

# THE WAYNE Dispatch

MARCH 2019



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Wayne Residents Bring Joy to Villagers

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# Helping a village to raise their children provides joy for local residents

About 7 years ago, Wayne resident Buddy Shuh learned of an organization called Vision Trust International through Mark Cornelison, a friend Buddy made when he was a contestant on the NBC reality show "The Biggest Loser." When a church trip was planned back then to the Dominican Republic to see the work that Vision Trust did, Buddy went along to learn more. Vision Trust establishes relationships with various communities around the world and helps those communities and the children growing up there.

Merge Community Church, of which Buddy is one of four pastors, started forming relationships with the village of Cotui. The church started those relationships by sponsoring three children living in Cotui. A \$40 monthly sponsorship fee is paid for each child; that fee provides food, clothing, shelter and education. These days, there are a number of parishioners at Merge who sponsor their own Cotui children, sending gifts and letters and getting letters in return.

While Buddy was bundled up in his snow gear and shoveling snow during a snowstorm here in Wayne in January, Shelby Shuh, wife of Buddy, their 14-year old son, Isaac, Wayne Councilwoman Kelly Skiff and a mother and her two twenty-something-year old daughters, all Merge church members, were enduring 85° weather while serving on the most recent church mission trip to help in Cotui. Shelby has been on mission trips in the past, serving in Mexico and Peru. This was Isaac's first mission trip, as well as Kelly's.

On the first day of the trip, the mission team met the Vision Trust local staff and got introduced to the people of the village they would be helping. The next four days of the trip were spent working in the village from about 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The final day was a fun day.

Other churches also help in the village. They've been able to bring clean clothes and clean water to the villagers. They have built a community center where children from preschool to second grade go to school. Computer classes, as well as classes



The missions team did women's ministry with the women of Cotui in the Dominican Republic. Photo by Samantha Jordan

for baking, knitting and guitar, are available along with other extracurricular activities. Older children go to a public school outside the village.

A garden was established in the village not long ago. On the recent trip, Shelby, Isaac and Kelly helped

ized and pulled weeds in the beds, sifted the soil, and then transplanted tomatoes and lettuce into it. The idea of the garden, said Kelly, was to have crops the villagers could also sell.

Cotui is a rice village. Many vil-

dirt road runs through the rice fields with patches of small houses; "Much like those tiny houses," said Kelly. Kelly said the rice fields look like weeds sprouting up, and they are all wet; men would wear boots while gathering the rice. People walk everywhere unless they happen to have a moped. "It's crazy the way they drive," said Shelby. Everything is easy to get to in the village.

The homes are about 200-300 square feet made of cinderblock and stucco to diffuse the heat. There is no air conditioning. The people are poor, but they have pride in their homes. Electricity is a luxury, although the community center does have it. Most of the homes have dirty water in their plumbing that they don't drink, but they do use for showers. Kelly says the homes have those big bottles of water to use for drinking. There are no TVs or computers in the homes, although residents are starting to get cell phones. Shelby says villagers consider themselves "married" to their partners, although they aren't legally married; a legal marriage is too costly.

On the last day in Cotui, the team was invited to the homes of the children the church sponsors. When she first met the children at the beginning of the trip, Kelly was surprised at how healthy and well-dressed they were. After visiting the homes, she



Shelby Shuh communicates to the kids through their translator Gaba during Vacation Bible School. Afterwards they broke off into groups and half of them did games and the other half did crafts. Photo by Samantha Jordan

in maintaining the garden so the villagers could be sustainable with their food. Shelby said they were growing lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins and cilantro. They fertil-

izers work in the rice fields. Rice and beans are the staple meal. Shelby mentioned they also have fruits like pineapple, papaya, plantains and mango available locally. A

See **TRIP**, page 5

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Friday fish fry

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 34530 W. Michigan Ave, will be hosting a Friday Fish Fry in the activity center every Friday during Lent. The first Fish Fry will be March 8 and will continue through April 12. Times are 5:00-7:00 p.m.

### Local kindergarten round-up being held

St. Michael Lutheran School, 3003 Hannan Rd, Wayne, is having Kindergarten Round-Up on Thursday, March 14, at 6:00 p.m. Please check their website at [www.st-michaelmustangs.org](http://www.st-michaelmustangs.org) or if you would like additional tour times and information, call (734) 728-3315. Each family that attends will receive a hot pizza to take home. One visit can change everything!

### Free karaoke night

Mark Friday, March 15, on your calendar to share your talents (or just enjoy the talent of others) at Friday Knight Free Karaoke presented by Kia of Canton. The event will be at the Knights of Columbus Notre Dame Lounge, 3144 S. Wayne Rd, from 6:00-11:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Karaoke starts at 7:00 p.m. Friday is Taco Night at this family-friendly lounge. There is a cash bar available.

### Annual free cone day at Wayne Dairy Queen

Celebrate the first day of spring on Wednesday, March 20, at Wayne Dairy Queen. Come enjoy a free small vanilla soft-serve cone with the signature curl on top 12:30-9:00 p.m. Limit one per customer while supplies last.

### Hungry caterpillars at the library

Wiggle into Spring with the Very Hungry Caterpillar! Join the staff at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd., as they mark 50 years of this wonderful classic story by Eric Carle and welcome in Spring 2019! At a special event on Saturday, March 23, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. you will make your very own fuzzy caterpillar, read the very springy story,



Wayne Memorial Graduate Anavia Battle won the Big 10 Title in the women's 200m in Ann Arbor last month with a time of 22.80 for best time in the world this year. Battle along with her teammates also won the 2019 Women's Indoor track BIG 10 championship for Ohio State. Battle will compete in the NCAA Championships, hosted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham March 8 and 9.

and enjoy a yummy treat! Children of all ages are welcome, but the craft is suggested for ages 5+. Caregivers are asked to remain with their children.

### Rod Stewart in Wayne?

It's possible that the real Rod Stewart could make an appearance in Wayne. We do know, however, that Donny Rod will be appearing as Rod Stewart for a dinner show at the Knights of Columbus Notre Dame Lounge, 3144 S. Wayne Rd, on Saturday, March 23. Tickets are \$25 per person. Get your tickets at [www.notredamelounge.eventbrite.com](http://www.notredamelounge.eventbrite.com).

**WAYNE Dispatch**  
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The Wayne Dispatch is a monthly publication  
direct mailed to the entire City of Wayne.

### Come to tea!

The Wayne Historical Society invites you to "A Victorian Tea Celebrating 1869" to be held on Saturday, March 30, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Wayne Historical Museum, 1 Towne Square. Tickets are available at the museum for \$40. The museum is open Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. You can also mail a check payable to the Wayne Historical Society, PO Box 478, Wayne, MI 48184 ATTN: Sesquicentennial Tea Chair-Tickets.

### Family game night

The Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd., will be hosting Family Game Night on the first Wednesday of the month through June. The dates are April 3, May 1, and June 5. The festivities start at 5:30 p.m. Try

See **BRIEFS**, page 9

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**TRIP,** Continued from page 3

says she understood that they were healthy and well-dressed because they were sponsored.

Kelly mentioned that Vision Trust is working to develop a water filtration system in the village.

Back at the community center, the Merge group painted seven classrooms for the teachers. They also held a Teacher Appreciation event where they served a luncheon and brought gifts to the teachers. They held a Vacation Bible School (VBS) in the morning for approximately 55-65 kids. VBS included a Bible story, crafts, games, a snack and lunch. Each year, the community center gets developed and improved upon a little more.

Shelby, Isaac, Kelly and the other three team members stayed at a hotel in San Francisco de Maoris, a city about a 30-45 minute bus drive from the village. Vision Trust provides the bus and a driver to chauffeur the team around in an area it has deemed safe and takes care of the team. They let the mission team know what restaurants are safe to eat at and what members can and can't have. They provide translators to help the team members communi-



Councilwoman Kelly Skiff shows a little girl how to volley a ball. Photo by Samantha Jordan

cate with the locals. Kelly says they had four translators to assist their small group. She also said the people in San Francisco never sleep. There was always music playing at all hours. People would be with their families in the park across the street

from the hotel late at night. Kelly laughingly said that it was a good thing she could sleep through anything.

To attend the mission trip, Shelby, Isaac and Kelly had to raise their own funds. The trip is \$1,200 just for the ground costs. The skills of those going on the mission trip are considered for what they will end up doing. If those attending are electricians, they will get assigned to do wiring. There is a collaboration between the village and Vision Trust for matching mission teams with what is needed to be done in the village.

The most surprising sight for Isaac was seeing police officers with big guns, perhaps rifles, hanging out by the bank. This was Isaac's first mission trip and his first time outside the United States. He says he learned that kids are like him; they like to play sports. His favorite activity on the trip was playing sports like soccer and basketball with the village boys.

Shelby, who can speak a little Spanish, said she enjoyed interacting with a different culture that she absolutely loved. The time that was spent acting, serving and loving with the villagers was mutual. "The kids steal your heart. They're so cute.

They just want to be loved and cared for."

Kelly has always wanted to go on a mission trip. When this trip came up, it was the perfect opportunity for her to go. "I had always wanted to see and experience what the church was supporting. I was delighted to find out the money is being very well-managed." She also shared, "I was completely blown away at how they (Vision Trust) took care of us. It's scary being in a foreign country where you don't speak the language. I was never afraid to be there."

Vision Trust wants the people who work with them to have a personal connection with the community and with any kids they sponsor. Shelby mentioned how one team member was asked by a little girl if she was her "madrina" (godmother). The children know what it means to be sponsored and love having time spent with them.

The goal of the Vision Trust mission trips is to provide education to the kids and help them beat the odds and get out of the cycle of poverty they are in. Shelby, Isaac, Kelly and the other Merge Community Church members who went with them have helped them get one step closer to that goal.

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Wayne-Westland  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

# Library offers more!

By Carolyn Marnon

242 people responded to the survey put out by the Wayne Library on what the community most wanted to see with the money from the library millage that passed last August. Library Director Jody Wolak addressed the city council recently with the results.

The top priorities were urgent repairs, increasing hours, increasing materials and increasing programs.

The library staff is working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to address the problems with the leaking roof. Temporary measures have been in place this winter. More extensive work will be done in the spring. Hours the library is open will be increasing nearly 30% sometime in April with the addition of both morning and evening hours. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the library will open 2 hours earlier at 10:00 a.m. The library will stay open 3 hours later on Thursdays until 8:00 p.m.

Orders have already been placed for 44 new magazines and newspapers. Patrons should start seeing these new materials in March or

April. Over 500 new books, DVDs and CDs per month are also expected. Patrons will be able to order eBooks and audiobooks through an Overdrive program called Libby. The library staff can help you get this program up and running on your mobile device. Finally, the Wayne Public Library is a member of The Library Network, a network of over 40 libraries that share materials. The library will be increasing the frequency of this program sharing materials from 2 times a week to 3 times a week.

The library is already increasing the number of programs it is able to offer. March programs include free tax help from the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, the "Wiggle into Spring" children's program and a weekly storytime. April programs will include Lost Car Companies of Detroit, Blackout Poetry for teens and adults, "Create your own journal" children's program and a family game night. May programs include Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia, fix-a-flat bicycle maintenance workshop (in partnership with the Wayne Bicycle Shop).

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# NOW THROUGH MARCH 30TH



## THE CAPUCHIN MISSION:

Founded in 1929, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen serves Metro Detroit by providing food, clothing and human development programs to the people of our community. In addition to preparing and serving up to 2,000 meals a day, it operates a shower program, emergency food pantry and a tutoring and art therapy program for children. It also distributes household items and clothing. Its Earthworks Urban Farm harvests six tons of produce from a two and a half acre organic farm and educates the community in regards to sustainable relationships between human beings and the earth. The Soup Kitchen's On the Rise Bakery assists individuals "re-entering" society after bouts of incarceration or substance abuse. In addition, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Jefferson House - a twelve bed residential treatment facility - assists indigent males seeking to reclaim their lives from addiction.

## MARK CHEVROLET will be collecting donations for The Capuchin Soup Kitchen NOW - MARCH 30th

### WHY ARE WE COLLECTING CLEANING SUPPLIES:

In meeting with the Capuchin Organization, they expressed a large need for shower supplies and household staples. The Capuchin Shower Program offers free showers to the homeless. The Shower Program not only cleans the physical bodies of homeless but also launders their clothing. This calls out for a great need of shower supplies, towels and anything that would make someone "feel human again." Household supplies are also in high demand and short supply. *Over the past two years of supporting the Capuchins with this program, the Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers LMA has helped over 260,000 people.*

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# Local business owner recognized

By Carolyn Marnon

Her focus is on investing in people to build her business and community.

Joni Thrower Davis grew up with McDonald's in her blood. Her parents, James and Marla, have been having adventures in McDonaldland for over 30 years, owning a number of McDonald's restaurants throughout Metro Detroit. Joni grew up attending Detroit Public Schools and after school she would do her homework in the lobby of one of her parents' McDonald's restaurants. Recently, Joni, a second-generation McDonald's owner/operator who now owns four of her own restaurants, was recognized as one of Detroit's "40 Under Forty" to watch, from Crain's Detroit Business, a weekly business newspaper that serves business influencers and decision makers.

As a business owner, Joni says you have to touch every position yourself to understand the process



and what your employees do on a daily basis. Like many small business owners in today's healthy economy, Joni's biggest challenge is finding and hiring skilled employees. "People are our greatest asset," said Thrower, "But with the current low unemployment, we need to work twice as hard and invest tremendously in growing our own talent." Thrower's strategy is to partner with a number of local resources including school districts, local community colleges, the Urban League and others to recruit talent and ultimately work toward offering customers a gold standard of service. She's also investing in community events to

bring support to the Westland Area Cruise which ends in Wayne, and many local school programs.

Joni introduces the McDonald's Archways to Opportunity program to everyone she talks with. The Archways program helps employees learn English-language skills, get a high school diploma and move on to an associates or bachelor's degree by offering eligible employees, after 90 days of work, tuition assistance of up to \$2,500 to a two or four-year university, college or trade school. "McDonald's offers tremendous opportunities to meet an individual where they are and help them grow," says Thrower. To explore an opportunity at McDonald's text "APPLY" to 36453 to apply for a job directly from your phone.

Prior to becoming a McDonald's owner/operator, Joni earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her law degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She then practiced law for

10 years with the Detroit-based firm of Miller Canfield.

Joni is a hands-on CEO. She says if she goes into one of her restaurants and sees they are short staffed or overrun, she will step right in. Her goal is to get the customers served and on their way. She is also very proud of the option for families to lean on her McDonald's as a safe, fun place to go with their children. When asked how she felt about her "40 Under Forty" recognition, Joni said "I'm proud, I've worked hard over the years and I'm very humbled."

In closing our interview, Joni reiterated that she has high expectations for her employees and the Wayne community. She's willing to work alongside the schools, the city, and with job training organizations to develop more people in the area. She believes that people who are willing to work and contribute back are the greatest resource in any community.



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# Distinguished Young Woman to be named March 8

The Distinguished Young Women of Wayne-Westland Scholarship Program will be holding the 52nd Annual Scholarship Program on Friday, March 8, at Wayne Memorial High School in Wayne at 7:00 p.m. Eight contestants from Wayne, Westland and Inkster will compete for thousands of dollars in college scholarships and the chance to represent their communities at local events and at the state finals in Canton, Michigan in July 2019.

This scholarship program is based on academic scholastics, leadership, physical fitness and talent. At the local program on March 8, contestants will perform an opening number and compete in a performing arts talent routine, a physical fitness routine and self-expression. Contestants are also evaluated based on academic scholastics and interview. "This is an amazing group of smart and talented young women, and we are excited to have them showcase their talents at our 52nd annual scholarship program. We in-



Distinguished Young Women of Wayne-Westland Class of 2020. Front row (left to right) Brooklyn Climer (Wayne), Ciara Raymond (Wayne), Andrea Santiago-Lagunas (Westland) and Susan Lenard (Westland). Back row (left to right) Shauna Jackson (Wayne), Ebere Bernard (Westland), Jenna Engberts (Westland) and Kyiana Parrom (Westland). Photo by Marvin Soleau

vite the public to come and support these accomplished young women" said Lauren Reed, Distinguished Young Women of Wayne-Westland Co-

Director.

Competing this year is Ebere Bernard, Brooklyn Climer, Jenna Engberts, Shauna Jackson, Susan

Lenard, Kyiana Parrom, Ciara Raymond and Andrea Santiago-Lagunas. Tickets to the event can be purchased from any participant or on the night of the show for \$10.00. All proceeds go toward scholarship awards. Come out to cheer on our contestants.

The Wayne-Westland Local Program is part of the Distinguished Young Women of America, which has impacted the lives of more than 765,000 young women since it first began in 1958.

The mission is to empower high school young women by providing scholarship opportunities, developing self-confidence and teaching crucial life skills needed for success in college and beyond. National sponsors include Mobile County, City of Mobile, Alabama Power Foundation, Encore Rehabilitation, Wintzell's Oyster House, Master Boat Builders, Barbara Barrington Jones Family Foundation, Evonik, Regions Financial Corporation, Jostens and Alabama Media Group.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### BRIEFS, Continued from page 4

out a new game or challenge your family members to a classic! There will be a wide variety of board games—favorites like Monopoly, Connect 4, Parcheesi, and Clue—as well as some new games you might not have experienced yet! Drop in for a few minutes or stay for hours. All ages are welcome!

### Peter Cottontail workshop

Bring your kids to this new and fun free event at the Knights of Columbus Notre Dame Lounge, 3144 S. Wayne Rd. on Saturday, April 13, from 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There will be free kids crafts open to kids of all ages. You will be able to purchase a hot dog or taco with a pop for \$3. Come see what this new event is all about!

### Free easter bunny pictures

Come get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny for FREE on Saturday, April 13, at REMAX Cornerstone, 8311 N. Wayne Rd, Westland from Noon-3:00 p.m. Feel free to

bring your camera, but there will also be a photographer on site to take a FREE professional picture which will be emailed to you.

REMAX Cornerstone will be accepting donations for The Children's Miracle Network. All donations stay local to provide scholarships for kids to attend the RE/MAX communication preschool at Beaumont Royal Oak.

### Lost car companies of Detroit

The Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd., will be hosting the program "Lost Car Companies of Detroit" on Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. Among the more than two hundred auto companies that tried their luck in the Motor City, just three remain: Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler. Many of those lost to history still have colorful stories worth telling.

### Made in Michigan trip

Enjoy a fun and informative tour at the Jiffy Factory in Chelsea and then visit Shawhaven Maple Syrup

Farm, a working and educational farm. The cost for the trip on Friday, March 8, is \$76. For more information, contact Nancy at the Wayne Senior Services office (734) 721-7460.

### Learn architectural styles

Tyler Moll of The Wayne Historical Society will present the program "American Architectural Styles" at the Wayne Historical Museum, 1 Towne Square, on Thursday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m. Tyler will talk about architectural styles from the 1500s

up to the present.

### We love a clean Wayne!

Join Wayne Main Street on Saturday, April 20, from 9:00 a.m.-Noon and participate in Wayne's Downtown Clean Up Day. Wayne is amazing, and this project is an effort to keep the city beautiful. This year, the Spring Clean Up will take place on Earth Day weekend! Volunteers are needed! You can make a difference by volunteering to help clean up Wayne.

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# The Russian Five to play at the State Wayne

In the late 1980s, the Detroit Red Wings hockey team was a laughing stock, often called the "Dead Wings." After a wealthy pizza magnate bought the failing franchise, he appointed an unorthodox General Manager to build a championship team. Throwing off conventional wisdom, the new GM looked to America's mortal enemy in the Cold War, the Soviet Union itself. Through a plot that sounds like a spy novel, the Red Wings organization brought on one Russian after another, sneaking them out under cover of night and whisking them to the Motor City, only to find that the new players faced another problem: Integration.

The film follows the stories of the five Russian players that emigrated to America, took root in Detroit, Michigan, and struggled to fit in, all while training day and night to become Stanley Cup champions. The new immigrants had to learn to communicate with their teammates, assimilate into the culture, and become Americans. Yet, along the way, the Russians began to teach the rest of the team the core of Soviet hockey, and better still, they started winning.

The Russian Five is the true story of immigrants that became American heroes, teammates that became family, and a scrappy, resilient city that became a world champion, twice. It's a story about hopes and dreams becoming reality, and the harsh reality of dreaming big. The names Federov, Larionov, Fetisov, Kozlov, and Konstantinov are legend now in the Motor City and their influence is still felt throughout the National Hockey League today.

And all because a few brave peo-



ple decided to set aside national identity to reach for the stars.

"If I had one word to describe the people of Detroit," a statement from filmmaker Joshua Riehl say, "it would be Resilient. No matter how many times we get knocked down, we find a way to get back up. It's that resilience that attracted me to the story of The Russian Five and pushed me to embark on a 6-year journey to make this documentary film. Like everyone else in Michigan in the 1990s, I followed the Detroit Red Wings with a passion. In a city where sports are such an integral part of the culture, the Detroit Red Wings were the closest thing to a Championship caliber team we had. Despite decades of not bringing home the Stanley Cup, they were still our heroes and gave us hope. After years of disappointment and heartbreak (42 to be exact), the Detroit Red Wings, led by the first five-man, all-Russian line in NHL history, finally hoisted the Stanley Cup as

world champions in 1997. With the city of Detroit euphorically reveling in victory, over a million people flooded the city's long deserted downtown for parades and parties. We were kicking off the greatest summer celebration of our lives, but that all ended 6 days later when tragedy struck. A limousine accident took our heroes from us at the height of their careers and our joy. Years later, when I too was in a car accident that would require multiple back surgeries, I dreamt of making my first feature documentary. The perseverance of the Russian Five in coming to America, winning the Stanley Cup and overcoming the tragedy of the limo wreck, would be a source of inspiration that helped me overcome my own injuries and pursue a career in documentary filmmaking. I wanted to share with the world that this isn't just a hockey story, but a human story, and a very Detroit one at that. That is why it is an honor to share with you, the story of the Russ-



## Champions highlight Champions of Wayne fundraiser

By Carolyn Marnon

A voice of the Detroit Red Wings, Art Regner, will attend a special fundraiser event on Wednesday, April 3, for Champions of Wayne at the State Wayne Theatre. A meet and greet will take place starting at 6:30 p.m. where beverages and hor d'oeuvres will be served. A brief documentary of the Champions of Wayne will be shown prior to a special screening of the The Russian Five starting at 8:00 p.m.

This special fundraising event is limited to 300 tickets. Tickets are available for \$25 through the Phoenix Theatres/State Wayne website [https://www.phoenix-movies.net/loc\\_statewayne](https://www.phoenix-movies.net/loc_statewayne) or can be purchased at the State Wayne Theatre.

ian Five. – **Joshua Riehl**

The Russian Five will be shown starting Friday, March 22, at the State Wayne Theatre.

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## District Champions

Way to go Zebras! Wayne Memorial Men's and Women's Basketball are 2018-2019 KLAAC Conference Champions! Photo by Ryan Wright

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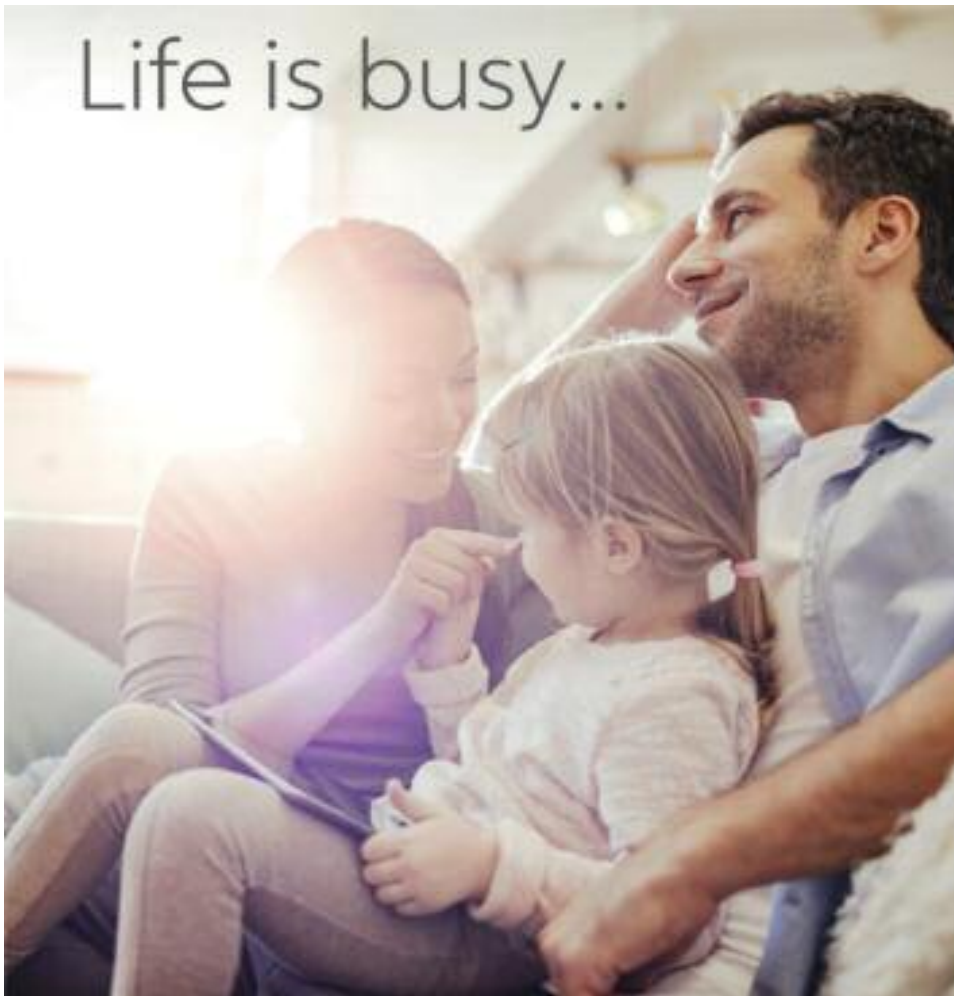
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