



Grace and Grumpy

A TAIL of GIVING

Written and Illustrated by Leigh Ann Agee



**The cutest thing about Grace,
besides her light blue knitted fur,
is that you can't see her tail.
It wags so fast, it's just a blur.**



**She's found a passion for giving,
so she's as happy as can be.
She grows daisies by the dozens
and shares them with those in need.**



**Now Grumpy, he's the opposite.
He lives next door to Grace.
His "passion" is a bad habit
of digging holes all over the place.**



His yard, a carpet of chaos,
is made of leaves and puddles galore.
He's dug so many holes now
there's no room for any more!

**Every day, like clockwork,
Grace gathers daisies in her wagon.
Grumpy asks, "What do you do with those flowers?"
He simply could not imagine.**

**"I visit sick kids in the hospital.
My daisies brighten up their day.
It would be fun if you came along.
We make daisy chains and play!"**

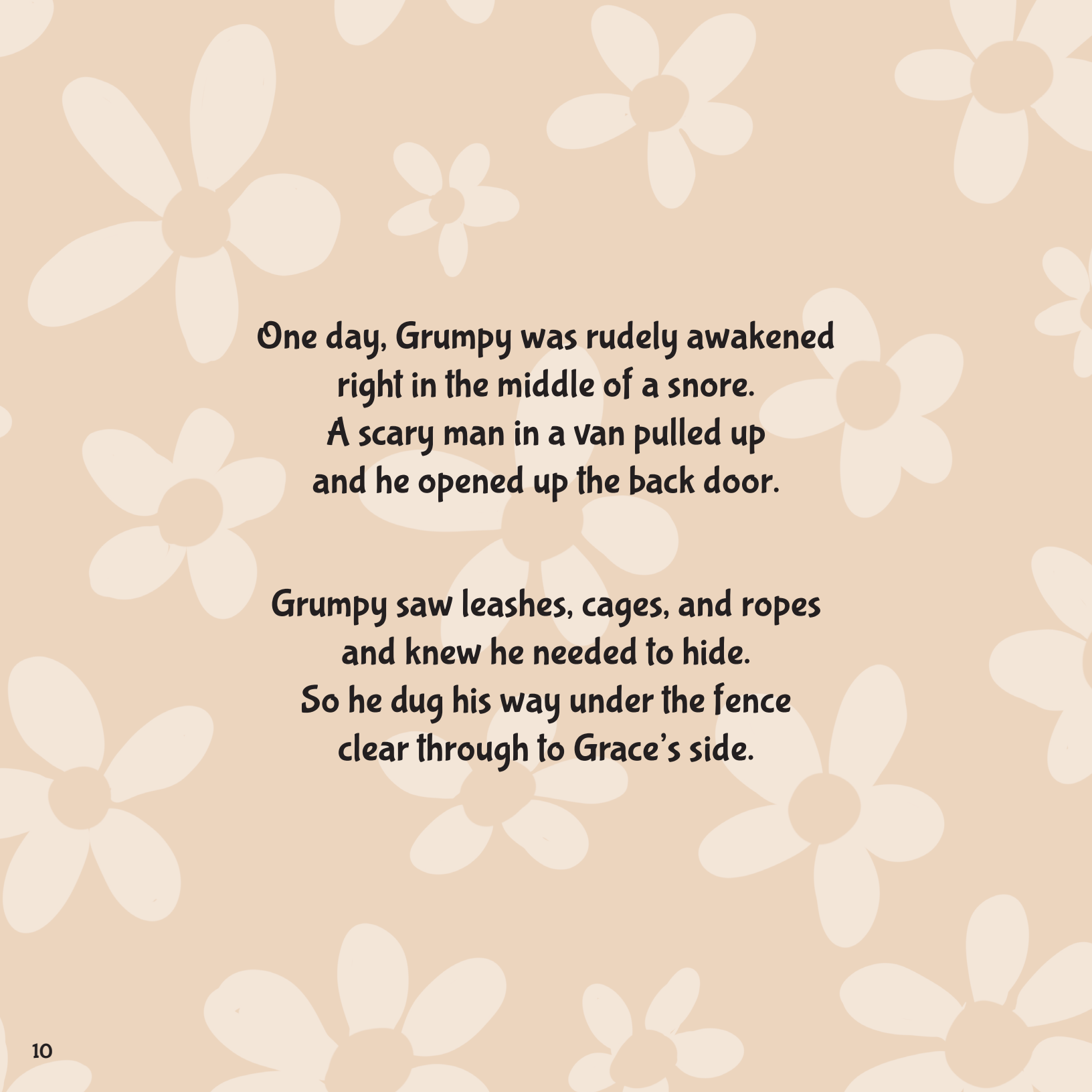
**"Just think, what if we couldn't go outside
and feel the grass beneath our paws?"
But Grumpy turned up his nose—
a hospital did not sound fun at all!**





Out of loneliness and boredom
Grumpy remained up to no good.
He barked nonstop and caused a stir
in an otherwise quiet neighborhood.





**One day, Grumpy was rudely awakened
right in the middle of a snore.
A scary man in a van pulled up
and he opened up the back door.**

**Grumpy saw leashes, cages, and ropes
and knew he needed to hide.
So he dug his way under the fence
clear through to Grace's side.**

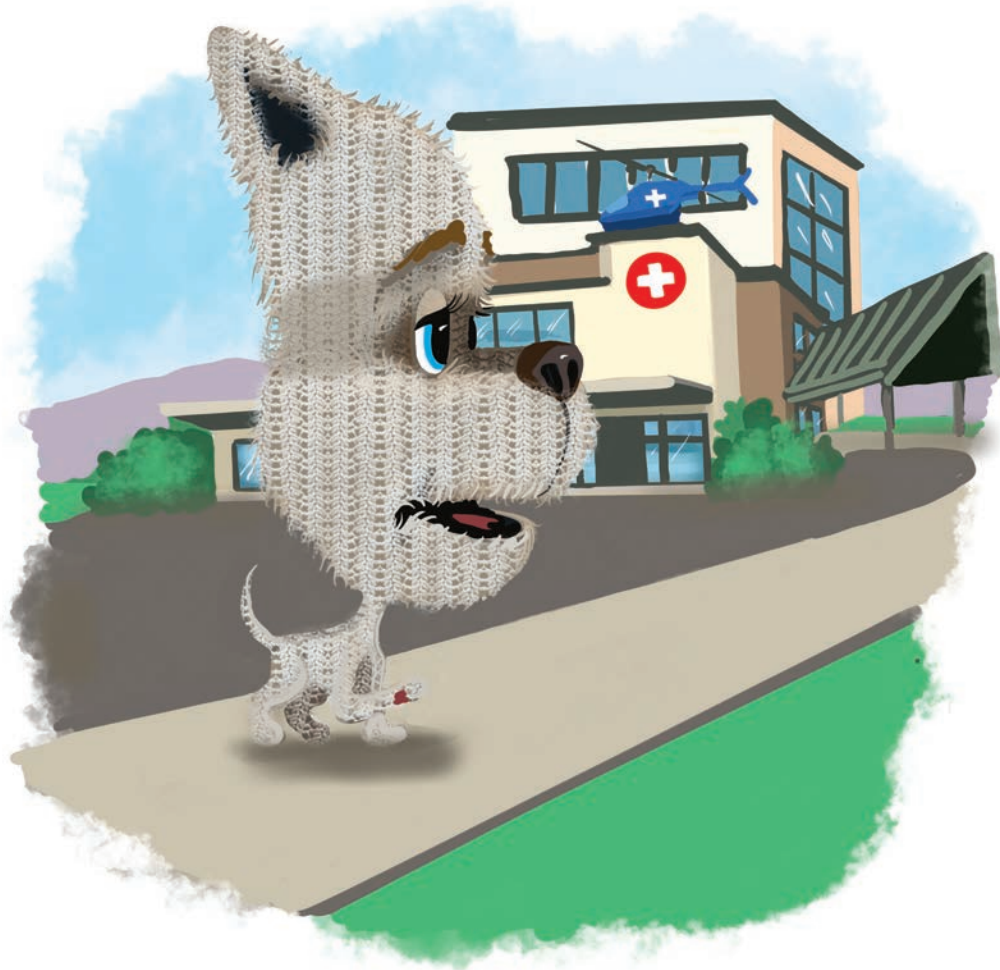




**He stayed hidden under her daisies
while the scary man yelled and scoffed.
His heart beat faster and faster
'til he heard the van screeching off.**



He tiptoed out ready to run
but realized his paw was hurt.
After letting out the breath he'd held,
he shook off the mud and dirt.



**He wished he'd just gone with Grace,
as he started to limp down the street.
And there it was! That hospital!
He knew that's where Grace would be!**



**Grumpy peeked inside the door
and Grace squealed, "Grumpy! Come on in!"
She'd told the kids all about him.
They shouted, "Hey, is that your friend?"**



**Grace saw that Grumpy was disheveled,
but he was starting to lose his frown.
When the kids bandaged his hurt paw
and made him a scarf and daisy crown!**



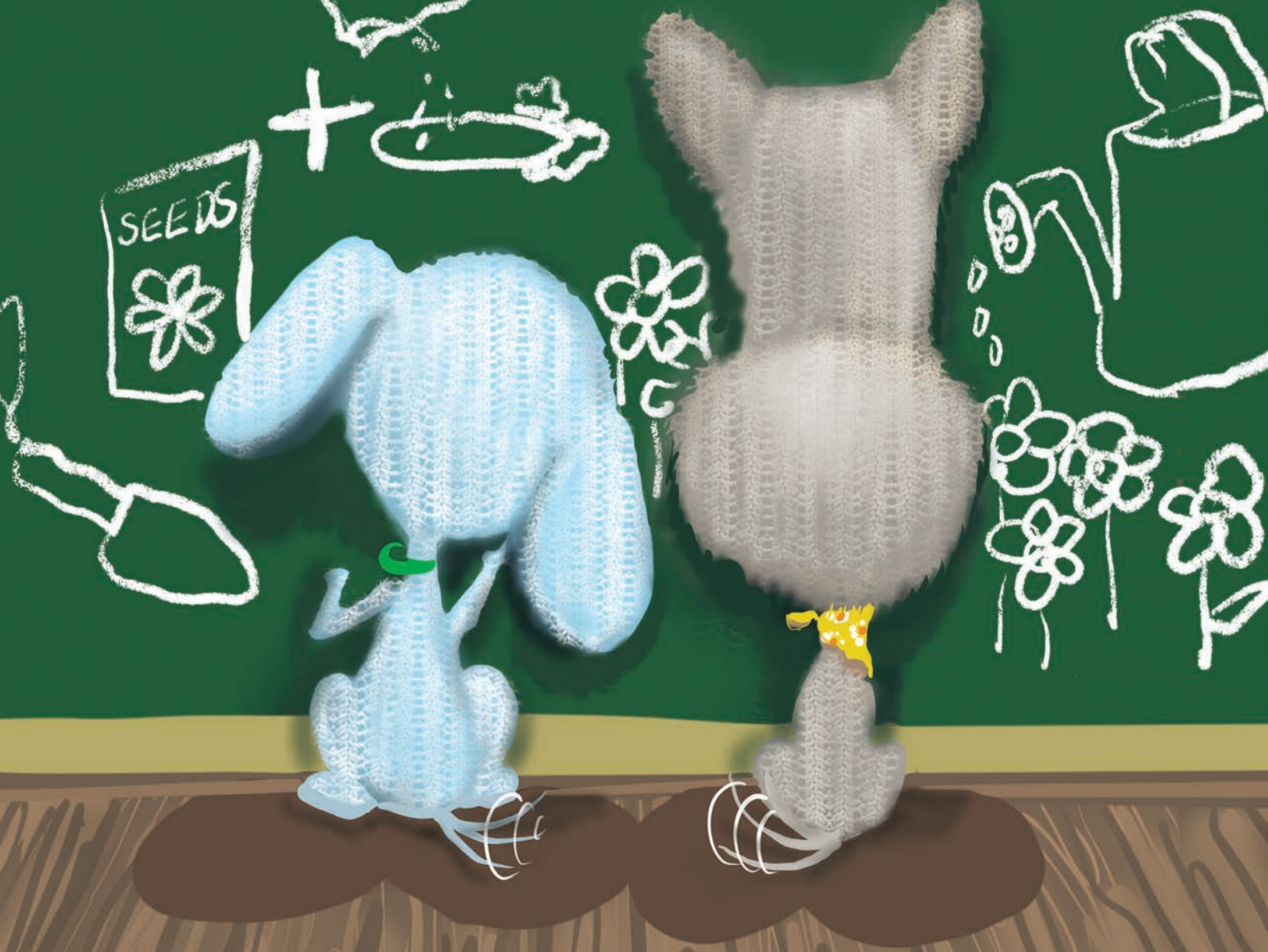
**Grumpy was stunned when a little boy asked him
to jump up on his bed.
He said, "Come on up here, big guy!"
as he gently patted him on the head!**



**With his eyes closed and tail wagging,
Grace watched Grumpy transform.
Like magic, his grumpiness melted
into a smile that was wide and warm!**



On the way home Grumpy told Grace how she'd not only helped the kids, but she'd changed him on the inside by showing him how to give.



He told her how afraid he was
that the scary man would come back,
so they put their heads together
and made their plan of attack!



**They'd be a duo of daisy do-gooders.
It was quite an ambitious goal!
But all they needed were seeds and water—
Grumpy had already dug all the holes.**



Like busy bees they began planting.
They loved watching the garden grow.
In no time, Grumpy was standing
in daisies up to his nose!



**Grumpy was proud of his yard now,
and he was thankful for Grace.
Now, if the scary man ever came back,
he'd think he was in the wrong place!**



**Grumpy learned that helping others
made him feel more than giddy.
Grace had taught him that any mess
could be turned into something pretty.**



They lived happily ever after
with their passions intertwined.
As they set out to *create hope in the world*,
one daisy at a time.

What is Rotary?

Rotary is an organization with over 1,000,000 members and more than 35,000 clubs. People from all cultures come together to share ideas and form friendships while making a difference in their community and around the world.

The Rotary Club of Kingsport celebrated its centennial in 2023–2024 with a theme to “Create Hope in the World” through serving youth. The club also started an Early Act Club at John F. Kennedy Elementary School and recognized their first class of Junior Rotary Ambassadors, one from each elementary school in the Kingsport City School System.

The club supports the Kingsport Clothing Closet by providing new clothes for houseless children and has completed service projects at Bays Mountain Park, Borden Park, Kingsport Miracle Field, Isaiah 117 House, Second Harvest Food Bank, SMILE Foster Closet, and many more.

Service Above Self

In our story, Grumpy learned how good it felt to give to others. Together, Grace and Grumpy decided to make their community a happier and brighter place, giving one daisy at a time.

This idea is similar to “Service Above Self,” which is the motto for Rotary International.

Just like Grace and Grumpy use daisies to show giving, our community is like a big garden, and every good deed you do is like planting a flower. The more flowers we plant, the more beautiful our garden becomes. This means when we work together to keep our parks clean, share with those who don’t have as much, or even just say “thank you” to people who help us, we’re making our community a happier, brighter place for everyone. And guess what – that makes you happier, too!

The Rotary Club of Kingsport would like to share the importance of living “Service Above Self” in 3 ways:

Self Care – One must be good to themselves in order to give big to others.

Friend Care – One should give to others to help those in need.

Community Care – One should take care of their community as it is our home.

Activities

1. SELF-CARE ACTIVITY: "DAISY BREATH"

A "Daisy Breath" is a calming and mindful breathing activity for when you feel stressed, anxious, or too excited.

1. Find a place to sit comfortably with a daisy in your hand. The daisy can be imaginary, made of paper or even a real one!
2. **Inhale Slowly:** Breathe in slowly through your nose, and imagine you're smelling the beautiful daisy. Count to three silently as you do this.
3. **Hold the Breath:** Hold your breath for two seconds, and imagine the daisy soaking up the sun and fresh air.
4. **Exhale Slowly:** Breathe out slowly through your mouth, as if you're blowing a gentle breeze on the daisy. Count to three silently as you do this.
5. Repeat this breathing pattern a few times. Focus on the daisy and feel the air move in and out of your body.



2. FRIEND-CARE ACTIVITY: "GOOD DEED GARDEN"

Create a "garden" of good deeds, where each daisy represents a commitment to help someone in need.

Materials Needed:

- Large poster board or bulletin board
- Green construction paper (for stems and leaves)
- White and yellow construction paper (for daisies)
- Markers, crayons, or paint
- You can also use a piece of paper to make a personal size Good Deed Garden.

Instructions:

- Use the green construction paper to create grass and stems on the poster board or bulletin board.
- Cut out daisy shapes from the white construction paper and yellow circles for the centers.
- Brainstorm ideas for good deeds to help your friends.
- Pick a good deed to commit to and write it on the yellow center of a daisy.

Over time, the garden will visually represent your efforts and the impact of your good deeds. Demonstrating the beauty of helping others can reinforce the concept of "Service Above Self." Seeing a field of daisies can really brighten everyone's day!

3. COMMUNITY-CARE ACTIVITY: “DAISY DAY OF SERVICE”

Community Cleanup with a Daisy Theme

Host or participate in a community clean-up day or beautification project to improve a local area. If possible, find a spot to plant native pollinator plants as a commitment to maintaining a beautiful and sustainable community.

Materials:

- Trash bags and gloves for cleanup
- Native seeds and plants
- Gardening tools
- Optional: T shirts or badges with a daisy emblem to wear during the event

Planning: Lead a discussion on the importance of a clean and healthy environment for the community’s well being. Plan a community cleanup day, identifying areas in need such as parks, school yards, or neighborhood streets and coordinate with the property owner, local municipality or other community organizations.

Cleanup Activity: Organize the students into teams for the cleanup effort, ensuring they have gloves and bags. Emphasize safety and respect for property during the activity.

Planting Activity: After the clean-up, have the students plant native flowers, shrubs or trees in the area that was approved for this activity. This act symbolizes their hope and intention for a continuously clean and vibrant community.

Reflection and Celebration: Conclude with a discussion on the impact of their service, asking students to reflect on how their actions today can inspire continued care for their community.

Continued Commitment: Encourage students to take care of the garden areas and revisit the cleanup sites periodically to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of the area, reinforcing the concept of ongoing “Service Above Self.”

These activities not only help children understand their role in caring for their community but also connect them to the broader themes of growth, renewal, and the beauty of collective action, all symbolized by Grace’s and Grumpy’s garden of daisies.

Centennial Legacy Sponsors



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Something big for our smallest patients

The **Ballad Health Niswonger Children's Network** is a regional system of healthcare and community services marking a new phase in **high standards of healthcare and well-being for children**, regardless of where they live across the Appalachian Highlands.

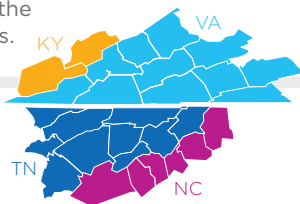


Families from throughout the region have always considered Niswonger Children's Hospital "their hospital."



And now,

the Niswonger Children's Network will **further extend** the hospital's **high standards** and **resources** across the Appalachian Highlands.



 balladhealth.org



Ballad Health Niswonger Children's Network Strong Futures,

a residential program that will keep women with substance use disorders and their children together during treatment



School-based virtual urgent care and behavioral health

in both rural and city school districts in Tennessee and Virginia



The Niswonger Children's Hospital Children's Resource Center

to serve as a resource of quality and trusted information for parents



Pediatric emergency departments

located within Bristol Regional Medical Center, Indian Path Community Hospital and Johnson City Medical Center



STRONG Starts, a wholly unique approach to maternity care, early childhood development and family support that has never been done anywhere else in the country



STRONG Brain Institute,

funded by Ballad Health for the purpose of studying and serving the needs of children who suffer from childhood trauma. It is among the first of its kind in the United States.



Niswonger Children's Hospital is "powered by ETSU Health,"

to reflect the strong clinical and academic relationship between Ballad Health and East Tennessee State University, serving children in the region.



Please visit balladhealth.org/childrensnetwork to learn more about how we are improving healthcare in our region.



About The Author

Leigh Ann Agee is a professional artist from East Tennessee. Her career began in 1989, and she has since worked as a muralist, illustrator, and oil painter. Over the years, Leigh Ann has embraced numerous opportunities for growth and adventure. She has completed over 1,000 commercial and residential murals throughout the Southeast, transforming spaces such as nurseries, schools, hospitals, hotels, and even Airbnbs.

Her first book illustration experience came with her brand, *Moon Bound Girl*. “Melody’s Music” chronicles the journey of a faceless dreamer named Melody who discovers her passion and sets out to achieve her dreams. Leigh Ann was thrilled to receive her first book deal at an art show in Nashville in 2014. She also wrote and illustrated a second book for *Moon Bound Girl*, titled “Harmony’s World Tour.”

The Rotary Club of Kingsport invited Leigh Ann to participate in a special centennial project to “Create Hope in the World,” and thus *Grace and Grumpy: A Tail of Giving* was born. Leigh Ann shared that she felt honored by the request as she was impressed by the Rotary Club’s work in Kingsport and is proud to contribute to their efforts.

To learn more about Leigh Ann’s work, please visit LeighAnnAgee.com and MoonBoundGirl.com.