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Chick-fil-A owner gives back to Bartow

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Glenn Jordan didn't invent the chicken, nor did he invent the chicken sandwich. But he continues to invent ways to help those in need in Bartow County.

Jordan, who owns both the Cherokee Place Chick-fil-A and the new LakePoint Chick-fil-A in Cartersville, believes strongly in giving back to the community. It's part of his personal life philosophy.

"Somebody told me one time, 'If you have more than you need, it's not for you; it's for somebody else.' I've been blessed with what I need, so I try to give," he said.

Most recently, that meant paying for the registration fees of 10 participants in the Polar Plunge held by Advocates for Children last month. The purpose of the event was to raise money for the Bartow County-based charity, which, according to its website, provides

services to children and families who have been the victims of abuse and neglect. Their reach spans 17 northwest Georgia counties.

“Glenn and (his wife) Suzy Jordan contribute to Advocates for Children in many meaningful ways,” said Karen White, executive vice president of Advocates for Children, via email. “Glenn currently serves on our board of trustees and enthusiastically supports our programs and fundraising efforts.”

White also noted that, in addition to covering registration fees for the Polar Plunge, Jordan has also made numerous financial contributions to Advocates for Children, had both of his restaurants donate food to the shelter and supported other organizational activities. Beyond Advocates for Children, Jordan’s restaurants have also donated food to the Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter.

But giving to those in need is just one part of Jordan’s philosophy.

The other part is that, well, you shouldn’t brag about what you give.

“If you give to get recognition or attention, in my opinion, then you’re taking the benefit away if that’s your motivation,” he said.

Jordan believes giving back to the world is an opportunity, not a chore. Accepting that opportunity, he said, is the key to a happier life, an idea derived from his personal faith. He encourages anyone who has the desire to give to do so when they feel it. This kind of selflessness, he says, will enrich not only the recipient but the donor, as well.

“The Bible says it’s more of a blessing to give than to receive,” he pointed out. “By hoarding [your possessions], keeping [them] to yourself, I think that’s a formula for misery. If you want to be happy, then give more.”

This attitude of generosity does not go unnoticed, either. White noted her organization is quite appreciative for Jordan’s help.

“Advocates is so appreciative of Glenn’s support,” she said in the email. “His generous contributions of time and energy, and his financial gifts, are the vital donations that we rely on in order to achieve our mission. To know Glenn is to know that his passion is unmatched by most. We are incredibly fortunate to count him among our faithful supporters, and to have him spreading the good word

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about our work in Bartow County. Without Glenn and other generous friends like him, we would not be able to serve more than 3,000 children and families at no cost to them each year.”

For more information about local Chick-fil-A restaurants, including their community involvement, visit cfarestaurant.com/cherokeeplace or cfarestaurant.com/lakepoint. For more information about Advocates for Children, including how to donate to or volunteer with the organization, visit advochild.org.

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