

Polk County News.

since 1883

PHP's Gail Wilcoxon named Community Impact Advocate of the Year

Gail Wilcoxon and the non-profit assistance organization People Helping People were recently awarded the Southeast TCSW Community Impact Advocate of the Year. The recognition was given to Gail and People Helping People by the Southeast Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare (TCSW) The Community Impact Advocate of the Year Award is given to an organization or agency program that has made a significant impact to solve a problem or serve a vulnerable population in a unique or innovative way.

People Helping People is an organization founded to provide assistance and comfort, without discrimination or monetary gain, to anyone in their time of distress, Their services range from assisting 216 families with large items, 44 families with crisis care, 171 people with medical equipment and supplies, 3,760 plates of food, 1009 boxes of food given to families and 556 military, veterans or their families – all in one year! New coats were given to 120 children and 90 children received back to school supplies. People Helping People also operates an affordable daycare. In times of need, People Helping People has been a strong source of support, giving people hope that they won't have to go without food or clothing or by giving families a place for their children to be cared for as they find work.

For example, a mother was looking for mattresses for her children and herself to sleep on after previously being homeless. People Helping People had just received a donated mattress from another family. Despite being from another county, this family in need was given the donated mattress and moved one step closer to feeling like they had a home again, Sometimes a lot of small things allow people the most comfort.

Polk County is a large rural county with minimal to no resources which are spread thinly.



Gail Wilcoxon gives a veteran a package of hygiene items.

Wilcoxon expends large amounts of time and energy to collect, find and gather those resources to distribute among the primarily low-income residents of the county. Gail is always expanding the role of People Helping People in the community and never passes on an opportunity to offer more to those in

need, She is also an advocate for veteran's needs and in involved in outreach to seek, help and thank U.S. veterans.