



Logan and Diane Goodwin Donate Stuffed Animals

This is a release from Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer: Today's law enforcement officer faces many challenges that are inherent to his or her duties, and also other challenges that

arise from current political and social events. I have always been proud of my department and all the law enforcement in Anson County for the professionalism they exhibit each day in the performance of their duties. Despite the events going on around them in our nation, our officers have always held their heads high and continued to work admirably. This is largely because our officers, your officers, have the heart of a servant. They consider what they do for this community to be more than a job, or even a calling, and more a desire to make a difference in the life of others.

Ask any officer, and he or she will tell you that the most difficult part of their job is not the thirty pounds of extra gear they carry around in the blistering heat or bone-chilling cold, or the pay that may not be as much as they could find in other professions, or the dangers they face each day. They will most likely tell you that often, the most difficult part is seeing children who have went through terrible experiences that no one, especially a child, should ever have to go through. That is why it is so important to officers that they be able to make a positive difference in the life of a child, especially one who has just gone through or witnessed a tragedy, or one who is just having a really bad day. There are many ways our officers attempt to ease the pain that these children may be facing, and one big way is giving them a heartfelt gift. And that leads me to why I have written this editorial.

For the past 9 years, Logan Goodwin, along with his grandmother Diane Goodwin, have been donating stuffed animals and toys to the Anson County Sheriff's Office for distribution to other agencies in the county. Officers then take these stuffed animals and keep them in their patrol cars so that they always have one at a moment's notice to give to a child who has just went through a tragedy. This year they have donated these gifts to the Wadesboro Police Department and we will distribute them to other agencies in the county who would like to have them as well. These stuffed animals will be given to children who are going through a crisis, and hopefully bring a little bit of sunshine and joy to their rainy day.

We can't thank Logan Goodwin and family enough for their decade long service to the children of Anson County. Like our officers, they too have the hearts of servants, and have helped make it possible for us to bring joy to a child in the middle of sorrow. As often as I can I say how important community policing is to the success of law enforcement in both the present and the future. You may recall that I have called for community cooperation in the past to help bridge the gap between the community and its law enforcement agency. What Logan Goodwin and family are doing here, and for the last ten years, is an example of just that. They have answered the call. They have decided not to be just observers of the positive changes they would like to see in their community, but participants of it. It's one thing to talk about all the things that should be done, but quite another to actually do the things that should be done. I hope that you will join me in thanking Logan and Diane, on behalf of all the children whose hearts they will touch, and on behalf of an entire community made better by their giving and selfless hearts.

If you would like more information on how you can become a participant of change in your community like Logan and Diane Goodwin, or if you already have a desire on your heart to serve and would like to share it with us, please contact the Wadesboro Police Department at 704-694-2167.

Anson Animal Shelter Needs Volunteers Would You Like to Help?

The Animal Shelter depends on the help of volunteers to ensure that animal residents receive love and care. More volunteers will also help relieve the workload on staff which can result in more time for resident animals to be adopted before they are euthanized (put to sleep). Please consider volunteering. For more information on helping, call 704-694-4832.

Anson County Animal Shelter is listed on *Petfinder.com*. This is a searchable national database of pets available for adoption that includes a description and photo. All the animals that are up for adoption are listed and have a picture. Just go to *Petfinder.com* and search for any Anson County town or zip code.

A rescue from Animal Shelter can bring lots of happiness and love into any home...and you will make the animal happy too! It's a win-win.

And remember, older animals need a home and love too!

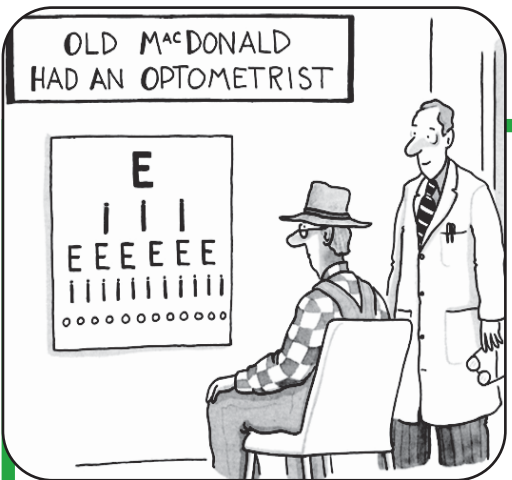


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