LIFE notes

Springing Into Action

Growing Hope & Saving Lives

April 10, 2026

Dear Friends:

We all know the popular saying that "April showers bring May flowers." The phrase, which originally dates back to the 16th century English poet Thomas Tusser, means that rainy periods — these April showers — lead to blooming flowers in the next month, which is, of course, May.

On a much deeper level, "April showers bring May flowers" symbolizes that hardship or discomfort can precede good times and growth.

In a very real sense, the phrase sums up quite nicely what LIFE's mission has been centered on since its founding more than three decades ago. Indeed, back then, we saw the insurmountable challenges – the hardship and discomfort — confronting far too many families in the tri-county region, across the country, and around the world. Because of their adverse socio-economic standing, they lacked the opportunities to flourish. So we provided the "seeds" and "nourishment" for them to bloom, just like how those April showers that bring May flowers.

Where fields were once barren of hope and any kind of future, LIFE enabled a community in Guatemala to bloom, thanks to a clean water system we provided, while another community of women in Africa was able to flourish, free of genocide. And here on our own soil, we provided sustenance, in the form of scholarships, so that aspiring doctors from low-income families could get the necessary education and training before they returned to serve their communities as primary care physicians and internists and help close the Grand Canyon-like health equity chasm.

Then there was the legacy initiative that "planted" in Washington DC through the "nourishment" we provided, the "seeds we sowed" for Veterans permanently scarred and marred by war to be fully recognized for their service and sacrifice. We did this through our "planting" — our building — of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, the nation's only public tribute to America's 5.5 million living disabled Veterans and all those who have died. The Memorial profoundly illuminates the suffering with which they are confronted on a daily basis — while also serving as a stark reminder to those who perpetrate war of the profound human cost to these actions.

Similarly, through our support of the Vision4Kids program with Bascom-Palmer Eye Institute, kids from ages 2 to 18 with vision impairment are given comprehensive eye exams and if deemed necessary, two free pairs of prescription eyeglasses and a pair of prescription sunglasses. If these children cannot see the blackboards and whiteboards in their classrooms, if they cannot clearly read their books, their computer screens, and their assignments, they can't learn; instead, they will "wilt" and "wither away," rather than "blossom" and prosper.

Most recently, we have offered "nourishment" in the most tangible way to children from our county who are faced with food insecurity and hunger. We are doing so through the Food4Kids program in partnership with the Palm Beach County Food Bank that gives these children backpacks filled with healthy and nutritious food, snacks, and beverages when they are not in school – on weekends, holidays, vacations, professional teacher development days, and extreme weather events. By doing so, these children can learn because their stomachs won't be empty – they can bloom and flourish as beautifully as flowers in May.

Of course, animals – our four-legged friends – also need nourishment and sustenance; they need food and water (and snacks). But they also require healthcare and medical services so that they, too, can grow and flourish. That's where our support of the Lois Pope Pet Clinic at Tri County Animal Rescue comes to bear. Here, dogs, cats, and other pets from the lowest-income families – those who cannot afford such care – receive a full array of services – spaying and neutering, X-rays and other radiological tests, and even surgeries at no or little cost.

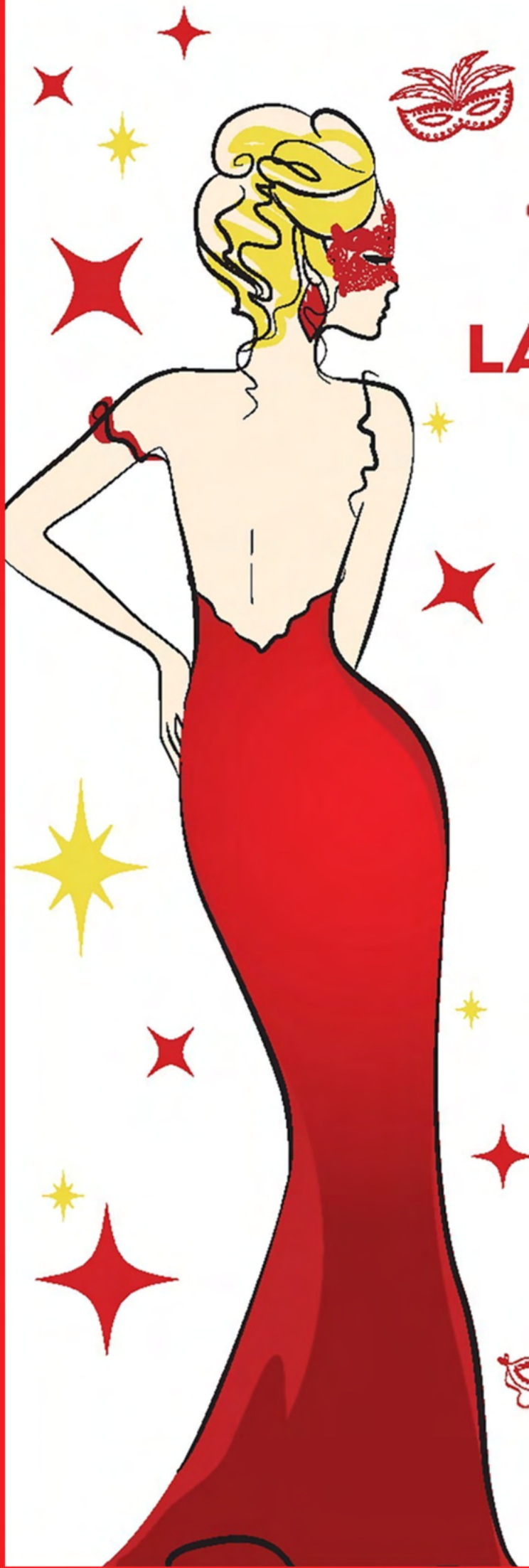
In essence, we at LIFE are "Green Thumbs," the finest gardeners. Through our Annual Lady in Red Gala, we maintain and cultivate, we plant and we water. We manage soil health and apply necessary feedings – all to ensure healthy and sustainable environments in which children, Veterans, and pets can thrive. We are those April showers that bring May flowers – but we do it all year long.

And speaking of the Lady in Red, next year's gala – our 33rd – is set for Sunday, March 14 at The Breakers Palm Beach. It will be a Masquerade Ball starring Jay Leno and Rita Rudner, for what is sure to be a one-of-a-kind night of laughter and hilarity.

You can reserve your seats, tables, and sponsorships now by calling the LIFE office, 561.582.8083. I look forward to speaking with you and seeing you. In the meantime,

Love Always,

Lois



COME TO THE

MASQUERADE

AT LIFE'S 33RD ANNUAL

LADY IN RED GALA

SUNDAY
MARCH 14, 2027
6PM
THE BREAKERS PALM BEACH

Starring

COMEDY ICON

JAY LENO

AND COMEDIENNE EXTRAORDINAIRE

RITA RUDNER

Guests will also enjoy the Palm Beach Symphony performing Broadway hits during cocktails, a gourmet dinner, and dancing to music by the Danny Beck Band!

Reserve your tables and sponsorships early for what is always THE social philanthropic event of the entire Palm Beach season!

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