

Ansonian Bobbie Tillman Releases Children's Book

Thank you

Your many acts of kindness, love and concern were deeply appreciated. We recognized those acts of love expressed through food, cards, flowers, visitations, prayers, phone calls and whatever you did to console our hearts during the illness and passing of our dearly beloved Herman K. Little.

THE LITTLE FAMILY

"We are all different colors but yet we are all the same" is the title of Bobbie Tillman's children's book. The Polkton resident authored and illustrated a children's book encouraging youth to see past the color of a person's skin.

The book, less than 50 pages, uses poetry to teach children that while people may look different on the outside, below the surface, people are more alike than they may realize. That's why it's important to be kind to everyone, because we don't know what challenges or difficult situations people may be going through.

Tillman is a custodian at Ansonville Elementary School. Following a conversation with a teacher on children's capabilities in the classroom, he said he was given divine inspiration to write the book. He said he wrote the book in about three days, but the illustrating took between three and four months. In total, the book took about five months



to write, illustrate and assemble, Tillman said.

Last month, Tillman received a physical copy of the book. He felt an indescribable joy while holding it.

Tillman wrote the book, too, as a way to show kids they can do anything and they can be anything they want despite what their background may be.

"No matter what color they are, no matter what neighborhood they come from, no matter whether your father had money, whether you were rich or poor, or no matter what your circumstance was, that you could succeed in life," Tillman said.

When asked if there was a time in his past when he wished he had the book to hand to someone who needed to hear his simple message, Tillman recalled a time when his eldest daughter attended daycare. He said at the predominantly white daycare, his daughter became friends with a white girl on the playground. When the white girl's mother found out about the friendship, she told her daughter to stop playing with Tillman's daughter.

"When my daughter told me that, that really hurt me," Tillman said. He hopes people who see color first the mother will read the book and understand the message.

One of the last lines in the book applies to kids on a playground and to the parents off the playground, "What color is greater than the other? When I see a man, I see my brother. Sooner or later, We will need each other. Everybody should get together. And try to love one another. Don't look down on a man; That could be your brother."

Tillman said he plans to write more children's books and is currently writing his second. Copies of "We are all different colors but yet we are all the same" can be found at the Hampton B. Allen Library in Wadesboro. He hopes to one day have copies of his book in elementary schools in both Anson and Union County.

Anyone who wants to purchase a copy of "We are all different colors but yet we are all the same" can contact Bobbie Tillman at 704-624-3237. He said he plans to make his book available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Article and photo by Holly Morgan, courtesy of the Enquirer-Journal

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LIEAP Funds Not Currently Available

The Anson County Department of Social Services does not currently have Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funds available. The Express will publish an article when these funds do become available. The program ends March 31 unless funds are exhausted prior to that.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program gives families a one-time vendor payment to help pay their heating bills. Families must meet all of the following: an income test, be responsible for its heating bills and include a U.S. citizen or an eligible alien.

For more information, contact the Anson County Department of Social Services at 704-694-9351.

Wingate Ranked No. 1 in North Carolina for Financial Aid

Wingate University is ranked No. 1 in North Carolina and No. 49 in the nation in terms of providing financial aid to students, according to the college-loan website LendEDU.

Using data from Peterson's Undergraduate Financial Aid Database and the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), LendEDU ranked 829 independent and state-run colleges and universities across the United States, based on data for 2017-2018. It gave the greatest weight, 60 percent, to need-based financial aid. To come up with a composite score, it also considered non-need-based aid (34 percent) and international aid (6 percent).

Wingate wound up with a total score of 85.95, placing it 37 spots ahead of the only other North Carolina school in the top 100, Catawba College (86th). No. 3 in North Carolina was Davidson College, coming in at No. 161 nationally.

The site gave Wingate students who have financial need a 90 percent likelihood of receiving need-based aid, with 77 percent of that need being met. It also calculated that the average student receives \$8,391 a year in non-need-based aid. Ninety-eight percent of Wingate students receive some form of financial aid, and about 86 percent of students receive non-academic aid.

The generosity of donors such as Porter B. Byrum has helped countless students receive a Wingate education over the years. Byrum, a Charlotte lawyer and businessman, gave nearly \$21 million to the University in 2011 and another \$36.5 million upon his death in 2017. Most of that money goes toward providing scholarship aid to those in need.

Also, the Gateway Scholarship program, begun last year, helps students who earn an associate degree at South Piedmont Community College to attend Wingate for a reduced cost.

Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They distribute coats to those in need as well as to schools in Anson County.

Blankets for the elderly are also available.

Gumbys on Highway 74 in Lilesville is a drop off site for donations, or a pick up point for those who need a coat. Just call to schedule it.

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

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