

## Round Up Spotlight: Good Samaritan

Good Samaritan of Tullahoma was chartered in 1985 as a way for local businesses, churches of all denominations, and area residents to work together for a centralized location to provide assistance to those in need in our community. The day-to-day operations of the ministry and its thrift store at 210 E. Grundy St., are overseen by Executive Director Cindy Kinney.

Good Samaritan Ministry Programs include: Relief Aid, which provides assistance with utilities, rent, and other expenses at a time of crisis; the Dignity Campaign, which provides basic personal hygiene items; Baby Boom, which distributes diapers, wipes and formula to distressed families; Giving A Hand Up, which provides clothes, tents and blankets to the homeless; and Animal Harbor, which helps provide dog and cat food to four-legged friends. In partnership with TUA, Good Samaritan also administers the Project Help program, which helps the elderly and disabled pay their utility bills.



Executive Director Cindy Kinney accepts one of the inaugural Round Up donations from TUA board member J.T. Northcutt.

## Rural Route 4 Accents

“You talk funny,” someone living outside the South once told me. At the time I didn’t know what he was talking about. Living a secluded life in Alabama I had never given much thought to the way I sounded to others when I spoke. Later in adult life, I was fortunate that my work allowed me to travel all over the United States. And it was during these trips that I did, indeed, find that I talked differently from folks living in other regions of the country.

I was considered “country,” implying my rural or working-class nature. My favorite author, the late Lewis Grizzard, a Southerner from Georgia, would shrug off his drawl by asserting that “God talks like we do!” I’m not sure if Lewis is correct, but I won’t argue the point.

Biases, opinions, and judgments of our accents abound. Some people affiliate our twang with Southern hospitality and politeness. But according to studies, folks with Southern accents are often rated as sounding less intelligent by Northern-accented peers, even among children. In fact, earlier this year, a new study found that job-seekers with a Southern accent could make less money than people without one. The re-



Phillip Burgess

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# Watts Happening



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search revealed that people with strong regional accents face a wage penalty of up to 20% when compared to those who speak with a “standard accent” (whatever that means). It also found that real estate was the most likely industry where prospective employees change the way they speak, followed by tourism, public service, information technology and engineering.

That could be the reason I’m not a millionaire. And maybe that’s why ol’ Lewis’ cute assertion took shape. It’s comforting, isn’t it, to think that the Almighty talks like Southerners? Even if we aren’t rich.

But here’s the confusing part: Famous people from the Mississippi Delta, like the late Johnny Cash, have a unique accent often found in New Orleans. Similarly, the Texas accent of movie sensation Matthew McConaughey (“awright, awright, awright”) and others living in the Lone Star State have a twangy and nasal sound. This accent, experts say, is the most recognizable Southern accent.

Who can forget the accent of foxy Scarlett O’Hara in *Gone With The Wind*? She tried to mimic the Atlantic version of the Southern accents. You’ll find it spoken in Virginia, Maryland, the Carolinas, and parts of Georgia (where the movie was set).

Those of us living in Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama speak Appalachian Southern. Unlike others, this accent pronounces the “R”s rather than dropping them. Due to Irish and Scottish immigrant influence, there is a unique pronunciation here that drops “H”s.

Common across the South, regardless of the accent, is southern slang, which changes common phrases or words — like “howdy,” “y’all,” “fixing to,” “over yonder,” “I reckon,” and “as all get out.”

Yep, this ol’ Southern boy regularly uses these and other slang words. I bet you do, too. I embrace my “funny way of talking.” It doesn’t bother me one whit if someone thinks I’m a “country bumpkin” because of my speech. The late Leslie Jordan, an actor and comedian from Chattanooga, sums it up best: “I’m very proud of my Southern accent, it’s part of me.”

Amen!

Join us Aug. 18 for a THS Wildcat Tailgate Party before the first home football game of the season! We’ll have free pizza, drinks, and T-shirts for the first 250 students grade K-8 who arrive. Then watch the full season **LIVE** on LightTube Channel 23. Call 455-4515 to subscribe!

**Save**

**Aug. 18:** Wildcat Tailgate Party

**the**

**Oct. 5:** Public Power Week Celebration

**Dates!**

Free pizza, drinks and more!

Bad weather happens; but unsafe generator usage doesn’t have to. Knowing how to safely use your generator can save you from electrical damage, harmful carbon monoxide and fires. Following safety guidelines and remaining cautious with your generator will help keep your family safe and sound. Learn more about generator safety from @TVAEnergyRight.

## Generator safety at home.



Always operate outdoors with ventilation.

Keep the generator dry and do not use in wet or rainy conditions.

Let it cool down and unplug before refueling.