

# **WCLR Radio**

**Issues/Programs**

**2ND QUARTER/2023**

## **Quarterly Issues Program List**

### **WCLR**

#### **Second Quarter 2023 (1 April to 30 June)**

The following is a listing of some of the significant issues responded to WCLR, DEKALB, IL, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of 1 April to 30 June. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance. All times are Pacific.

1. MINISTRY
2. EMPLOYMENT
3. EDUCATION
4. MENTAL HEALTH
5. ADDICTION
6. FAMILY ISSUES
7. TECHNOLOGY
8. FAITH
9. HEALTHCARE

Issue	Program	Date	Time	Duration	Description of Program
Veterans	Closer Look	4/2/23	7:00pm	18min	<p>Disabled Vets Skydive, Drive Racecars with Ranger Road            "A lot of our veterans -- especially door kickers and guys that have been through a lot of stuff in the military -- we don't want charity," explains Mikhail Venikov, former MMA fighter, veteran of 2nd Ranger battalion and founder of Ranger Road. "We put together fun events that vets can partake in and not feel like a charity case." No arms? No legs? No problem! "Whether you're an amputee, double amputee, triple amputee, you're paralyzed, our skydiving, our scuba, our car races -- they are all adaptive capable."            In fact, the leaders and trainers at RR events are themselves disabled vets. "Our skydiving program manager, he's an 82nd airborne guy, double amputee."            "Maybe it's difficult for the average person to understand -- they've seen a lot been through a lot -- some of their friends and family members maybe, their brothers and sisters they served with never made it back -- and so there are underlying things that need to be addressed."            Ranger Road strives to provide a space and a place for hurting men and women to ask for help. "We try to assist and get with those veterans and address those disabilities and those needs the best we possibly can."</p>
Sports – Special Needs	Closer Look	4/2/23	7:19pm	14min	<p>Iowa Mom Helps Kids with Special Needs Play Sports, Have Fun            Melissa Clarke-Wharff wanted her son Jack who is disabled to have fun like other kids his age. So, Melissa began Can Play, an organization that lets kids with health and special needs issues play sports and have lots of fun. "These kids all deserve to play and be active just like anybody else."            Melissa says families are often told how their kids will not be able to do certain things. But with Can Play, they show kids they 'can do it,' no matter what. "You can do this, stay strong," says Jack. He reminds others even he had bad days, but to keep working hard at what they do and to "never give up."</p>
Healthcare	Local Closer Look	4/2/23, 5/14/23	7:30pm	20min	<p>Spoke with Jessica Bartsch of the Parkinson's Foundation about living with the debilitating disease. They discuss the numerous possible symptoms of Parkinson's, who it affects, where to find help, and how to find local support groups for both those who have been diagnosed as well as for their care givers and much more. Bartsch also covers how many people in the U.S. are dealing with the disease and how nutrition and exercise can play an important role when dealing with Parkinson's.</p>
Charity	PSA	4/2/23 – 4/15/23	112 spots, 8 times each day	15sec	<p>Goodwill Northern Illinois supports that decluttered closet feeling! Find out how your donations can directly support the service programs of Goodwill Northern Illinois and help change lives in our community. Visit <a href="http://goodwillNI.org">goodwillNI.org</a>.</p>

Public Safety	Closer Look	4/16/23	7:00pm	30min	<p>Be Safer at Work or Church, Thoughts on Security</p> <p>You see trouble, you hear it – now believe it. “Trust your intuition...you know when a situation is different,” says Hector Alvarez, an expert in workplace security with more than 25 years of experience in threat assessment. “One of your best bets for surviving these incidents is thinking about it before it happens.” Preparation is key says Mindi Russell, exec. dir. of the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy of Sacramento. “Instead of, ‘it will never happen here,’ have the mindset that if something happens, this is what we’ll do.” Mindi Russell advises asking yourself ‘what if?’ in advance of crisis to avoid a fearful freeze. She is the executive director of the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy of Sacramento and also trains the public in situational awareness. “When they walk into a room, walk into a concert, when they walk into a movie theatre, glance around. What looks out of place? What is the behavior you pick up?” People will ‘seem off’ if they intend harm. They will show their intentions in odd posture, by keeping their hand in their pockets, or adjusting their waistband, facing strongly to one side, not looking at you. “Stop looking for bad guys: start looking for bad behavior.” Russell specializes in helping churches develop effective security plans.</p>
Museum	Local Closer Look	4/16/23	7:30pm	20min	<p>Talked with Emily O’Brien about the history of the DuPage County Historical Museum and O’Brien shares her background and describes her role as the Museum Curator. O’Brien also shares her passion for working at the museum and how she appreciates sharing her love for history with the community and seeing their expressions when visitors are researching their genealogy. O’Brien gives us a virtual tour of the museum and shares how staff are available to the public to assist with family research.</p>
Addiction	Closer Look	4/23/23	7:00pm	30min	<p>Kids Fooled by Fentanyl, Rx Fakes</p> <p>Kids are getting pills that look like Xanax or Percocet online or in the locker room. Often laced with fentanyl, these deadly drugs can be 100x stronger than morphine. “It’s terrifying,” says Pat Aussem of the Partnership to End Addiction. Ed Ternan, co-founder of Song for Charlie lost his college-aged son to one pill and now helps other parents warn their children. “We still say ‘just say no’ but we spell it K. N. O. W. because many of these young victims are dying from taking a substance they didn’t ask for.’</p>

Special Needs – Education	Local Closer Look	4/23/23, 5/28/23	7:30pm	20min	Talked with John Utterbuck, Executive Director of Clare Woods Academy. Utterbuck shares how Clare Woods Academy focuses on assisting disabled youth and adults with their goal to become self-sufficient and self-directed, in personal growth, general health, education, social and emotional well-being and functional living skills. He also describes the school’s daily activities that include weather, character development, reading, spelling, and a variety of research-based reading and math materials. Utterbuck shares a story of a child and their accomplishments while attending the school.
Technology	Closer Look	4/30/23	7:00pm	29min	Don't Click That Link! Be CyberSmart You scroll social media and spot spam. Emails shout ‘click here!’ from an inbox full of tricks. Modern cybercriminals commit considerable time and talent to hacking your life. “Every person, every business has something a cyber bad guy would want,” says Darren Mott, cybersecurity expert and host of The CyburGuy podcast. As a retired FBI agent, Mott warns that believing that is the first step to avoiding scams. “They are looking to gain from our naivete online, human error and things like that.” The answer? Be cybersmart. A full “90% of the cases I worked at the FBI were due to this kind of social engineering or phishing,” says Mott, adding that senior citizens are their favorite targets. Callers, texters or emailers will pose as a grandchild who needs money fast. Another favorite phish is the ‘tech support’ email claiming your credit card was charged for something like Norton anti-virus software or an Amazon package. Multi-factor authentication and strong passwords – meaning 13 characters or more – will eliminate a lot of this problem,” Mott explains. Avila advises even the smallest mom n’pop businesses to invest in cybersecurity like the insurance they buy for company vehicles.”
Special Needs	Local Closer Look	4/30/23	7:30pm	20min	Talked with Aaron Barr, Senior Director with Chicago Lighthouse. Chicago Lighthouse provides vision support services to those who are visually impaired or blind. Baar explains how they work in schools to help affected youth gain resources and equipment needed to succeed and thrive. He shares how they provide the assistive technology to all those with visual impairments. Baar tells us about the employment assistance program they offer and why it's vital for employers to hire those with visual impairments.

Special Olympics	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	April 2023	4 per week, 16 total	60sec Podcast 5.07min	<p>Special Olympics Athlete Kaitlin Dykes Takes Part in The Polar Plunge</p> <p>Each year in February and March, thousands of people all around the nation jump into freezing cold waters to raise awareness for Special Olympics in an event called the "Polar Plunge." Kaitlin Dykes, a Special Olympics athlete from Chesapeake, Va., is incredibly brave. As a Special Olympics athlete for the past ten years, Kaitlin recently jumped into the freezing cold ocean as part of the organization's annual Polar Plunge. "It's very cold. We all go to the beach and have some fun. I go all the way in the water, under the water and high-five all the divers," Kaitlin said. Kaitlin loves God and the Special Olympics "because everyone is welcome--all ages and all abilities and all the special gifts that God gives us." Kaitlin participates in several Special Olympics events including basketball, softball and soccer. She says participating in Special Olympics events and fundraisers like the Polar Plunge give her a chance to shine the light of Jesus. "I always wanted to be a missionary. I thought being a missionary means that you have to go somewhere but I realized that I am a missionary. God used me right where I'm at--everywhere I go," Kaitlin said.</p>
Entertainment – Faith	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	April 2023	4 per week, 16 total	60sec Podcast 20.58min	<p>Cartoons About Faith, People &amp; Life: Respected Cartoonist Joe McKeever</p> <p>For decades, pastor and cartoonist Joe McKeever has visited churches to share the message of Christ. Often, he will meet and greet, take the time to draw portraits, and talk about Jesus while he's sketching. At some sittings, Joe will do literally dozens of portraits, sometimes dedicating two hours to be sure no one is left out. "I just sit in the corner and draw people." Besides his in-person church work, Joe has been doing cartoons and editorial cartoons for years. It's very likely you've seen some of his professional work on sites like Baptist Press. And Joe is aware that his cartoon work gets 'borrowed' quite a bit by other media sources and just regular folks on social media. And that doesn't bother him one bit. As a matter of fact, that fits into his guidance from God, who told him, "I'm to encourage people with these." If people re-post his cartoons, all the better. t age 82, Joe and his wife, Bertha, still drive to churches that invite him. Most people would consider the age 82 some years past what retirement age would be, so why does Joe keep working? "Because that's what God called me to be." As a pastor with more than 40 years' experience, a masters and a doctorate, Joe often gets private email questions from pastors about situations they're up against and Joe offers his wisdom.</p>

Paralympic Games	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	April and May 2023	4 per week, 16 total	60sec Podcast 10.48min	Paralympian Training for Paris 2024 Games, Christian Music Is a Training Ingredient Despite a serious vision issue, Deborah Chucoski is training for triathlon and is aiming at taking part with Team USA in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. At age 15, "I was diagnosed with Stargardt's. That's a degenerative disease – and over time I'm just continuing to lose more and more of my central vision." But that didn't keep her from competing in track & field during her days at Cedarville University. After graduation in 2007, she became active in triathlon until it became clear her sight limitations were dangerous for solo swimming and cycling. There were some bike wrecks. And that led Deborah to stop competitive sports altogether. Fast-forward. Now married and a mother of two, Deborah has been inspired by her husband to return to competitive athletics. This time in the Paralympics.
Communication	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	April and June 2023	4 per week, 16 total	60sec Podcast 15.43min	The 'Lost Art of Letter Writing' - Patti Garibay Encourages Girls to Discover Real Friends American Heritage Girls founder Patti Garibay is giving young girls a chance to connect the old-fashioned way – by becoming pen pals. "It's just a beautiful way to have a memory and also to have great communication with someone that they don't even know." Garibay says girls are used to a lot of disappointment, especially through negative interactions on social media. But the AHG Pen Pal program gives them a chance to foster meaningful and lasting relationships. "It is a wonderful way for likeminded girls to really foster relationship and that's doing the old-fashioned handwritten letters that are sent to each other," says Garibay. She says writing letters to each other is "a beautiful way to have a memory and also to have great communication with someone that they don't even know." Garibay believes there's something special about writing a letter to someone you care about. She says there's "sort of a blessing there, there's a focus that takes time and means 'you are worth it, you are special.'"
Healthcare – Childhood Issues	Closer Look	5/7/23	7:00pm	15min	Tackle Childhood Obesity at Home, Church and School Millions of American kids suffer words like chubby or chunky – or fat – to describe their young bodies. The COVID-19 lockdowns only worsened already alarming levels of childhood obesity, as the CDC found the BMI (body mass index) in children ages 2-19 years old increase nearly doubled during the pandemic. Excess weight weakens growing muscles and joints and can lead to juvenile diabetes or even trigger life-threatening asthma. "Prevention is what we really want, right?" says Geri Henchy, Director of Nutrition Policy at the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). "We want kids to be in environments that are not obesogenic; where they're gonna get healthy meals, where there isn't a lot of junk food, where they have activities -- that's really gonna make a difference for kids."

Family Issues	Closer Look	5/7/23	7:15pm	15min	<p>Teens Aged Out of Foster Care Get Help From ‘Dream Makers’</p> <p>Without family and often lacking lifeskills, former foster kids become homeless adults by the thousands, turning to drugs and crime on the streets just to survive. “Every statistic you hear that is going bad in the United States, a lot of them link back to the foster care system and those kids just not being taken care of.” Dream Makers steps in to link aged-out foster kids with practical assistance by connecting them with the generosity of strangers. “It totally up to the community to fulfill the dream.” The young adult with a need fills out an application to ask for things that teens with families could easily get from a mom or dad: like money for work clothes, or a laptop for school, or maybe a used car – but Melton says the most common dream request from these youth by far is – food.</p>
Food Insecurity	Local Closer Look	5/7/23, 6/4/23	7:30pm	20min	<p>Talked with Elizabeth Bishop, Owner of the Crave Cares organization. Bishop shares her story of how God turned the loss of her daughter to a story of hope and inspiration. Bishop describes that through baking she was able to get through her grief by providing baked goods to those who are less fortunate and shares how each item is customized based on the request submitted. She also shares that cakes and other baked goods can be specific to dietary restrictions.</p>
Healthcare	PSA	5/7/20 – 5/20/23	112 spots, 8 times each day	15sec	<p>We Care Pregnancy Clinic, has empowered women to make life affirming choices since 1992. With free pregnancy testing, limited obstetrical ultrasounds, and parent education resources. Learn more at <a href="http://WeCarePregnancyClinic.org">WeCarePregnancyClinic.org</a>.</p>
Childhood Issues	Closer Look	5/14/23	7:00pm	15min	<p>Children in foster care often arrive at a new placement with just the clothes on their backs. Cathy Hamilton founded San Antonio Threads to give brand-new clothes to older youth(12yrs-21yrs) who have no family to take them shopping. “I’ve had kids say things like ‘old clothes have bad memories; new clothes have good memories -- thank you for the fresh start.”</p>
Animal Safety	Closer Look	5/14/23	7:15pm	15min	<p>Nearly 200 elderly horses get free hay and healthcare at Old Friends Farm in Georgetown. Current residents include famous thoroughbreds Silver Charm and Touch Gold, but also others, not famous, but whose owners could no longer care for them. “We owe it to them,” says farm founder and caretaker Michael Blowen. “These horses are to Kentucky what the automobile is to Detroit.”</p>



Natural Disaster	Closer Look	5/21/23	7:00pm	27min	Convoy of Hope Springs into Action: 2023 Update Convoy has been very busy so far this year. Devastating tornado outbreaks slammed several U.S. states. "Convoy is now working long-term to get people what they need -- appliances, furniture, roofs -- whatever it is." The ministry sent aid and comfort when twin earthquakes in Turkey and Syria drove 2.6 million people into tents near the rubble of their homes. Convoy continues to care for war refugees in Ukraine and those who have fled to neighboring countries. Convoy is also committed to an ongoing effort to feed children in global famine. The Children's Feeding program provides meals in 33 countries for more than 500k+ hungry kids.
Special Needs	Local Closer Look	5/21/23	7:30pm	20min	Talked with Shannon Harper, SR PR Marketing Manager of the Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois about the history of the organization. Harper also shares how their organization specifically focuses on improving the quality of life for people with disabilities and workplace disadvantages through employment and personal growth. Harper gives details on the Youth re-entry program and the many other resources that are available to those seeking employment and training. Harper also shares her favorite thrift store shopping tips.
Veterans	Closer Look	5/28/23	7:00pm	18min	Disabled Vets Skydive, Drive Racecars with Ranger Road No arms? No legs? No problem! "Whether you're an amputee, double amputee, triple amputee, you're paralyzed, our skydiving, our scuba, our car races -- they are all adaptive capable." In fact, the leaders and trainers at RR events are themselves disabled vets. "Our skydiving program manager, he's an 82nd airborne guy, double amputee." Participation in these events can bring a soldier camaraderie and a renewed sense of purpose towards mental health and healing.
Special Needs – Sports	Closer Look	5/28/23	7:18pm	14min	Melissa Clarke-Wharff wanted her son Jack who is disabled to have fun like other kids his age. So, Melissa began Can Play, an organization that lets kids with health and special needs issues play sports and have lots of fun. "These kids all deserve to play and be active just like anybody else." Jack suffered six strokes when he was just 8 years old, which left him with cognitive delays, partial paralysis and 'limited ability to play.' Can Play gives kids like Jack "a place that they can come, be themselves, learn about their bodies and what their bodies can do."
Economy	Closer Look	6/4/23	7:00pm	29min	Food Prices, Fight Inflation from Your Fridge Food costs more these days. COVID-19 shutdowns drove up the price of labor, fertilizer and fuel needed to move crops from farms to factories to stores and eventually to your kitchen. What can you do? Should you panic buy? Comparison shop? Billie Wright checks in with Assoc Prof. Joe Balagtas at Purdue University and Jordan Page, lifestyle blogger and mom of 8 for proven tips on cutting your grocery bill.

Mental Health – Ministry	Closer Look	6/11/23	7:00pm	30min	Pastor Burnout, Caring for Your Leader’s Soul Surveys in 2021 found a sharp rise in the number of church leaders who have seriously considered leaving full-time ministry, citing debilitating stress, anxiety, or depression. Rafael Sierra talks with Savannah Kimberlin of Barna Group and K-LOVE's Pastor Randy who says rest and other self-care should be a guilt-free part of your life as a spiritual leader.
Special Needs	Local Closer Look	6/11/23	7:30pm	20min	Talked with Jason Holden, SVP of Operations for Joni and Friends. Joni And Friends provides retreats, programs, and services for those living with disabilities. Holden shares how they work with churches to not only improve access for those with disabilities but educate on ways to improve quality of services that are inclusive. He shares stories of joyful times at their retreats not only locally but nationwide. Holden explains the importance of putting the person first and disability second.
Addiction	Closer Look	6/18/23	7:00pm	13min	Gambling, Suicide Risk and Addiction Recovery Gambling addiction is a leading cause of suicide in the United States. The thrill of the bet buries vulnerable gamblers deep in debts matched only by their secret shame. But stats prove you can win recovery, as 2 outta 3 people who seek treatment are able to stop. Rafael Sierra talks with Derek Longmeier of Problem Gambling Network of Ohio and Keith Whyte of the National Council on Problem Gambling. Need to talk? Call the National Problem Gambling Helpline: (800) 522-4700.
Faith	Closer Look	6/18/23	7:13pm	17min	Faith Of Her Father - Baby Jessica’s Dad The unlikely rescue of Baby Jessica from a well back in 1987 remains one of the world’s most watched news stories of all time. There were “multiple miracles,” says her father Chip McClure, “more than you can count...God’s hand was evident.” In the days and months after, the family received thousands of calls and truckloads of mail from all over the world, people in personal distress who were encouraged by the McClure’s faith and the good news of Jessica’s rescue. K-LOVE’s Jack Church talks to Chip.
Youth Programs	Local Closer Look	6/18/23	7:30pm	20min	Talked with Kevin Cherep, President and CEO of Chicago Youth Centers. Chicago Youth Centers provides childcare and education to the youngest and poorest residents of the city. Cherep shares how they encourage parent engagement into the classrooms. He explains who is qualified to use their services and workshops. Cherep explains how their latest project took a shuttered school and renovated it for use for Chicago Youth Centers and the extensive collaboration taken to make the project successful.

Healthcare	Closer Look	6/25/23	7:00pm	30min	<p>Dawn-Marie Perez, executive director of StandUpGirl.com says their site stands ready to help. "Our mission is to have these girls be able to find life-affirming information through us -- and then we connect them with pregnancy centers in their neighborhood." Quick response is essential. "If you go google the word 'abortion' right now there are millions of websites that are gonna come up. Our goal is to have StandUpGirl show up on that first page of their google search." How? "We spend close to \$10K a month through advertising on internet search engines so that if a woman is out there looking for information -- even if she's searching for information about abortion -- she finds StandUpGirl." What does she find when she clicks the link? "We have thousands and thousands of stories from girls who have been in that situation [unplanned pregnancy] -- we have built this community of women to help and guide each other with light, hope and courage, that these young women would choose life for their baby." In partnership with Heartbeat International, CareNet and Birthright, StandUpGirl.com uses a geolocator to point web-visitors to one of 2,200 pro-life pregnancy centers closest to their home. Girls from as far away as Africa and Asia also get connected to local help.</p>
Volunteering	Local Closer Look	6/25/23	7:30pm	20min	<p>Talked with Chris Swope-Cholewa, CEO of the Hands On Suburban Chicago organization about the background and history of the organization. Swope-Cholewa also shares details how the organization focuses on matching people with volunteer opportunities that fulfill what they love to do while making positive changes in their community. Swope-Cholewa talks about a unique program serving high risk elementary and middle school students, providing focus on grades, attendance, and social and emotional well-being of students.</p>

Ministry – Faith	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	June 2023	4 per week, 16 total	60sec Podcast 8.59min	<p>Family Sells Everything to Serve God in Central America</p> <p>BJ and Robin McCoy weren't on their church's recent mission trip to Guatemala, but when members of the mission team returned to tell them about a special need in Guatemala, the McCoys felt called to uproot everything they've known and start fresh in Central America. Their move requires that they leave behind their current jobs (BJ has worked for the state of Kentucky as an environmental scientist and Robin has been a high school principal) and start work at the Christian Academy of Guatemala, a school that "exists to support the missionary community in Guatemala by providing a biblically-based, quality English education to prepare lives for Christian service." BJ said. "We are selling everything we own--our house, our vehicles, our boat, our cat (laughter) and our family is headed to serve at the Christian Academy of Guatemala." Their young children, Scout and Jay and excited about the move. Will language be a problem? Robin says, "I feel like this is one way that God really prepared our family is I was actually a high school Spanish teacher before I became an administrator." The McCoys are in awe of the way God's hand is on this adventure. "It's almost a daily occurrence of we're just amazed at how He's put things in place and allowed things to happen," Robin said. The family plans to leave the United States on July 11, and will stay the entire school year. They're asking for prayer as they head out on this new adventure.</p>
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Technology – Education	KLOVE’s Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	June 2023	4 per week, 16 total	60sec Podcast 1min	<p>This 23-Year-Old Founder is 3D Printing Schools in Madagascar Aiming to be a ‘Stepping Stone’ for the Community</p> <p>A young entrepreneur is using 3D printers to create cheap school campuses in rural Madagascar. It takes just \$40,000 and 18 hours to build a “Thinking Hut,” as they’re called, and founder of the project Maggie Grout is aiming to get the cost even lower before handing the reins over to local professionals. GNN previously reported on Maggie Grout’s idea in 2021 during the pandemic. It was then that she and a San Francisco architect came up with the idea of making them honeycomb-shaped so that additional modules could be added seamlessly. And indeed, the first completed campus is called the “Honeycomb.”</p> <p>Madagascar is one of the most challenging places in Africa to develop, but also the most opportune owing to a lack of any armed conflicts and a government welcoming of foreign workers. But extreme poverty, lack of infrastructure, terrible roads, and a delicate, priceless natural ecosystem all pose challenges to anyone seeking to implement large-scale development projects. Instead, Grout brought her 3D printers over in a single shipping container and has now printed a school in the town of Fianarantsoa, a city in south-central Madagascar with 200,000 people. “From that first project, I really learned how to streamline the logistics,” Grout told Fast Company. “I learned how to put together the supply chain when there’s not a lot of locally available materials. And then I learned how to work in harmony with the local people.”</p>
Communication	KLOVE’s Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	June 2023	4 per week, 16 total	60sec Podcast 4.43min	<p>Grandma Said ‘Always Do Good’ – Allison Lives That with Unique Letter-Writing Outreach</p> <p>That fact that Allison Bond is alive is a witness to the mercy of God. She was born premature at 25 weeks and has a mild case of cerebral palsy. About 8 years ago her grandmother Jacqueline passed away from a rare brain disorder giving Allison the life advice to “always do good things.” Based in Lincoln, Arkansas, Allison has found a way to fulfil that with a unique ministry: Kindness Through Letters Mission. “I started with writing pen pals, writing people at prison, soldiers, and cops...and it just kind of grew from there.” Allison calculates that she’s written “very much over 2,000” letters. “I handwrite everything.” And she always includes something about God and offers to pray for the recipient. “Usually, the prisoners tell me how grateful they are that I’ve been sending them scriptures.” And Allison keeps every response bundled up as a loving keepsake.</p>

Employment	KLOVE's Positive People News Podcast with on-air 60sec promo for podcast	June 2023	4 per week, 16 total	60sec Podcast 6.28min	<p>People With Autism Find Employment Thanks to Parents Seeking Inclusivity</p> <p>Patrick Bardsley cofounded a business, with two moms, that fills a unique gap in employment. "Our mission is to employ people on the autism spectrum. And about 60% of our integrated workforce are individuals on the spectrum." Spectrum Designs is a nonprofit business based in Long Island. Bardsley says they find employees a number of different ways. And there are many advantages to employing those on the autism spectrum. "Spectrum Designs has benefitted greatly from having all kinds of minds solving different kinds of problems in our workplace." Bardsley says the business got its start because, "necessity's the mother of all invention." He explains there was little in the way of employment opportunities once those on the spectrum graduate high school. Some of the best moments, according to Bardsley, are when employees get that first paycheck. He describes, "You can see it in their eyes. That it's so much more than that piece of paper with some dollars on it. It's more about self-worth and structure and routine and friendships and relationships and independence and choice of where to spend your money."</p>
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