of Friday’s tornadoes. <i>Samaritan’s Purse</i> said it had deployed staff members to the area and a Disaster Relief Unit from Texas is also en route. The unit is transporting one of their tractor-trailers filled with vital supplies and equipment and was scheduled to arrive yesterday. They say that while working, they will offer encouragement and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.
April 5, 2023	Outer Space Mission	For the first time in more than 50 years, four astronauts are set to visit the moon and one of them will be Victor Glover, a Christian who once took a Bible and communion cups to the International Space Station. NASA announced this week that the <i>Artemis II</i> crew will travel to the moon and back on a 10-day mission – the world’s first mission to the moon since the Apollo program ended some five decades ago. It is scheduled to be launched in August 2024. The <i>Artemis II</i> crew, like the <i>Apollo 8</i> crew of 1968, will circle the moon and return to Earth, paving the way for future missions. Victor Glover currently worships with Churches of Christ in the Houston area. as well as his home state of California.
April 7, 2023	Autism Awareness	A thrift store in Tampa, Florida, is giving back in a big way by selling secondhand goods to help those living with autism. Back in 2015, Jennifer and Scott Band opened the <i>Autism Awareness Shop</i> with two goals in mind: increase awareness and acceptance for people with autism and establish employment for their son, who was diagnosed with autism in 1999. The shop’s manager, Tyler Russo, said, “We currently provide a slew of services for adults on the spectrum. The best way that we help them succeed is with occupational therapy, speech therapy, behavior therapy, as well as the main component, which is the job training.” Russo believes their shop is unique in that it allows one-on-one on-site training, something lots of other organizations don’t necessarily provide.
April 11, 2023	Giving Back to Military Families	Our military families deserve all the support they can get, especially when facing financial hardships and that is exactly what one non-profit is helping to accomplish. <i>Operation Homefront</i> is a national nonprofit whose mission is to build strong, stable and secure military families. Recently, Navy veteran Alicia Simpson and her family were surprised with a donated vehicle so she could get to and from work. Alicia now has plans to pursue a job baking, which she enjoys. In partnership with

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		U.S. Bank’s <i>Driven to Serve</i> program, <i>Operation Homefront</i> has been able to donate 15 cars to military families in need.
April 13, 2023	Teaching Art and Home Skills	<i>The Sewing Labs</i> is teaching people how to make their old clothes new again. The Kansas City-based group is on a mission to not only teach people how to sew but also spread the word about how many clothes are thrown away each year. Executive Director Eileen Bobowski says that sewing has become a lost trade, as it’s not taught in schools anymore and they’re working to bridge that gap. “Once you learn sewing, it’s a skill that goes with you for life,” she said, “You don’t have to just wear something once and then pitch it, especially when you realize where it ends up.” Eileen said the organization has been flooded with employers who are seeking industrial sewing machine operators and demand has been overwhelming.
April 15, 2023	Experiencing Outdoor Adventure	As kids are getting more and more addicted to technology, families are looking for better ways to develop meaningful connections... and <i>Trail Life USA</i> is stepping up to the plate! Families and Troops across the country will pitch tents, light fires, roast s’mores, and gather in the great outdoors during Trail Life’s 4th Annual Nationwide Campout! The campout begins next Friday, April 28 th , 2023, through the 30th at campsites across the country.
April 17, 2023	Wheelchair Accessibility	It’s no secret that spending time in nature can be therapeutic and one man is on a mission to help those who are mobility-challenged with getting some fresh air! When a hunting accident left him paralyzed from the waist down, Jacob Biesecker was introduced to a specialized wheelchair that can be taken off road! Now, Jacob is working to give these chairs to anyone who wants to enjoy the outdoors, through his organization <i>Waymaker Off-Road Wheelchairs</i> . Jacob said his personal experience inspired him to help others experience full trek mobility. A brand-new chair costs about \$15,000, but Jacob’s organization loans out chairs free of charge to anyone with a mobility challenge in South Carolina.
April 19, 2023	Canine Marathon	If you watched the Boston Marathon earlier this week, you may have noticed the more than 100 Golden Retrievers and their owners running together towards the finish line. It was all in honor of a special dog named Spencer! Last year, Spencer was named the official dog of the 126th Boston Marathon by the <i>Boston Athletic Association</i> . But after a long battle with cancer, Spencer passed away in February at the age of 13. So, to honor Spencer the group <i>MA Golden Meetups</i> organized a planned walk at this year's Marathon. More than 100 goldens showed

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		up wearing bandanas that said "Golden Strong" in homage to Spencer's famous flag. The group raised over \$1,000 through the sales of the bandanas and donated the funds to the <i>Morris Animal Foundation</i> in Spencer's name.
April 21, 2023	Job Opportunities for the Disabled Community	An ice cream parlor in Virginia is serving up fresh opportunities for adults with disabilities. <i>Jake's Ice Cream</i> in Falls Church employs more than 20 adults with special needs. It all started when Robin Rinearson's 29-year-old son Jake, who has cerebral palsy, lost his job when COVID hit and was unemployed for over a year. She decided to come up with a business for Jake and others like him that nobody could take away. That's when she and her family found the ice cream parlor and moved forward with opening it in Jake's honor.
April 24, 2023	Rescue Dog Show	After a family dog goes missing, it returns home a winner in a local dog show! When Bonnie, a 5-year-old Beagle mix, disappeared from her home, owners Paula and Peter Closier put out an appeal on social media. Meanwhile, John Wilmer, who was in a rush to attend a dog show with his two dogs, spotted Bonnie on the side of the road. John posted a quick message on social media asking for the pet's owner to get in touch. When John arrived, he decided to enter Bonnie into the competition for best rescue dog, in which she finished with a third-place prize. The Closier's saw Wilmer's post on social media and Bonnie was returned after the event.
April 26, 2023	Reuniting Former Convicts with Friends	Now a wrongfully convicted man just met his longtime pen pal for the first time since being released from prison! In 1995, Lamar Johnson was convicted of murder and received a life sentence for a crime he didn't commit. A couple of years later, a minister at Ginny Schrappen's church handed her a letter. It was from Lamar and addressed to anyone who would write back. The two strangers struck up a fast friendship and corresponded constantly over the next 25 years! Lamar always claimed he did not commit the murder -- and 28 years later his conviction was overturned. Now this past February, Lamar was released from prison and a few weeks later, he showed up at his friend Ginny's door. Lamar says that it was Ginny's confidence in him that got him through his days in prison.
April 28, 2023	Church/Community Outreach	A megachurch in Nebraska plans to build a food pantry and an auto repair shop to serve low-income community members. The 3,000-member Brookside Church of Omaha said they will add a food pantry and an "Auto Care Center" to their expanding ministry. Brookside explained that the care center will serve people referred by a local

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		agency or nearby school. The auto center will offer services at a discount, or no charge based on the kind of service needed. The congregation is currently working to raise funds for the project.
May 1, 2023	Foster Care	An Ohio man who was separated from his siblings in foster care years ago didn't want a group of brothers and sisters to experience the same thing — so he reunited the five children and then adopted all of them. Robert Carter was just 12 years old when he was placed in a foster home and separated from his family, but now at 29 years old, he’s refusing to let that happen again! He reunited the three boys he became a foster parent to in December 2018 with their two sisters. By adopting all five children as his own, Robert is ensuring that the siblings will have a chance to grow up together and be by each other's sides.
May 3, 2023	Child Saves Bus Driver’s Life	A quick-thinking 7th grader in Michigan is being hailed as a hero for preventing his school bus from crashing after the bus driver lost consciousness. Last week, the bus driver was taking students home from Carter Middle School when she began to feel dizzy. She tried to pull over but didn't make it and eventually passed out! The bus began to veer into oncoming traffic. That’s when “Dillon” jumped into action. Dillon threw his backpack down, ran to the front of the bus, grabbed the steering wheel, and brought the bus to a stop in the middle of the road! Thanks to Dillion, no children on the bus were injured.
May 5, 2023	Special Needs Sports Complex	A New Jersey math teacher and wife have built America's first sports complex for people with special needs, raising millions of dollars to fund it! Christian Kane and his wife, Mary, were committed to completing the 3.5-acre project for their son, Gavin, who suffered a traumatic brain injury at just 19 months old. It started out as a baseball field, but the dream kept growing. They decided to create an all-inclusive playground where every kid could play at the same level. Now 5 years and 3.6 million dollars later, families are flooding into the Field of Dreams in Toms River for the first time.
May 8, 2023	Giving Back to Veterans	She’s only 7 years old and already she’s helping veterans in her community! “Jade” from Marietta, Georgia, has raised \$700 as a way to give back to military veterans without a home to call their own. She and her mom are now using the money to create care packages, which they’ll deliver to heroes at a local veterans center. Jade's grandfather served in the Vietnam War and his service was the inspiration for them to give back.

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May 10, 2023	Climbing For Charity	A man who attempted to climb summits of the highest mountains in England, Scotland, and Wales to raise money for charity has now completed the challenge—with a refrigerator strapped to his back. The 38-year-old former soldier Michael Copeland conquered the three peaks challenge in just under 24 hours to raise money for the mental health charity <i>Mind</i> .
May 12, 2023	Transforming the Community’s Appearance	A Minneapolis church is bringing color, vibrancy and hope to an area that has been a hotspot for crime. Volunteers from <i>Sanctuary Covenant Church</i> have transformed a drab liquor store parking lot into an art garden full of colorful pots and plants. Leaders of the project say it presents a chance for youth to find their passion.
May 15, 2023	Free College Scholarships	Dozens of students in Arizona were surprised this week with a full-ride scholarship to college! During an assembly at Bernard Elementary School, district officials announced that 63 third graders will be awarded full-ride scholarships covering tuition, books, and room and board. What’s more, students will have the opportunity to attend any college of their choice. As you might expect, the room was soon filled with cheers and tears of joy. One father said, “I just couldn’t hold it back because it just means for sure my son is going to college. I don’t have to think about it. He’s going!” The good news was made possible by a private foundation created in 2005 to help Hungarian students find scholarships for college.
May 17, 2023	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	A neighbor showed a struggling mother that love and kindness still exist. Mallory Mason’s husband recently left her and the kids. Now her neighbor, John, noticed they were struggling and worked up the courage to knock on her door and offer to help. In tears, Mallory thanked John and noticed he had tears in his eyes, too.
May 19, 2023	‘Sharing Shoes’ with the Needy	America’s police officers do more than track down criminals and make arrests, they also exist to care for our communities in meaningful, life-changing ways! For the last six years, the Dallas, Texas, <i>Neighborhood Police Officer Unit</i> has given shoes to hundreds of children during the school year through its "Share the Shoes" program. They were at it again this year, helping toddlers, kids and teens try on new sneakers. The Dallas Police Department says new shoes aren’t just fun for kids, they’re extremely important for the health of their feet, not to mention their overall comfort as the kids move through their days.
May 22, 2023	Ending Childhood Street Violence	If the key to reducing youth violence and unlocking a safer future is simply to build bonds with the next generation, then some high schoolers in Sacramento have found their way... on the asphalt!

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		Showing kids a love for skateboarding to keep them from being tempted into violence is the aim of <i>Project Lifelong</i> . Using a wooden board, four wheels, and a love for shredding pavement, they are creating an alternative way of connecting and communicating with others. The program works by pairing up a high school student to mentor middle school students. In return, <i>Project Lifelong</i> takes the high schoolers on out-of-town educational trips.
May 24, 2023	Commencement Surprise	A Navy service member who had been stationed in the Middle East since last summer traveled more than 30 hours to surprise his daughter at her graduation last week. U.S. Navy Officer 2nd Class Douglas Hernandez reached out to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to coordinate the surprise. Assistant Dean Valerie Burke said she got an email that said, “I have a daughter that's going to be graduating in May and I'm overseas and I wanted to know if there was a way that I could surprise her!” Turns out Douglas and his daughter “Pamela” hadn't seen each other in person since last July. When they saw each other again on the commencement stage, Pamela was brought to tears!
May 26, 2023	Custom Furniture for Foster Families	A Christian teacher is building custom furniture items out of his garage in Iowa... and it's all for a good cause! Nate Evans has spent countless hours building coffee tables and end tables out of scratch for people in need with the help of some volunteers. It's part of his project, <i>Woodworking with a Purpose</i> , which started 2 years ago. Nate built homemade desks for kids to use while remote learning during the pandemic. These days, he's shifted his attention to making small chests for foster families. His sister was a foster parent and it helped him recognize "how kids struggle with moving into their new place with nothing." So far he's helped 24 families and his goal is to have another 100 pieces made this summer.
May 29, 2023	Memorial Day Fundraising	John Brunelli, of Attleboro, Massachusetts, is commemorating Memorial Day while raising money at the same time. The 53-year-old Navy veteran is doing 11 hours and 11 minutes of pull-ups at a local gym in honor of those who served. The money Brunelli raises will go to <i>Homes for Our Troops</i> , which builds specially designed homes for wounded veterans. “I think a lot of people forget about the families and what they have to go through,” Brunelli said. “I think it's a great organization, and I'm privileged to be able to do this for them.” <i>Homes for our Troops</i> builds houses in the areas that veterans choose to live, and continues its relationship with veterans after home delivery to assist them with rebuilding their lives.

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May 31, 2023	Law Enforcement Birthday Surprise	A group of local police officers joined forces to create an unforgettable birthday surprise for a young boy in Maine. About a month ago, “Myles” went to the Scarborough Police Department and dropped off an invitation to his birthday party. Turns out the ENTIRE DEPARTMENT was invited, and of course, they couldn’t let Myles down. Several officers, as well as several members of the Scarborough Fire Department, attended the celebration on Saturday.
June 2, 2023	Job Training	Life on the street hasn’t been easy for Scott Mitchell. Four years of homelessness and drug use eventually landed him in a Las Vegas prison after getting busted for stealing a car. That’s when he decided to make better life choices... one of them was signing up for the <i>Chosen for Success</i> job training program. It is a nonprofit that provides four days of job training and other support programs including “Emotional Intelligence” training, which helps participants deal with past trauma. Executive Director Rod Taylor says about 40% of the people are in a similar situation to Scott and 80% of them find jobs in the first two weeks of graduation.
June 5, 2023	Compassionate Policemen	In a heartwarming display of compassion, a South Carolina deputy made a significant impact on the life of a struggling woman in the community. Deputy Eric Alligood responded to a residence a few weeks ago to a woman who was having "one of her hardest days". It turns out that all the woman really needed way a good hug. The Greenville County Sheriff’s Office praised Deputy Alligood for his kindness and said he has made "the entire agency proud."
June 7, 2023	Grocery Kindness	If you’re a home-bound senior you know how special it is to have someone do your grocery shopping or take you to doctor’s appointments. Well, two seniors, both over the age of 80 years, are pitching in to help other needy seniors in their Salt Lake City community. Eighty-four-year-old Sheryl Cooper has been a driver for <i>Meals on Wheels</i> since 2001 and is one of the longest standing drivers in the area. She said she often makes 50 stops on a typical day. Another driver, 82-year-old Bill Johnson, said he had been driving for the <i>Rides for Wellness</i> program for the past 13 years.
June 9, 2023	Future leaders Serving the Community	With all the ingredients for success, a student running her own bakery business while balancing academics and extracurriculars graduated from a North Carolina high school this week. “Nicole” not only tries as an involved student and athlete, but also operates her business <i>Homemade Nicole</i> , baking cupcakes, cakes, pies, and other sweets right out of her kitchen.

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June 12, 2023	Veteran Suicide Prevention	When a young veteran dies by suicide, we wish there was something could’ve been done to prevent the tragedy. Kevin Johns knows too well how a lack of financial resources can re-traumatize a family. When his son, Jared, died by suicide in 2018, the funeral home wouldn’t let the family see his body until they had paid a deposit worth thousands of dollars— something they didn’t have. Well, that’s when the organization <i>Once a Soldier</i> stepped in to cover the cost.
June 14, 2023	Fire Dept. Helps Single Mom	In a heartwarming display of community service, an Oklahoma Fire Department went above and beyond to help a local family install a new tree swing in their backyard. Meaghan Perceful and her family just moved to the area from Tulsa and her daughter, Magnolia, had been talking about wanting to put her swing up in a tree, but the family didn't have a ladder big enough for any of the trees in their new yard. Meaghan asked for help on their local community social media, and to her surprise, the local Fire Department messaged her and offered to help, free of charge! The team of firefighters arrived with a fire engine and tall ladder and got the swing up in no time.
June 16, 2023	Housing Assistance	Hundreds of thousands of Americans suffer with homelessness and witnessing this daily hardship is what inspires Christians to act. Among the Christian organizations serving the displaced is <i>SafeHouse Outreach</i> in Atlanta. Joe McCutchen, the organization’s problem-solving director, is among those whose daily job is to serve the long line of men and women seeking assistance. For Joe, solving problems is something he feels called to do and counts it a joy to help those whom SafeHouse was created to serve. “It’s one of the toughest assignments that God could ask someone to do,” he says, “but we keep showing up every day.”
June 19, 2023	Centenarian Birthday Parade	Residents of a San Jose community came together on Sunday to celebrate the 100th birthday of beloved local resident with a dog parade! Alison Moore put out the word on social media, asking people to dress up their dogs and parade them in front of their house to help celebrate her dad’s milestone. Alison said she was hoping for maybe 20 dogs to show up - but the response was far greater than that! More than 200 dogs and their owners came by to wish Robert a happy birthday. There were dogs in cowboy hats, tuxedos, pups with disabilities, all pulling carts and canines in classic cars. The line stretched all the way around the block and down the street. Alison said her father was deeply moved by the outpouring of love and admiration from the community.

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June 21, 2023	Overcoming Food Insecurity	A group of students in St. Petersburg, Florida, is helping other students with food insecurities in need through a local nonprofit organization. Gina Wilkins founded the nonprofit <i>The Kind Mouse</i> in hopes of feeding hungry students. They provide for families through many agencies in town like after-school programs but they’re also a part of the <i>Pack A Snack Program</i> through the Pinellas County School Boards. Volunteers for the program are other students who range from ages 5 to 18 years to help fill up bags with non-perishable food.
June 23, 2023	Uniting the Community	It’s said that giving connects two people together. 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!
June 26, 2023	Cancer Recovery	We all know the toll that cancer can take on a person physically and emotionally, but two women who beat cancer are providing hope to the recently diagnosed. Tracy Gallagher and Ashleigh Park of Desoto, Mississippi, were both diagnosed with cancer in their 40s and underwent a combined 64 rounds of chemotherapy. After treatment, they found purpose in helping others going through similar situations. Their organization, <i>DeSoto Hope</i> , is now providing “baskets of hope” to those in their community who are just beginning their cancer treatments.
June 28, 2023	Adoption Miracle	A firefighter is now a father to a newborn after finding her at a Florida Fire Station's <i>Safe Haven Baby Box</i> . Ocala Fire Rescue said someone surrendered the baby anonymously at its headquarters. “To be honest, I thought it was a false alarm,” the firefighter said. “I picked her up and held her. We locked eyes, and that was it. I’ve loved her ever since that moment.” After trying to start a family with his wife for more than a decade, the firefighter said he went to the hospital with the baby and asked about adopting her. He left a note with the baby, now named Zoey, explaining their situation and said they were registered to adopt. Zoey was adopted by the couple in April. “The way I found her...this was God helping us out,” he said.

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June 30, 2023	Collecting Lost Frisbees at Local Park	A local dog in West Virginia has captured the attention and admiration of the community by single-handedly finding over a hundred lost frisbees at a popular park. Daisy is a four-year-old Labrador Retriever who loves going on walks with her owner, Kelly Mason. Every day, they walk about five miles through Grand Vue park. Sometimes, Daisy goes on her own adventure and returns with a souvenir. Since she found her first disc about three years ago, Daisy has retrieved 155 of them with no plans of stopping anytime soon. Now the park has teamed up with Kelly to create a program called <i>Daisy's Discs</i> .