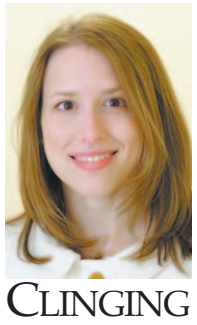
# Sanitize! You can't be too careful these days

I drove my son through a car wash the other night. It was one of those where you put the car in neutral and it takes you through the cleansing levels. I love those. I just sit back and relax, imagining how shiny my car is going to look as the grime and dirt are stripped away.



CLINGING *Tightly*

Jennifer Brinkley

And I think about how excited I am going to be to use the high-powered vacuum once I drive out of the car wash. Vacuums are the best. I love watching them suck up dust and debris. As a girl, I used to beg my grandmother to let me sweep her porches. I loved sweeping up the leaves into neat piles. What satisfaction it brought me to yield that broom. I would also beg that same grandmother to let me dust her furniture. I was fascinated by turning something dusty into a piece of splendid wood.

I'll go ahead and blame her for encouraging these tendencies.

It was inevitable I would turn out this way.

While riding through the car wash, I pointed out the bubble gum-colored soap as it splashed on the windshield to my son.

"Look, honey! Look at the colors!"

"What is that, Mommy?"

"It is the soap for the car wash."

"Oh." He paused. "It will get off all the germs, right?"

Oh, dear. I may speak about germs a little too much.

Last weekend, our neighbors came over with their 2-year-old son and newborn. My son has bunk beds and their son was not permitted to go up to the top bunk because we were afraid he might fall down. Toddlers can be unpredictable with their ability to stay upright.

When our neighbors were about to leave, we were searching for the son's toys that he had brought over. I began to climb up the steps to the top bunk to see if they had been thrown up there when the 2-year-old stopped me.

"No! The germs are up there!"

His Mommy may talk about germs a little too much, too. But, it works. We have both made our sons afraid of germs, which makes them afraid of doing dangerous things.

Mission accomplished.

I wash my hands a million, no, a bazillion times a day. All you have to do is look at them to believe me. With all that washing, my hands look to be about ... 157 years old. I can't help it. I am a part of the generation of moms who carry sanitizer by the buckets. The ones who bring their own place mats to restaurants and their own shopping cart covers to Kroger.

You know the ones.

There is nowhere I go where I do not have sanitizer either on or near my person. Which makes me very handy to my friends at lunchtime.

I like being useful.

I sometimes wish handshakes could be modified to fist bumps. You still get the human connection with a fist bump. In fact, they are way more fun than the normal handshake. I know a principal who fist bumps the students as they come into school every morning. The kids love it, the parents love it. Who doesn't love the fist bump? It is a win-win greeting.

Schools see my point on the whole sanitizer issue. You cannot go into one without counting 10 bottles upon your first cursory glance. That fills my heart with glee. My son has to wash his hands when he enters his classroom. It just makes good sense from a public health position. Viruses live everywhere, even on cars and bunk beds.

You can't be too careful these days.

I read an article a couple of years ago that says constant use of antibacterial soaps and sanitizers can have a reverse effect. I'm just going to believe that not to be true. I want to believe that I can keep my family safe from sickness by taking precautionary measures.

Like some kind of germ-killing superhero. Armed with a cape and a fanny pack full of antibacterial wipes, Band-Aids, juice boxes and extra changes of clothing.

You know, for those just in case moments. Fighting off the evil of the world one wipe and kiss on the cheek at a time.

*— Jennifer Brinkley is an adoptive parent and stepmother in Bowling Green.*

## Friend in Need

**Organized by the United Way of Southern Kentucky.**

**Need, case 4017:** A single mother of three is expecting a baby boy this month and needs a crib and clothes size 0-6 months. Contact Dena at Dishman McGinnis Family Resource Center, 746-2254.

**Need, case 4018:** A low-income, single-parent home needs full-size and twin-size beds with box springs and mattresses. Contact Dena at Dishman McGinnis Family Resource Center.

**Need, case 4019:** A family with four children needs two sets of twin beds. Contact Deborah at Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Family Preservation Program, 782-3162, ext. 123.

**Need, case 4020:** A single mother of six needs a washer and dryer. Contact Deborah at Community Action of Southern Kentucky.

**Need, case 4021:** A single low-income mother needs a Pac N' Play and a large stroller with basket on bottom. Contact Dottie at LifeSkills, 901-5000, ext. 1095.

**Need, case 4021:** A single parent of three needs a toddler bed with mattress. Contact Dottie at LifeSkills.

**Need, case 4022:** A family of five needs an infant car seat and two car seats for toddlers. They also need a toddler bed with mattress and two twin-size beds. Contact Dottie at LifeSkills.

## Sunday's Child

*Foster children in need of permanent homes.*

Quavante (born July 1996) has a great smile and his eyes twinkle when he laughs. He is one of our many foster children who are available for adoption and deserve a permanent and loving home. Quavante has big dreams to go along with his big name. He may come off as being shy at first, but he opens up once he gets to know a person, and he is really a funny kid. Quavante is a boy who loves all sports. He enjoys playing the drums. Quavante is never bored and always finds something to do for fun. He says that school is just OK, but he makes good grades. He does his assignments but looks forward to recess. Quavante needs a family who will help him develop his skills and special interests. He needs a safe place to call home. For more information about adoption and the support services that are available, please contact SNAP.

*— For more information, call the Family Enrichment Center-Adoption Resource Program at 842-9032 or 866-842-9032, or contact Sara Lovorn at Sara.Lovorn@ky.gov, Special Needs Adoption, 275 E. Main St., 3C-E, Frankfort, KY 40621, 502-564-2147, ext. 4493, 800-928-4303.*


DAILY NEWS *And* WBKO STAY_CONNECTED

*Co-Sponsors of 2012 South Central Kentucky*

JEFFERSON AWARDS

To honor the highest ideals and achievements in the field of public service in the United States, the Jefferson Awards were founded in 1972. This prestigious national honor recognizes individuals throughout the country performing great public service, but largely without recognition. The Awards are given by the American Institute for Public Service, which is located in Washington, D.C. and was co-founded by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and U.S. Senator Robert Taft, Jr.

The Jefferson Awards are presented at both the national and local levels. Newspapers and television stations across the country act as media sponsors and now reach 92 markets with an audience of over 100 million Americans. Locally, television stations and newspapers solicit nominations of people who work hard to better their communities through public service. They are ordinary people who do good things without expectation of recognition or compensation. By honoring the Jefferson Award winners and highlighting their extraordinary accomplishments each year, it is the intent of the American Institute for Public Service and the Daily News and WBKO to excite people to become involved in community and public service. The Jefferson Award is given in five national categories, but it is only the fifth, "Outstanding Public Service Benefiting Local Communities" that the Daily News and WBKO are sponsoring. WBKO was the first to become involved in the program in 1990 and fifteen years ago the Daily News joined WBKO as a partner to add additional interest and recognition. Eighty-nine outstanding area citizens have been honored for their accomplishments through the South Central Kentucky Jefferson Awards.

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012

*Previous Winners:*

John Buel Edmonds
Olivia Warren
Gwendolyn Downs
Eutha Clark
Emma Whitney
Edith Matthews
Mary Gatewood Culver
John Thomas Huffman
Alice Kummer
Frank Owen Brockman
Joyce S. Wilder
Jessika Judd
Ruth Morgan
Amy Klein
Harold Clark
Martha Ann Deput[illegible]
Lemuel B. Palme[illegible] III
Frank A. La[illegible], II
Eloise H[illegible]
Le[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
D[illegible] Bel[illegible]
An[illegible]
Don[illegible]
Lavina Gatewood
Becky Kieffer Lowe
Barret Lessenberry
Jack Frost
Shirley Boyles
Mary Helen Kenney
Jo Ann Verner
Fay Carrigan
Mary Alice Black
Ronald L. Cox
Jeanne Robertson
Marguerite Deweese
Dr. Regis O'Connor
Lucille Brooks
Don Smith
Bob Kir[illegible]
Whit Cra[illegible]ore
[illegible]rry Bratcher
[illegible]egina Newe[illegible]
[illegible] Hu[illegible]t Vaughn
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James Britt
Frank Moxley
Karen Singleton
Don Vitale
Lee Alcott
Norma Luke
Julie Peterson
Alice Gatewood Waddell
Dorothy Bailey
Jonathan Jeffrey
Romanza Johnson
Dwight Trabue
John Wesley Grimes
Katherine McC[illegible]
Evelyn Page
Karen [illegible]
Dr. D[illegible]. But[illegible]
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[illegible] Robe
Ersa Whitlow Austin
Joan Keown
James Reed
Jeffery Reed
Martha F. Haynes
Hilda Sarver
Col. Robert Spiller
Cora Jane Spiller
Dr. Mike Collins
Riley Miller
Anne Grubbs
Elaine Slamans
Lee Ann Austin
Dylan Beckham
Iris Moore
Barbara Strickler

*How to Nominate*

[illegible] someone in the local category, fill out a [illegible] the Daily News or WBKO detailing [illegible] someone performing a significant but [illegible]zed public service should be considered. For [illegible]ple, you could nominate an individual who helps senior citizens, children, the disadvantaged, the mentally retarded or someone who strives to improve education, culture, health care, and the environment. Or it could be someone who promotes public safety and so on. The nominee can be a volunteer or paid employee with no age limit. Elected officials or well known individuals are not eligible due to the fact that they already receive significant recognition. Anyone in the South Central Kentucky area is eligible. Nominating letters can be any length up to 300 words. They can be typed or written in longhand. Send them to: Jefferson Awards, WBKO; 2727 Russellville Rd.; Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 or Daily News, P.O. Box 90012, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42102. There is no entry fee.

*Prizes*

Four local persons will be selected. Each local winner will receive a bronze medallion from the Franklin Mint which features a replica of the Seal of the United States on the front and a citation for Outstanding Public Service on the reverse. Each winner will then be eligible for a national Jefferson Award (a gold medallion or silver), to be awarded in June in the chambers of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. In addition, one winner will also be selected to travel, all expenses paid by WBKO and the Daily News, to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national ceremony and to attend a dinner in their honor.

*Deadline for nominations is February 14, 2012*

*Nomination Forms Available at Both Sponsors...*

or online click on our link at bgdailynews.com

DAILY NEWS

813 College Street 781-1700

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Nomination forms available at www.wbko.com

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