

Literally hundreds took advantage of the perfect weather and came out to support the Holla 5K Walk for Literacy on Saturday. "This was a huge turnout," said Starr Dove of Finish Well Timing who handled timing for the event. There were 151 people who registered for timing bibs and another 300 who came out to show support by volunteering, or just walking for fun and in support to the cause of literacy.

"Everyone was on one accord, cheering each other on and supporting each other during the 5K," said Keisha Leaks of Monroe who came with her family.

The Literacy 5K attracted people from as far away as Georgia and Winston-Salem as well as from nearby communities. Holla used the event to raise money to support its local literacy projects. Improving literacy rates is a primary objective of the organization, which was founded in 2005 to address low achievement in the school system. "The struggle is real, but with sincerity and consistence we will prevail," said Leon Gatewood, CEO of the organization.

A highlight of the event was the debut of the Little Flower Literary Project, presented by Wadesboro native Dr. Florita Bell Griffin at the Holla Center in Morven. Griffin said, "We hope to work with Holla in the future as we jointly promote literacy and communication skills among our youth."

In keeping with the literacy theme, top winners of the 5K were awarded books as well as cash prizes. Most participants were in it just for the fun and support of it, but there were several runners in competition. The top 15 finishers were: Dennis Huntley, Seth Landon, Daniel Landon, Josh Landon, Brandon Melton, Creta Grace, Patricia Clemmons, Lee Chambers, Jennifer Dean, Rodney Dean, Tiffany Capel, Ronald Capel, John Landon, Nathan Landon and Stephanie Crump.

There was also a Grill Off competition. Winners of the Grill Off were Clarence Parsons, 1st Place; James Clemmons, 2nd Place; and Tim Watkins, 3rd Place.

Holla gave thanks Sheriff Landric Reid and the Anson County Sheriff's Office, the volunteers, the participants and supporters for making this 5K event a huge success.

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Bowman Class of 1971 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman Senior High School Class of 1971 will meet at Golden Corral in Monroe on Saturday, May 30 at 3 p.m. Plans are being made for the 45th Reunion. For details contact Patricia Little at (704) 848-8165 or Winnie Brown at (704) 475-0755.

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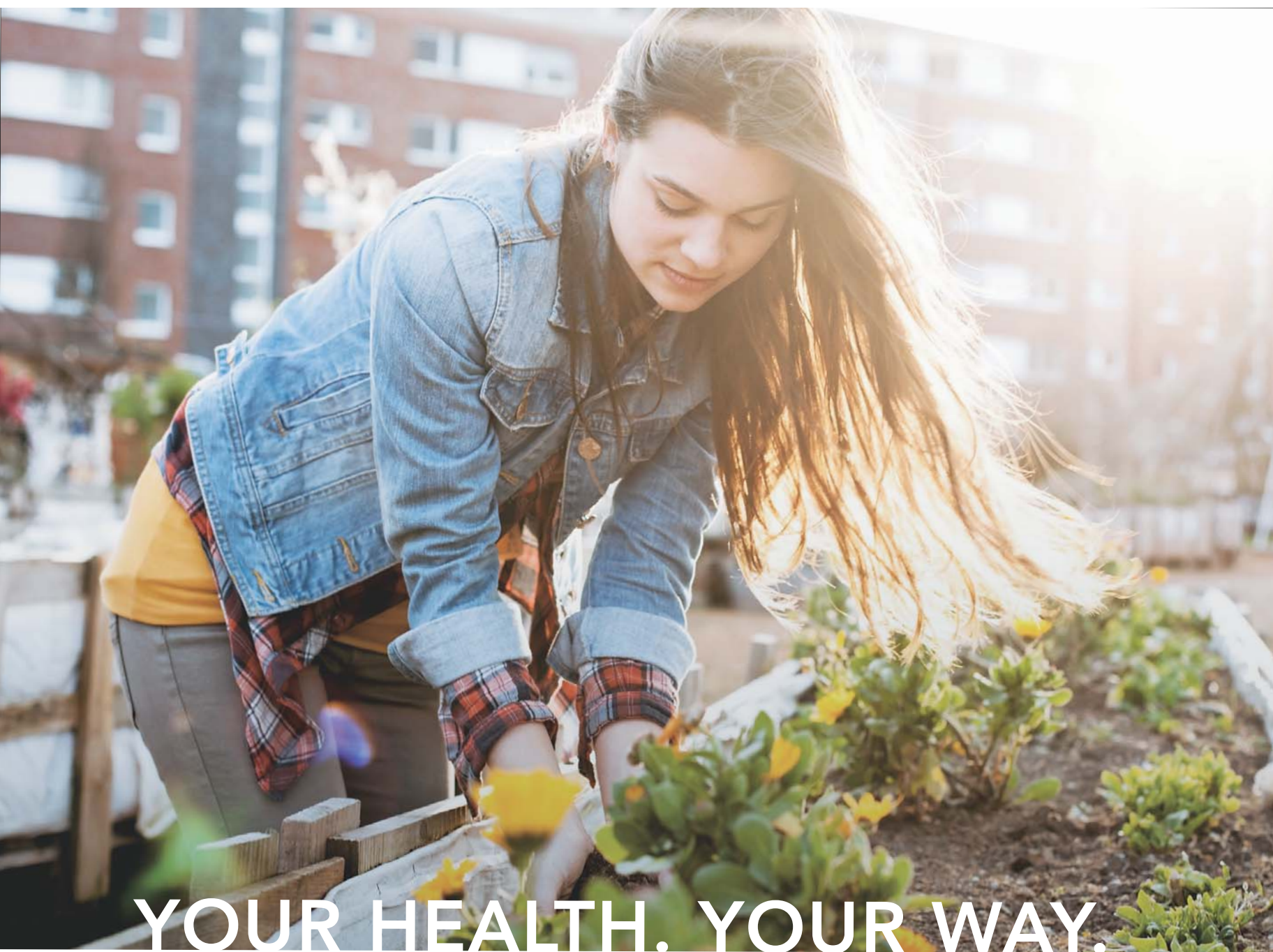
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