

TOP STORY

All hits, no misses

Feb 13, 2018

The issue

Advocating for those with autism is a personal mission for Todd Tomerlin; without the 134 volunteers for Meals on Wheels & More, more than 300 Decatur area residents would go without food; LifeSouth Regional Manager Dawn Prestwood said the flu season, holidays and winter weather have taken a toll on the community's blood supply.

Tireless advocate

For Todd Tomerlin, advocating for those with autism is a personal mission.

His son Gage was diagnosed with autism shortly after his second birthday. Tomerlin and his wife Tammy took steps to provide their son with the development of communication and social skills, something those with autism struggle to develop.

While the family was able to shoulder the financial burden of outside therapy, especially speech therapy, they met many families who could not.

This is what spurred Tomerlin to action. He had seen communication therapy work, and he wanted everyone who needed such treatment to have access to it.

Tomerlin is the north Alabama community and program coordinator with the Alabama Autism Society, and also is a political advocate for legislation that affects families impacted by autism.

We congratulate the Tomerlins for seeing a need and

Feeding a need

Speaking of responding to the needs of others, with
More, more than 300 Decatur area residents would



Meals on Wheels & More delivers a free hot meal and some conversation to local disabled, elderly and homebound residents. They have a waiting list of residents who qualify for the program, but they don't have the funds to add them at this time.

This month, The Decatur Daily is accepting financial contributions for Meals on Wheels in February and publishing the names of donors who wish to be recognized.

Contributions will be accepted in the office, or they can be mailed to Meals on Wheels, c/o The Decatur Daily, P.O. Box 2213, Decatur AL 35609-2213.

Checks should be made out to Meals on Wheels. Specify who should be placed on the list of contributors The Daily publishes or indicate that it should be labeled as an anonymous gift. The check signer will be listed if there are no instructions.

If you want to get involved, the agency is seeking volunteers who can spend one to two hours each week delivering food.

“The need will always be great — the need for donations and volunteers,” Community Action Partnership of North Alabama Food Service Manager Kris Wiedmeier said. She said most volunteers run a route once or twice a week, while others form groups and serve once a month.

Another way to give

LifeSouth Regional Manager Dawn Prestwood said the flu season, holidays and winter weather have taken a toll on the community's blood supply.

And those blood donations are critical to saving lives in our community. Just ask Joe Courville, who is alive today because of blood transfusions he received last year.

LifeSouth officials say it only takes about 15 minutes to donate whole blood, and you can give every 56 days. All blood types are needed, but Type O-negative blood is most critical because it can be used to treat any patient in an emergency.

Volunteers must be 17 years or older, weigh at least

“With each donation, you're saving three lives, so th

We think that's pretty great.



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