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BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

HEART air transport celebrates new location

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Tennessee High's five seniors are ready for final ride

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The BrightSide

CODE 4 BOOKS



EMILY BALL PHOTOS, BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Deputy Zach Graff collects books through his program Code 4 books, that gives books a new life.

Sullivan County deputy rescues discarded books

ROBERT SORRELL
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Deputy Zach Graff is granting books discarded at the county's recycling center a second life, giving them to children, families and organizations throughout the community.

Through Code 4 Books, an initiative he started about a year ago, Graff collects books that would otherwise be recycled and finds new homes for them.

The idea began after Graff moved from a booking officer position to a day-shift assignment at the county's Blountville recycling center. His responsibilities include supervising trustee inmates who help sort recyclables and keep the facility operating safely, he said.

As he began seeing books come through the facility, Graff thought about an experience

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Some of the books that Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Deputy Zach Graff has saved from the recycling center.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Angel Tree, Red Kettle campaigns kick off

Program expected to serve nearly 800 children

ROBERT SORRELL
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BRISTOL, Tenn. — The Salvation Army of Bristol kicked off its annual Angel Tree and Red Kettle campaigns Friday at Bass Pro Shops at The Pinnacle, and asked the community to help local families during the holiday season.

The campaigns are two of the organization's biggest holiday traditions, providing gifts for children and raising money to support its programs and services throughout the year.

This year's Angel Tree program is expected to serve nearly 800 children in the Bristol area, an increase from last year, according to Major Jay Spalding of the Salvation Army.

The program allows community members to select an angel from a Christmas tree and purchase gifts for a child whose family may not have the resources to provide presents. Angel Trees are located at Bass Pro Shops and other local stores.

"Sometimes after you're paying all your bills, and you're putting food on the table and gas in your car, you might not have enough for your kids for Christmas," Spalding said. "And so this makes a difference for those kids."

The Red Kettle campaign, meanwhile, has a fundraising goal of $95,000 this year. Bell ringers will be stationed at locations throughout Bristol through Dec. 24.

Spalding said the annual campaigns play an important role in keeping the organization's shelter operating and providing assistance to the community.

The shelter typically houses about 36 people each night. When temperatures drop to 32 degrees or below, the Salvation Army activates its White Flag program, allowing it to bring in additional people seeking shelter from the cold.

"We'll add in another 12 people into our room for a White Flag," Spalding said.

He said the money raised through the Red Kettle campaign and the gifts provided through Angel Tree remain in

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Chilhowie, Marion ask county to restore EMS funding. PAGE A3

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