

### **Jones and Sons Funeral Home, Richton, Mississippi**

*Jones and Sons Funeral Home, Beaumont, MS; Jones and Sons Funeral Home, Hattiesburg, MS; Jones and Sons Funeral Home, Moselle, MS*

For many years Jones and Son Funeral Home and its staff have been an active part of the community when it comes to outreach. We enjoy being able to communicate with the community in a non-funeral setting, if nothing else but sitting down and eating lunch with one of our valued customers. However, the people we really do not get a chance to connect with are the youth. For you see the young people of today really do not understand the true importance of the funeral and seem to be “creeped out” by just being around any kind of funeral setting. Therefore, this year we decided to introduce ourselves a little bit better.

In October of 2022 Jones and Son Funeral Home was able to take part in two activities at Greene County High School. The first activity was being part of the high school’s job fair. Ladd Pulliam, owner, set up a table with mortuary books used in school, fluid bottles used in embalming, and some miscellaneous things to hand out to the kids to take home. Many of the curious teens, and even a few teachers, stopped by the booth in awe to learn about some of the mysteries of the funeral business. Ladd explained a few basics of embalming, how the fluids react with the body, and what students could do to get into funeral service. Overall, it was a great experience for the students of Greene County, and Ladd to get to share what funeral service means to him.

Also, in October of that same year, Ladd and Jennifer Pulliam were able to participate in Greene County High School’s first trunk-or-treat. For this event, Ladd and Jennifer used one of the older hearse to hand candy out to students and people of the community. The staff of Greene County High School really found it to be a great addition to the trunk-or-treat, and all participating did as well. Through this Ladd and Jennifer were able to make a lasting impression on the kids and show them there is nothing to fear about funeral service and the people that work in it.

Overall, these were two great experiences that Jones and Son has never been involved in, yet for the first time it went very well. We here at Jones and Son feel that we made a true connection with the youth of Greene County and are excited to expand to other schools in our area. In conclusion, by reaching out to the youth of our community we are able to make a bond outside the funeral setting, so that when people think of Jones and Son funeral Home they think of us as family not just a business.

## **Lakeshore Memorial Services Holland, Michigan**

Again, this past fall/winter 2022-2023, we were able to give the local High School Career Technical Center students tours of our Lakeshore Memorial Services Funeral Home. The tours included the preparation areas, coolers, coaches, and offices. What does it take on the professional side when someone dies? That is what many people wonder and for those students, we help to bring understanding and interest in this career area within our own community.

A funeral home can be an intimidating place for many – with so many locked doors, hidden panels, and tall velvet curtains on walls, who knows what is really going on when no one is around? It is this sentiment that we were looking to dispel when we reached out to our local High School Career Technical Center, asking if any of their programs would be interested in visiting the funeral home and learning not only about us, but how their prospective careers could potentially interact with funeral professionals in the future. The school director loved the idea, and sent the word out to instructors.

In the fall and winter of 2021 and 2022, we were visited by students studying public safety, emergency medical services, advanced healthcare, and aided nursing. During their visit, we talked about why we went into our professions, what it took to be a funeral professional, the many careers in the death care industry, and how we may work together in the future. For our public safety students we even brought our transfer gurney in to show them how it works so that they would see what we would bring to a scene if we were called to do so.

We would later learn that some of the teachers built a lesson plan around our tours, including watching PBS' "The Undertaking" before visiting us!

As a part of all of our visits, the students also toured the funeral home. Showing them our funeral chapel and arrangement room got them asking questions about things they saw. We were able to talk about scattering laws in Michigan, and show off a mantle clock that doubled as an urn. In the garage, showing them our funeral coach and transfer vehicle. We were even able to talk a little bit about the history of funeral coaches doubling as ambulances to our EMS students. It was during this time that their teacher shared a story about another instructor helping with ambulance runs during this era, and some experiences that he had shared.

As the final part of the tour, we would bring students into our care center where we prepare decedents for their final viewings. This was very important to us, as this is what many in the general public consider "behind the curtain." By comparing the space to a surgical suite (with bright lighting, sterilizing equipment for instruments, and an abundance of personal protective equipment), and showing them the precautions we took not only for our safety, but also for dignity and care of the deceased, many students expressed that they were pleasantly surprised and that what they had imagined was nothing like what they saw.

As any tour does, we fielded many questions from the students. Questions about funerals, things we had experienced, and many questions once they saw our care center. We

answered each and every one, ranging from the serious (“What kind of PPE do you wear?” and “How do you handle families who do not have the means to pay for services?”) to the silly (“Have you ever seen a ghost or anything weird?”). What was so meaningful too was that most of the time, the bus drivers joined us for these tours, and we took quite a few questions from both them and the instructors as well.

A funeral home can be an intimidating place for many. I would like to think, however, that after touring our funeral home and learning a little bit about the funeral process, they will be able to care for those going through one of the toughest times in their lives, and be able to walk them through what may happen next. Knowledge is power, and I’m so grateful we could give these young people (and their adult companions) this tool.

**Macz Funeral Home**  
**Centralia, Illinois**

*Day Macz Funeral Home, Sandoval, IL; Day Macz Funeral Home, Patoka, IL; Irvin Macz Funeral Home, Odin, IL*

**Student Recognition Program**

Macz Funeral Home acknowledged outstanding students and team members in the communities they served, as part of The Macz Funeral Homes Pursuit of Excellence Student Recognition Program. Students were selected by their teacher or their coach for pursuing excellence within their school or team. This honor is designed to continue to provide encouragement to the student or team member to do well beyond their classroom setting or their physical abilities on the field.

Each student and team member chosen was presented with a certificate stating the wonderful words of encouragement their teacher or coach shared about them. Students and team members were also gifted a personalized custom wooden coin to redeem for a complimentary cone to C-Town Twist Ice-Cream Stand in Centralia.

Uniqueness – It is not often that funeral homes, community outreach and ice cream are brought into conversation together, but it should be!

Macz Funeral Home had the unique idea to extend the NFDA's Pursuit of Excellence Program by introducing the NFDA's concept to the next generation of leaders. Team Macz reached out to teachers and coaches to recognize the students having a positive impact on their community to the youth from each of the firm's four locations. Team Macz traveled throughout the county to school and ball fields sharing the program and encouraging the students to continue their version of excellence.

Quality of implementation – Macz Funeral Homes consistently strives to ensure that quality is synonymous with their name. The Macz Funeral Homes Pursuit of Excellence Student Recognition Program is no exception. All the schools and teams were contacted to submit students and team members who displayed excellence, by being a source of encouragement, hard work, and grit, beyond excelling academically or physically. Open communication was important between the funeral home and the teachers and coaches. The teachers and coaches never hesitated to quickly provide a list of the children that have stood out in this way. Once names were provided, the funeral home then coordinated a time to do the presentation ceremony to honor the exceptional children. Certificates and wooden, free ice cream coins were created ahead of time to be given at the ceremony. Photos were taken and submitted with an article to the local newspaper and shared on social media to highlight and inspire.

Benefit to those served - The Macz Funeral Homes Pursuit of Excellence Student Recognition Program benefits the recipient by shining a wonderful spotlight on children that may struggle academically but excel in the way they interact with others and challenging themselves toward improvement. It benefits the schools and teams by creating visibility and interest through the articles written by the local newspaper and social media viral sharing. The surprised looks that quickly turned to smiles on the faces of each child that was recognized were proof that they received a great boost of confidence which benefits them for a lifetime. To quote Audrey Hepburn, "Nothing is impossible. The word itself says "I'm Possible" This recognition shined a light on the students that someone was seeing them, recognizing them, and encouraging them to continue to do the right thing and to be a blessing to their peers.

Benefit to the funeral home - The Macz Funeral Homes Pursuit of Excellence Student Recognition Program benefits the funeral home in multiple ways. Traci Macz was able to highlight the National Funeral Directors Association Pursuit of Excellence Programs to the children, their families, and area teachers. She shared that the funeral home participates in the national program and strives to maintain innovative outreach to grow as a funeral home and team.

As parents of young boys themselves, Tom and Traci Macz have experienced first-hand the difference kinds of encouragement can make for a child. The knowledge that they were able to play a small role in

the molding of a child's confidence for their future is benefit alone. Other benefits include visibility and interest for the funeral home through newspaper articles and photos, and social media viral sharing. Partnering with a local ice cream shop, C-Town Twist Ice Cream Stand was a benefit by cross branding with them. This program has opened the funeral home to a whole new audience, allowing them to see the ways the funeral home reaches out to and champions the community. As well as strengthening a bond with the community, creating one with the youth, and broadening the Macz Funeral Home marketing brand reach.

How easily the idea could be replicated or modified by another funeral home – Macz Funeral Homes would highly recommend a program comparable to The Macz Funeral Homes Pursuit of Excellence Student Recognition Program to be implemented by another funeral home, as it can be easily replicated or modified to fit their vision. The program could be modified to include others besides the children of the community. If replicated, it can be done at low cost with a return of high rewards. One would be able to share their value of participating in the National Funeral Directors Association Pursuit of Excellence Program, as well as, encouraging the participates to excel in everything that they do.

**Memorial Funeral Home  
Edinburg, Texas**

**INNOVATION – RIO GRANDE VALLEY LITERACY CENTER**

Memorial Funeral Home sponsored the Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center's 10th Annual Boots & Bling Gala. The event was held Friday, October 7, 2022, at the Regency Hall Galeria in Pharr and the theme was "Shine Bright like a Diamond & Support Literacy in the RGV!"

Velma and Leon have been proud supporters of the RGVLC for several years. In the past they have attended their fundraisers and donated items for the gala's live and silent auctions, including party bus rides and weekends at a South Padre Island oceanfront condo. This year, they decided that it was important to directly sponsor the event and Memorial Funeral Home was an Emerald Cut Diamond Sponsor.

The Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center began as a Literacy Project in 2011 and had one location. On August 13, 2013, the organization officially changed their name to the Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center (RGVLC). In January 2018, the RGVLC became a member of ProLiteracy, the largest adult literacy and basic education membership organization as well as the leading resource for adult education and literacy nationwide and worldwide.

Through fundraising efforts such as the Boots & Bling Gala, they have grown to serve the cities in Hidalgo County with centers in 13 different cities, Edinburg, Pharr, La Joya, McAllen, Hidalgo, and Mercedes, to name a few. The purpose of these centers is to help education and provide services to adults in the Rio Grande Valley in order to improve their economic opportunities. These programs include GED classes, computer literacy classes, English and Spanish as a second language classes, and U.S. Naturalization classes.

Many of the persons who have completed these classes have shared how they have improved in many aspects. For many, they were unable to complete their high school education and through the GED classes not only have they earned their diploma, they have gone on to further their education. Our area, the Rio Grande Valley, has persons who are not U.S. citizens but through the Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center's U.S. Naturalization classes, are able to prepare for their test and earn their citizenship. For many this opens new doors as they are able to continue studying and make careers for themselves that may not have been possible otherwise.

The Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center has provided many opportunities for the members of our community. For this reason, Memorial Funeral Home was proud to sponsor this year's Boots & Bling Gala. Velma and Leon realize that by helping our area residents to succeed, it will in turn help our community and our economy. We look forward to continuing to support the Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center.

**Oliverie Funeral Homes  
Manchester, New Jersey**

*Oliverie Funeral Homes, Jackson, NJ*

This year we worked closely with other organizations within the community in order to help expose the benefits of joining the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. We feel strongly about supporting women in the community and helping them obtain leadership positions and helping them learn that there are no boundaries to what they can accomplish. This event took place on September 4, 2022, from 12-3 PM. It was held at the recently opened new funeral home, located in Jackson, NJ. We had a perfect day; the weather was beautiful. We wanted to provide hotdogs with all the fixings, snacks, drinks and 150 donated boxes of Girls Scout Cookies for anyone in the Ocean County area. We wanted to feed police officers, EMT's, firefighters and medical personnel in Ocean County that would be working that weekend and also those that were either retired or off duty as well their families.

To put together this community event we first contacted the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore and explained our objective. They were enthusiastic about the idea and graciously donated 150 boxes of cookies for the event. The day of the event, the funeral home set up a grill and tables with all the Girl Scout cookies. Other snacks were provided and a cooler for drinks with tables and chairs under a tent. We also set up a drive thru lane for anyone who was working to grab a hotdog and go. We placed information for this event on the township's Facebook page and the police, fire and first aid group pages we joined. We made flyers and put them up all over town and in the local food stores, VFW halls and churches. During this event we had Girl Scout brochures on all the tables. The funeral home's female staff organized and worked this event for a positive role model.

The community was new to us, since we just opened our new location in Jackson, and this was our first Labor Day weekend there. We were able to demonstrate that women can be successful and hold leadership positions even in male dominated fields. We have three licensed funeral directors, who are women on our staff and at the event to answer any questions about their personal experience. We feel strongly about guiding our community to the resources that are available to them. We understand how important this can be in planning their future goals and setting them up for success. In Jackson, there is a large minority community that we hoped to have been a role model to.

The event resulted in inspiring young girls to reach out and learn about the opportunities within their community that they can utilize through the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. It was important for us to help them understand that even in male dominated fields, women can rise to the top and achieve leadership roles within their community. During this event we were able to sit and speak with those in attendance as well as show them how to register online for the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. We had a great turn out and enjoyed getting to know the future female leaders within our community. The funeral homes' owner, Geraldine Oliverie, enjoyed working this event. This event is close to her heart because she too was once a young girl with big dreams to own a funeral home in a male dominated field.

We feel strongly that community benefited from this event. We showed them the opportunities that are out there and connected them with the right female leaders within their community. We let them know that we are always here if they should need further guidance with planning their educational path. Geraldine feels strongly about this social issue and works continuously at creating and promoting events geared towards aspiring, young, female leaders.

**Patrick T. Lanigan Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.**  
**East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

*Patrick T. Lanigan Funeral Home & Crematory Inc., Turtle Creek, PA*

One evening at the dinner table, in December 1974, Beverly Lanigan, a primary level special education teacher, lamented to her husband, Pat, "I don't have a person to be Santa Claus at school. The regular 'Santa' can't do it this year. Do you know a Santa?" Pat said, "Sure I'll call our Mayor, Boots Simon." Pat contacted Boots, who was a 'Santa' for years. Boots could not appear at the designated time due to a work schedule conflict. But he had an idea, he said "Pat, why don't you be Santa. You can use my suit and all the trimmings."

Needless to say, to satisfy the kids (and especially Beverly!) Pat became Santa for those special education children. That was the start of a continuous 48 year run for Pat as Santa Claus. Pat has been Santa for countless kids' Christmas parties and Christmas related events. He has been Santa at schools, churches, Fire Departments, community sponsored events and parades. This past year in 2022, Pat was Santa for Forest Hills Parade, The Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church, the North Braddock Volunteer Fire Department, the East Pittsburgh Community Christmas gathering and visits to children in their homes. When Santa is needed locally, Pat is likely to be called upon. Pat was even Santa at an office party many years ago. He vowed that he would never do an adult office party from that point on. Being Santa at an office party is like dressing for Halloween or the Circus and the true meaning of Santa is absent. Pat takes pride in symbolizing to kids the goodness of Santa and Christmas. It's his base motivation for continuing for many years as Santa.

After that first Santa appearance at Beverly's school, Pat shared in the joy and goodness of those special education children. He was taken aback 20 years when Santa was real to him. He realized 'Santa' happiness, as an adult. Later in that December of 1974, Pat was called by Boots to be his substitute Santa at a local Greek Orthodox Church. Fortunately, he was available and very willing to do so. Pat was then hooked on being 'Santa'. He decided to purchase his own outfit and accessories for the next year. Mary Kleissas was, and still is, a member of that Greek Orthodox Church. She was an excellent seamstress, working in a downtown Pittsburgh men's store where she altered suits, shirts, and coats for the executives of Pittsburgh's large corporate community. Learning Pat was Santa at her church, Mary, offered to make a Santa outfit for Pat, at no charge, Pat readily accepted and wore that suit with pride for 30 years, until wear took over.

Pat has also free-lanced as Santa. Although he dearly appreciates being Santa at children's events, he truly loves to make surprise visits to children in homes of families that he knows. Perhaps it's a tap on a window or rap on a door (all planned with the parents) as Pat appears as Santa to wild-eyed, astonished, excited children. On a typical visit or appearance Pat / Santa will listen to their wish list, trying to decipher what those wishes are. As years have passed and wished for toys have enhanced, Pat is challenged to know the year's most wanted toys. With an understanding nod of the head, he assures each child that there will be presents at Christmas, including ones that are wished for. He informs them that Santa doesn't bring pets. One of Pat's favorite lines to kids is when he asks if they will have anything for him and the reindeer to eat, because they get real hungry visiting all the children in the world. Invariably, the response is "Yes! Cookies and milk," Pat then asks if they can also have a dish of spaghetti for him. The kids say "YES!", and the parents have a woeful look.

Pat has received a few sad requests from kids over the years, "Can you bring my daddy home?", "Can you bring shoes for my mother?", "Can you bring a present for my grandma?". These are thought filled and gut wrenching, and of course, without a clear-cut answer. But it's an honor that these kids would express their heart-filled, unselfish, wishes to Santa. It's these types of expressions that let Pat know Santa is important and a representation of goodness, peace and hope; much like a good funeral director.

## **Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services Traverse City, Michigan**

Rationale behind the idea: We have gifted two purple butterfly benches to our community over time located at the Grand Traverse Area Children's Garden and the Botanic Gardens Historic Barns Park. We also have a purple butterfly bench in our funeral home gardens in memory of the late Susan Kuschell, a dear family friend and founder of the Grand Traverse Area Children's Garden. Please see attached photo of the bench in our funeral home's garden as well as a thank you letter and card from The Friendly Garden Club for our gift to the Children's Sensory Garden at the Botanic Garden Historic Barns Park.

We frequently have butterfly releases as part of funeral or memorial services. Various American tribes interpret butterflies in unique ways that represent change, transformation, comfort, hope and positivity. While some believed ancestors actually communicated through butterflies others thought their presence was a sign of joy and hope. We so agree that joy and hope are a consequence of seeing and in this case "setting" on a butterfly! The benches are also functional art and a top of mind awareness builder for our funeral home as they each have a special plaque noting our Reynolds Jonkhoff Family gift.

Detailed description of program/activity: We had many meetings at the two new locations this year. The first meetings occurred at the NMC Boardman Lake Campus Greenspire School's new perennial garden along the TART Trail. We met with Greenspire School representative, TART Trails staff and volunteers. The second several meetings took place at the Traverse City Country Club's new Secret Garden with Club staff, Board member and committee volunteers. We arranged a special delivery date for the new purple butterfly benches with their creator Curtis Warnes. It was funny as we deliberated the best location for the bench in the Greenspire School perennial garden when a couple sat down in the "temporary" location and had their photo taken as appears as an attachment. Thus location determined and is ideal as complimented recently by NMC President, Nick Nissley!

Benefits to funeral home and staff: The staff is proud to know our flock of butterflies continues to grow in our area. It is just one more tangible way to support our community with functional art, a place to rest and enjoy the peaceful setting. The butterfly benches cost \$1,495 each. Our community appreciates our new gifts as shared by the attached Facebook post feedback example.

We also received our second, large landscape beautification award (that includes our special purple butterfly bench) from The Friendly Garden Club as noted in the attached recognition certificate and the Traverse City Record Eagle Cheers column.

Community organization involvement: We partnered with staff and volunteers from Northwestern Michigan College's Boardman Lake Campus Greenspire School, TART Trails (we are also a long time Wayfinding sign sponsor too with thank you letter attached) and the Traverse City Country Club Secret Garden. Each organization provided the site and we gifted the purple butterfly bench that was professionally installed and cemented into place. We have received so many thanks such as the attached emails and are so pleased to share such unique, functional art that is being enjoyed by people of all ages at various locations in the Traverse City area.

## **Rone Funeral Service Vineland, NJ**

On November 14, 2022, Rone Funeral Service started the Holiday Toy Drive. This toy drive was started after our staff visited the Vineland Soup Kitchen-Spirit and Truth Ministries, a faith based-non profit organization. Upon witnessing the families with children who were underprivileged and not able to provide meals, let alone future Christmas gifts, our owner and manager, Jim Geraci and Michael DeStefano, respectively, decided to initiate this toy drive to ensure that underprivileged children in the area would at least have a gift for the holiday season. Between Mr. Geraci and Mr. DeStefano, both directors received confirmation from seven local parishes to be the distribution recipients for the donated toys and it was stressed to the participating clergy members to seek out families who would be in need of childrens' toys, ranging from infant to young teen. Not only was the funeral home a drop off location for toys, a realty office in Vineland by name of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services and local synagogue, Beth Israel Congregation both welcomed enormous boxes to be displayed in their foyers to allow the general public to bring unwrapped toys. It was incredibly encouraging to know that we had the full support of not only our local religious communities, but the hearty reassurance of our hometown businesses and neighbors, as well.

The funeral home not only posted news of the Holiday Toy Drive on the Rone Funeral Service website, but also had printed flyers distributed to the participating parishes and drop-off locations to enable more attention to this worthy cause. This permitted a more open conversation between our funeral home staff and the community of Vineland when not only seeing one another at a funeral service, but also at the daily "coffee runs" to Wawa or when seeing each other at weekend church services. When it comes to the holiday season, a funeral home can sometimes be a representation of lost memories with families, but with the Holiday Toy Drive it allowed the funeral home to be a beacon of good will and community ministry. With this approach, our funeral home staff took awe in seeing the amounts of donated toys that were dropped off to the funeral home everyday and took great joy in organizing by age group. It was a reprieve from the "hustle and bustle" of the average work day to decide what would be age appropriate for things such as board game versus Lego sets versus animatronic stuffed animals!

On December 19th, funeral home staff sorted through the entire lot of received toys and divided the toys into equal amounts before packing them to be delivered, about 65 toys per each parish. Once all toys were sorted and organized, the toys were delivered to the following locations all in Vineland, NJ: Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chestnut Assembly of God, Rock of Salvation, Divine Mercy Parish, Christ the Good Shepherd Parish and Saint Padre Pio Parish. This date was chosen to ensure that all participating parishes would have enough time and staffing to distribute the toys amongst their most needed families and children before Christmas. We take full recognition to keep the utmost privacy and discretion of the children serviced, but we received all positive feedback from our clergy members and parish staff. It was an absolute honor to not only sustain such a large mission during the busiest time in the year both personally and professionally, but to complete it in such a massive scale was tremendously awe-inspiring.

## **Sproles Family Funeral Home New Castle, IN**

As many funeral directors and funeral home owners know, there is no end to the charitable organizations that seek financial support daily from local funeral homes. We support when and where we can but if someone wants to quickly get into Tom Sproles's heart and consequently his pocketbook it will be to help a child who is suffering.

Several years ago, the niece of a college friend of mine developed leukemia at age three. I followed her journey on Facebook as she and her young parents and other family members sacrificed time and money to drive her weekly from Virginian to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

From time to time, I would send them money to help with gas and other travel expenses related to her care. One day the thought occurred to me this was an area of real need. The costs of treatment, and expenses such as food, fuel, and lodging must be overwhelming to young parents just starting out in life. So, I established the Sproles Family Children's Fund and jumped through all of the IRS hoops for it to be recognized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The vision statement of the Sproles Family Children's Fund is "Supporting families of children with chronic illness."

Our mission is to "Help alleviate financial stress caused by travel expenses related to the care and treatment of children with chronic illness."

It is our desire to help ease the financial burden caused by the cost of fuel, food, and lodging while seeking care and treatment for children who have life-threatening and chronic illnesses. It is difficult enough emotionally to deal with the diagnosis and prognosis of life-threatening illnesses of our beloved children, but adding the unexpected costs of transportation, food, and lodging causes a tremendous layer of additional stress to the family.

### **HOW IT IS FUNDED**

The Sproles Family Children's Fund is funded in three ways:

- 1) For every family served at Sproles Family Funeral Home a financial donation will be made by the Sproles family into the fund.
- 2) Families we serve are given the option of choosing the children's fund to for memorial contributions by guests and friends during funeral services.
- 3) Donations from our suppliers, corporations, and members of the public as we promote the purpose and goodwill of the fund.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Our application process is simple. We require a one-page application for assistance, a doctor's statement attesting to the illness, and a photo and brief bio. There are no financial or income-related requirements. Approval is currently limited to those who have a residence within Henry County, Indiana.

### **HOW FUNDS ARE ACCESSED**

Upon approval, a family is given a \$300.00 pre-paid expense card that may be used for food, fuel, lodging, or any treatment/prescriptions, etc. We use a card service that has preset filters so the card can't be used for other types of purchases. The card is refilled on the first day of each new quarter in the amount of \$300.00.

### **FAMILIES WE ARE CURRENTLY SERVING**

We are assisting three families currently. A single mom with a 16-year-old daughter battling cancer, a couple with a 14-year-old son who has received a heart transplant, and a young mother with an infant battling a serious lung issue receiving treatment out of town.

## CONCLUSION

I cannot express the deep satisfaction and feeling of joy we receive by supporting these families. We not only support them financially but in our daily prayers as well. We have received great support from donors and look forward to growing the fund each year in order to assist more and more families during a challenging time.

## Links

<https://www.facebook.com/sprolesfamilyfuneralhome/videos/427866765939844>

<https://www.facebook.com/sprolesfamilyfuneralhome/videos/771338144104351>