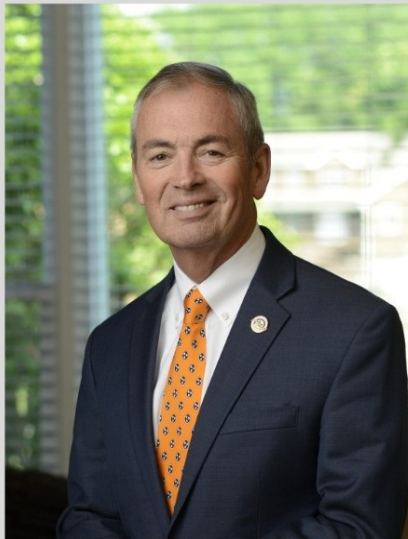




# THE COUNTY CONNECTION

A Monthly Newsletter from Mayor Randall Hutto  
Mt. Juliet | Lebanon | Watertown



*In this newsletter:*

**Commissioner Spotlight:  
Sue Vanatta, District 23**  
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Assists COVID-19 Vaccine  
Distribution**  
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## ***A Word from Mayor Hutto...***

This February has been a busy month here at the Wilson County Mayor's Office. I have met with our county commissioners, COVID-19 Taskforce, and numerous others both in-person and virtually to stay up to date on our new and ongoing goals here in Wilson County.

This new year has brought with it many new and exciting projects for our county, as well as new information about our ongoing goals. One ongoing goal is the statewide rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines, which are currently being given to those ages sixty-five and up and our teachers. With this goal comes many challenges and uncertainties. If you or your loved one is sixty-five or older and would like to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, call 866/442-5301 or visit <https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/county-vaccine-information/> to schedule an appointment.

Another ongoing project in Wilson County is our Wilson Rides program. This is a non-profit that was first established in 2020 with the focus of providing safe transportation to local destinations for our senior adults. This month, the Board of Wilson Rides welcomed their new Executive Director, Gaye Lynn Wilson, and they are excited to see this much-needed program launch later this spring.

My office is also proud to recognize the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GSVA) program. This is a State of Tennessee program that seeks to recognize and honor the outstanding volunteers in its participating counties. This year, Wilson County was pleased to recognize our county's nominees and youth and adult winners. Check out page 09 of this newsletter to view some of Wilson County's nominees and winners. More Governor's Volunteer Stars will be included in future spring editions of the County Connection, so be sure to check back in.

I am looking forward to all of the "positives" that this spring will offer our county. For many of us, Wilson County is not only called the "place to be", but it is also called "home." Let us all work together to help our friends and neighbors in need and show others that Wilson County truly is the place to be!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall Hutto".

# Commissioner Spotlight: Sue Vanatta District 23



Sue Vanatta  
District 23

## Contact INFORMATION

2004 Hartman Plantation  
Lebanon, TN 37090

+1 (615) 218-5526

# Wilson County LANDFILL

## WINTER HOURS

Monday-Friday  
7:00AM-3:00PM

CLOSED SATURDAY

ALL LOADS MUST BE CHECKED INTO  
THE SCALE HOUSE BY 2:30 P.M.

PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS  
TO 615.449.6684

PLASTIC RECYCLING IS AVAILABLE AT  
WILSON COUNTY CONVENIENCE  
CENTERS! MILK JUGS AND SODA  
BOTTLES MUST BE REMOVED FROM  
PLASTIC BAGS BEFORE ENTERING THE  
RECYCLING BINS.



## NO ONE TOOL WILL ELIMINATE COVID-19

Protect yourself from the virus:



TN

## Beware of Vaccine Scams



Don't pay out of pocket  
for the vaccine



Don't pay to put your  
name on a priority list



Don't pay to get early  
access to the vaccine



Vaccines are not  
solicited door-to-door

[COVID19.TN.gov](https://www.COVID19.TN.gov)

# COLD CHAIN TECHNOLOGIES ASSISTS COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

Cold Chain Technologies (C.C.T.) recently opened a distribution warehouse in Lebanon, Tennessee. C.C.T is a leading global provider of reusable and single-use thermal packaging solutions for the shipment of temperature-sensitive material. The new cold chain facility in Lebanon, TN is fully equipped to support the COVID-19 vaccine's temperature sensitive supply chain requirements. C.C.T.'s Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ranjeet Banerjee stated, "All is going well. Our new plant in TN is busy supporting the COVID-19 vaccine needs. Sharing some pictures of the first shipment of the Moderna vaccine in our EcoFlex thermal packaging containers made at the new Lebanon, TN, Plant. Thanks for all your support in the start-up of this plant! It's highly appreciated!"




## TORNADO RECOVERY CONNECTION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TN<sup>1</sup>UMC

## RECOVER

*Wilson County*

UNMET NEEDS? CALL 615-270-9255  
RECOVERWILSON.COM

UNMET NEEDS? NECESITAS AYUDA?  
615-270-9255 \* RECOVERWILSON.COM



FEBRUARY IS *National Cancer Prevention Month*

**WILSON COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL  
RETURN TO HOME CHALLENGE  
"STRAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME"**

"KEEP THEM HOME"  
"KEEP THEM SAFE"  
"GET THEM CHIPPED"

WILSON COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL  
HAS INVITED  
THE CITY OF LEBANON ANIMAL CONTROL  
TO JOIN THEM IN HELPING GET THE  
DOGS BACK HOME SAFE.  
**FREE MICROCHIP CLINIC  
TO THE FIRST 100 DOGS**

**MARCH 13, 2021  
FROM 1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM**

**JAMES E WARD AGRICULTURAL CENTER  
945 E BADDOUR PKWY,  
AT THE ENTERTAINMENT PAVILLION**



# GIVING HOT MEALS AND HOPE WITH COMPASSIONATE HANDS *submitted by Susan Shaw*

On January 11th, the county mayor's office team served dinner at Compassionate Hands, and it was a great experience! The team brought food, packaged it for delivery and pickup, cleaned up the kitchen and delivered the individual food boxes to the Lebanon shelter for both the men's and women's shelters. The group included Susan Shaw, Sara Davenport, and Brooke Driver of the Wilson County Mayor's office, Wilson County's First Lady, Paula Hutto, Jackie Murphy, Register of Deeds and Laura Headley with Edward Jones and Lebanon Rotary. Zaxby's supports Compassionate Hands with chicken tenders and sauces throughout this winter Season. The group was asked to bring two side dishes, rolls and dessert with enough for fifty servings. This team went overboard and brought macaroni salad, creamed corn, green beans with ham, potato salad, Bay's sourdough rolls, chocolate chip cookies and other individual desserts! The team loved finding a way to socialize in times of COVID-19 for a purpose that helps those in the community. Compassionate Hands serves dinner every night through March 15th for those in their two shelters and to anyone that drives up when dinner is available. They are practicing social distancing and taking all the precautions that allow them to continue to provide this much needed service in the community. If you'd like to organize a dinner, Compassionate Hands is looking for volunteer groups on several evenings. To volunteer contact Shelia Weathers with Compassionate Hands at sheliaweathers1111@gmail.com or by phone at 615-426-5758. For other questions, call Susan Shaw at 615-444-1383.



Pictured left to right: Jackie Murphy, Register of Deeds, Laura Headley with Edward Jones and Lebanon Rotary, Brooke Driver and Susan Shaw with the Wilson County Mayor's Office, and Paula Hutto, Wilson County's First Lady



# FAMOUS FOOTWEAR DONATES \$5,000 TO ST. JUDE IN ABSENCE OF NASHVILLE MARATHON *submitted by Sara Davenport*

Famous Footwear donated \$5,000.00 to the kids of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This donation comes as a result of what would have, under normal circumstances, been their annual sponsorship of the WeGo Star for the St. Jude Rock N Roll Nashville Marathon. Each year, my office actively promotes the event and works to secure an annual sponsor for the train and any additional donors. In years past, runners and spectators would enjoy the benefits of a hassle-free ride and free parking to and from the marathon. The \$15 train tickets would be donated back to the children's hospital on behalf of Famous Footwear. However, the onset of COVID caused an initial re-schedule date and then eventually a full cancellation of the 2020 event.

"In my mind, this event is a win for everyone. We help support the children of St. Jude and introduce people to the benefits of public transit, all taxpayer free. To see Famous Footwear, continue this donation despite the cancellation of the actual event is inspiring and reminds me just how wonderful our county really is and how much its people care for one another," said Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor



Pictured left to right: Jon Holler, Director, Retail Transportation & Operations, Famous Footwear; Courtney McMahon, Field Development – Contractor for ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor

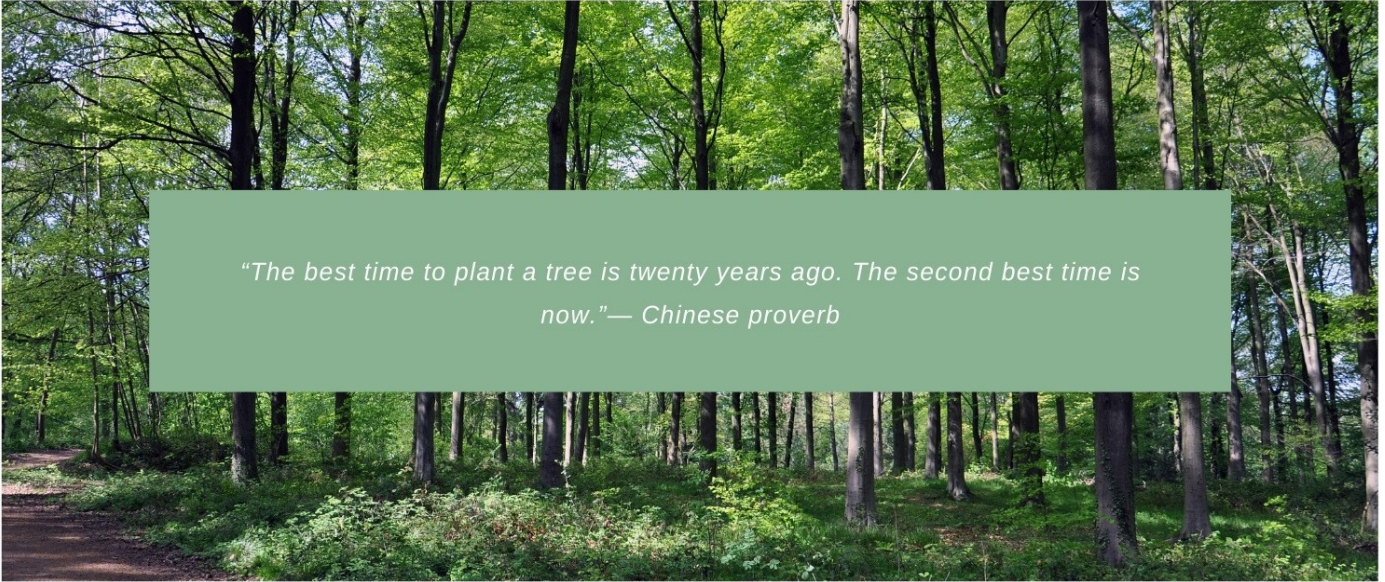
# WILSON COUNTY VETERAN'S SERVICES OFFICE WORKS WITH COMMUNITY TO ASSIST LOCAL VETERAN

*submitted by Sara Allen*

The Wilson County Veterans Service Office not only helps file claims for veterans that have service connected disabilities, but they have a love of helping veterans in general. One veteran in particular had several needs that the Veterans Service Office was able to assist with. Mr. Hilory Ashe, was in need of a home, food, and transportation. The Service Office assisted Mr. Ashe with assistance in obtaining housing at the American Legion Apartments in Gallatin as well as helping him with his food stamp application. The Veterans Service Office also has the community to thank for assisting with Mr. Ashe's needs. One Wilson County resident donated a warm coat that Mr. Ashe carries with him always. And finally, after reaching out the community, one Wilson County family, that wishes to remain anonymous, donated a car (dubbed "The Green Hornet" by Mayor Hutto). The Wilson County Service Office does all of this so that no Veteran is left behind in Wilson County.



First photo, pictured left to right: ZaBrina Seay, Veteran's Services Office Director, Mr. Hilory Ashe, Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor. Second photo: Mr. Hilory Ashe poses for photograph with the Veteran's Services Office staff with his new vehicle.



*"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now."— Chinese proverb*

# WILSON COUNTY STORMWATER DEPARTMENT PLANS TENNESSEE TREE DAY CELEBRATION

*submitted by Lisa Baldwin, Wilson County Stormwater Department*

Each year the Wilson County Stormwater Department partners with TEC for their Annual Tennessee Tree Day! This program is to help people see and USE the benefits of trees! Just a few of those benefits are:

Environmental

- Reduces urban heat. i.e. Parking Lots
- Improve air quality by filtering harmful dust and pollutants.
- Give off Oxygen for us to breathe.
- Reduce the amount of stormwater runoff, which reduces erosion and pollution of waterways.
- Many species of wildlife depend on the trees for habitat.

Economic

Reduce cooling costs if planted in the correct location. Evergreen can be used as a wind block and can reduce the cost of heating your home. Can increase up to 10% the price of your home with mature trees and manicured landscapes.

Social

- Reduces the amount of stress in people who spend time among the trees.
- People who are in hospitals recover more quickly when a view from their room includes a tree.
- Children have been shown to retain more information taught in schools if they spend their time outdoors in green spaces.
- Are used often as living memorials or reminders of loved ones.

Communal

- Your neighbor will benefit from your trees on your property.
- Tree lined streets have a traffic calming effect. Traffic moves more slowly and safely.
- Can be used to block unwanted views and can be used as noise buffers.
- Can improve overall aesthetics of entire neighborhoods.

We are VERY excited to be part of this program! **We will be giving away 1000 trees on Friday, March 19, 2021 from 9:00am until they are gone right outside our office at 233 East Gay Street!** So prepare to plant your new trees on Saturday the 20th, but enjoy them for many years to come!



# CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK IN WILSON COUNTY

In January 2021, Mayor Hutto met with Susan Shaw, Kim Lynch and her son, Wyley Lynch, to sign a proclamation which recognized February 7-14, 2021 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week in Wilson County, Tennessee. The health and well-being of congenital heart patients is of paramount importance, and each year in the United States, more than 40,000 babies are born with a congenital heart defect. The medical community has identified congenital heart defects as the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths. Medical research can provide more identifiable means of the origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects. There is no cure for congenital heart defects, and it is a lifelong disease requiring ongoing specialized care. Fewer than 10% of adults with congenital heart disease are receiving recommended care. It is crucial that individuals planning a family, fetal clinicians, obstetric physicians, pediatricians, and all those in the medical field have a greater understanding of the potential for congenital heart defects. Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week can provide the opportunity for patients and families affected by this condition to share their experiences and knowledge, so that the public may be aware of how this defect affects lives of congenital heart patients. All Wilson County residents were encouraged to join Mayor Hutto in honoring this special observance.



Pictured left to right: Susan Shaw, Randall Hutto, Kim Lynch and Wyley Lynch

# WILSON RIDES TO BEGIN RIDE SERVICE; ACCEPTS FAMOUS FOOTWEAR DONATION

*submitted by Susan Shaw*



Wilson Rides, Inc. is the grateful recipient of a donation of \$5,000 from the Caleres/Famous Footwear distribution center located in Lebanon, TN. Famous Footwear employees love to give back, often nominating organizations in the local area for company support. Wilson Rides serves the senior population, and Famous Footwear looks forward to supporting our senior residents. Maggie Lea, President of the non-profit Wilson Rides, Inc. and owner of Middle Tennessee offices of Home Instead, has worked with County Mayor Randall Hutto, the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce, and Board of Directors to create Wilson Rides as a way to provide a much-needed service for older adults who don't have regular transportation. Seniors will be able to schedule rides to retail stores, appointments, visits with loved ones and to other local destinations. On February 1st, the Board of Wilson Rides welcomed Gaye Lynn Wilson as the new Executive Director for the planned ride service for older adults. The team is excited to see the program develop quickly under Gaye Lynn's leadership. Gaye Lynn Wilson actively serves in the local community, most recently as Chairwoman of the Board for the Mt. Juliet Chamber of Commerce and for Leadership Wilson. She is passionate about making Wilson County a better place to live for seniors and others, and she has volunteered with many local organizations. Gaye Lynn's experience in operations and development with National Pro Fastpitch and Club K & Co. in Nashville give her the skills needed to develop the startup program of Wilson Rides, Inc. Among many things, Gaye Lynn is responsible for developing social media, fundraising, and building a volunteer driver base with a goal to begin offering the ride service in late spring 2021. Mayor Hutto said "We have been working with Maggie Lea and others for quite a while to help make the vision for this service become a reality. It's a big step towards changing the face of aging in Wilson County and we wish Gaye Lynn well in her new role." For more information, please call Susan Shaw at 615-444 1383 in Mayor Hutto's office or Gaye Lynn Wilson at 615-207-8117. Please call Gaye Lynn if you know someone who would like to volunteer as a driver.



Pictured left to right: Jon Holler, Famous Footwear, Director of Retail Transportation & Operations; Maggie Lea, Wilson Rides President; Susan Shaw, Wilson Co. Mayor's Office, Project Administrator and Wilson Rides Director; Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor

# GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER STARS AWARDS



Wes Taylor, Wilson Bank & Trust; Peggy Williamson, GSA Adult Winner; Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor



Wes Taylor, Wilson Bank & Trust; Avery Lamberson, GSA Youth Nominee; Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor



Wes Taylor, Wilson Bank & Trust; Sarah Williams, GSA Adult Nominee; Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor.



Curt Baker, Wilson Bank & Trust; Jackie Arnold, GSA Adult Nominee; Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor



Curt Baker, Wilson Bank & Trust SVP – Lebanon Market Leader, Sara Davenport, Coordinator for GSA - Wilson County, Kandi McElhannon, GSA Adult Nominee, Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor

# COVID-19 RENT RELIEF ON THE WAY

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) announced that they are awaiting guidance from the US Treasury regarding rent relief funds designated as part of the COVID-19 Rent Relief Act of 2020. THDA stated: *Tennessee will be allocated roughly \$458 million from the federal government for COVID-19 Rent Relief and Governor Lee has tasked THDA with administering these funds for the majority of the state. THDA is working now to develop a web portal for applicants, establish a call center for application assistance, and prepare an adequate number of staff to review and process thousands of payments to landlords and utility providers. THDA is working to open the COVID-19 Rent Relief program as soon as is practical. Sign up below to be notified via email when the application portal is live. Knox County, Davidson County, and Memphis/Shelby County have chosen to administer their own emergency rental relief programs and residents of these areas will not be eligible for THDA COVID-19 Rent Relief funds. To be notified when the application portal is live, sign up on THDA's website at <https://thda.org/help-for-renters-section-8/covidrentrelief>. THDA is working to open the COVID-19 Rent Relief application portal on March 1, 2021.*

# RJ CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY GIVES DONATION TO ST JUDE'S *submitted by Sara Davenport*

RJ Corman railroad Co. donated \$1,500.00 to the kids of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This donation comes as a result of what would have, under normal circumstances, been their annual donation to St. Jude as runners and spectators would board the WeGo Star for the St. Jude Rock N Roll Nashville Marathon. "We were honored to be able to make this donation to St. Jude despite not having an actual marathon or train event. In an industry such as ours, the opportunity to donate to organizations like St. Jude using railway, is a delight. It's been a pleasure working with all those involved with this project and we look forward to working with them in the future," said RJ Corman Railroad Co. General Manager of Operations Mr. Michael Philpot. My office is active each year in promotions for the event as well as working to secure an annual sponsor for the train and additional donors. In years past, runners and spectators would enjoy the benefits of a hassle-free ride and free parking to and from the marathon. The \$15 train tickets would be donated back to the children's hospital. In addition, RJ Corman Railroad Co. donated an addition \$5.00 per rider back to St. Jude. The onset of COVID caused an initial re-schedule date and then eventually a full cancellation of the 2020 event. 2020 impacted our lives in more ways than we could have possibly imagined. People's generosity was also impacted, for the better. I was delighted to learn that RJ Corman Railroad Co. wanted to donate to St. Jude despite the cancellation of the 2020 marathon and train event. I've continuously said that this event is a win for everyone. We help support the children of St. Jude and introduce people to the benefits of public transit, all taxpayer free. The willingness of groups like RJ Corman Railroad Co. to keep this tradition going is inspiring and reminds me just how great our county truly is. Registration is currently open for the 2021 April marathon and St. Jude is hopeful that Nashville will be back on track for the event. "Wilson County and RJ Corman Railroad Company's support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is overwhelming. Even in the absence of a 2020 marathon Mayor Hutto's office still went out of their way to work with this donor to ensure support for St. Jude. RJ Corman Railroad Company's unwavering generosity is part of the reason that Families Never Receive a Bill for Treatment, Travel, Housing or Food. Donors such as RJ Corman Railroad Company give me hope for a brighter tomorrow. I look forward to the 2021 race season and our continued partnership with our sponsors and donors," said Courtney McMahon, Field Development – Contractor for ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Pictured front row, left to right: Grant Chaney, Courtney McMahon, Randall Hutto  
Back row left to right: Lawrence Burtchaeil, Terry Bebout



Aging brings many joys, but our older years can also bring difficult life transitions and the loss of loved ones.

Senior Life Solutions, an intensive outpatient group therapy program, is designed to meet the needs of individuals over the age of 65 struggling with depression and anxiety often related to aging.

**If you or someone you know is experiencing any of the following, we can help:**

- Recently experienced a traumatic event
- Loss of spouse or close family member
- Loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities
- Changes in appetite
- Difficulty sleeping
- Loss of energy
- Feelings of sadness or grief lasting more than two weeks
- Feelings of worthlessness or hopelessness


**Following an individual assessment, group participants meet three times per week in a supportive, encouraging setting. Anyone can refer individuals to the group including family members, physicians, or other health professionals.**


**Depression is not a normal part of growing older. You're not alone.**

**MEET THE  
SENIOR LIFE SOLUTIONS  
TEAM**

Our patients are offered services by an interdisciplinary team of caring, experienced, behavioral health professionals, which includes a psychiatrist, licensed therapist, and registered nurse. For more information about Senior Life Solutions, contact our dedicated staff at Trousdale Medical Center.

**Learn More & Visit:**  
[www.mytrousdalemedical.com](http://www.mytrousdalemedical.com)

 (615) 374-9991

 502 Church Street  
Hartsville, TN 37074

# EATING SMART and Moving More

Join us for a  
series of workshops

Learn how to



- Cook
- Save money on food
- Plan meals



- Eat well
- Keep your food safe
- Be active

Classes are **FREE** to adults who are eligible for any assistance programs such as WIC, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) or Head Start.

**Dates:** Every Tuesday for 8 weeks beginning January 19th, 2021

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Contact:** Leslyne Watkins, email [lwatkin7@utk.edu](mailto:lwatkin7@utk.edu) or call 615-444-9584

Real. Life. Solutions.™

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES  
**UT EXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE


This material was partially funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) under an agreement with the State of Tennessee and partially funded by USDA's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP) program.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.  
Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperate. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

# 'WHERE'S WALDO?' EMPLOYEE GIVEAWAY VERSION!

*photos submitted by Shelley Shaw*

The annual employee Health Fair looked a little different last year. Due to the pandemic, Cigna gave the employee benefits department permission to use the money put aside for the Health Fair to use it differently. The employee benefits department thought that it was a good idea to spread a little joy to the as many employees as possible, and so they drew winners during the month of December. All prizes were paid for by Cigna. Some of the winners are pictured below. See if you can find a member of your department, yourself, or the hidden cartoon character that looks like this  !

