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## BOBBY BONES PAYS IT FORWARD TO BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS KIDS IN EAST NASHVILLE



***The country music radio star — who grew up in poverty in a tiny Arkansas town — gives encouragement and gifts to 9 teens and pre-teens***

Radio and TV personality Bobby Bones delivered gifts and hope Tuesday afternoon to inner city kids at a Boys & Girls Club in East Nashville.

Bones met one-on-one with nine teens and pre-teens to listen to their dreams and to offer encouragement — and a backpack, laptop and other gifts provided by The General insurance company.

The country radio star, heard locally mornings on The Big 98, told the Tennessean beforehand he was paying forward what he received growing up poor in tiny Mountain Pine, Arkansas.

"If it wasn't for the Boys & Girls Clubs or church or even my youth group, I don't know if I would've been able to have three meals a day," Bones said.



Bones grew up without a dad and with a mother who battled addiction. His mother died in 2011 from an overdose.

The story resonated with 15-year-old Jehlin Hayes, who said his dad isn't in his life "like he used to be."

"At first, I had no idea who Bobby Bones was," Hayes told the Tennessean after his one-on-one with the multi-media personality. "But hearing his story about being a young child

and him having dreams to do something bigger, that inspired me."

Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee executives were happy to have Bones meet their kids.

"There's real power in Bobby sharing his story and telling about the challenges he had to overcome," said chief development officer Jennifer Wheeler Burhman. "To sit with them and relate to our youth — I chased my dreams and look where it got me — that's inspiring."