

STATE GAZETTE

Bobby Byars Foundation's Frances Project brings holiday cheer to Dyersburg Manor

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Dyersburg Manor staff

Throughout the world, families woke up last Saturday, enjoyed a hearty breakfast and opened gifts. This was also the scene at Dyersburg Manor, as the Frances Project helped to spread a little Christmas cheer by providing gifts to the residents.

Mrs. Frances Byars believed that no matter one's situation, residents could still experience the joys of Christmas. In loving memory of the late Frances Byars, the Frances Project was created to extend love and support to those in need. Dyersburg Manor was her last place of employment and where she made lifelong friends. As such, it was the perfect place to spread love and support in 2021.

Dorothy Purnell, a friend and supporter of the foundation, volunteered to take the lead, and get the staff involved so that gift bags holding personal items and treats could be distributed safely throughout the facility.



Ms. Linda Avery delivers packages.

“I was happy to help with this project in memory of my co-worker and friend,” Purnell said. “It was a blessing because sometimes some of the residents don’t receive visitors or presents during the holidays. This certainly lifted their spirits.”

Elder Derrick Quinn, board member and treasurer for the foundation, worked alongside Mrs. Purnell and foundation volunteers to receive items, prepare bags and coordinate with Dyersburg Manor to make the project a success. The Bobby Byars Foundation set a 2021 goal to impact the lives of at least 100 people this Christmas. With approximately 80 residents receiving gift bags as well as personal care packages being dropped off to elderly members throughout the community, the project will meet and exceed its goal.

“The Bobby Byars Foundation has a team the spans across the country,” Elder Quinn stated. “All it takes is teamwork to make an impact and seize the opportunity to show love to everybody in the tough times.”



Ms. Linda Avery delivers packages

Mrs. Purnell said her favorite thing about volunteering is seeing the happiness of the residents as they enjoy their gifts.

“Every time we complete a project tied to the Bobby Byars Foundation, we feel motivated,” Elder Quinn said. “We feel that we’ve done something Christ-worthy.”

The Bobby Byars Foundation, Inc. continues to expand on its mission of vision, hope, and empowerment. For more information or to support the foundation, go to www.bobbybyarsfoundation.org.

