

# LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS

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## Lincolnton senior community honors volunteers



Contributed

Arvin Gabbard and Kylee Andrews during one of Andrews' visits to Heath House as a volunteer.

**JACLYN ANTHONY**  
Staff Writer

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. Heath House (HH) in Lincolnton, a DePaul Senior Living Community, is celebrating its dedicated volunteers, many of whom have been serving for over 20 years.

Community members from local parishes, entertainers and beauty queens visit HH to share music, faith and camaraderie.

Young pageant queens Lacy Andrews, 9, and Kylee Andrews, 10, recently began visiting HH. They've called bingo, passed out treats and prizes and posed for photos with residents.

"Seeing two younger girls wanting to come and spend time with seniors is a very rare and unusual thing," Heath House resident Jeanette Kelly said.

Lacy and Kylee's mother Carmen Andrews said the experience helps the girls build confidence, public speaking skills and allows them to see how helping others doesn't cost any-

thing but a little bit of time.

"We can't always give back with money and it's hard to ask people for donations for everything, but I think most people can find one hour of their day, once a month or once a quarter," said Carmen Andrews. "The happiness it brings is such a satisfying feeling."

Activities Director Hayley Johnson said many of the regular volunteers have built relationships with seniors.

"It's like getting a visit from an old friend or family member," Johnson said.

Resident Arvin Gabbard enjoys all the individuals and groups who dedicate their time to sharing their talents at Heath House.

"Whenever they come to visit, I get something out of it and everyone else here does as well," Gabbard said.

In addition to the Andrews sisters, Calvary Baptist church parishioners have been

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visiting HH on Mondays for over 20 years to sing hymns and do devotionals with resi-

dents. Bob Wright, a member of Boger City United Methodist Church visits every Tuesday to play the Sunday service for 20 years. For 10 years, Coral Baptist Church have been

singing for residents each second Friday of the month.

For the past three years, Tom and Kathy Ivey and Spirit of Life Church of God pastor Daniel Perry and wife Tabitha

visit to share devotionals.

For more information about Heath House, please contact Administrator Terry Black at 704-732-1113