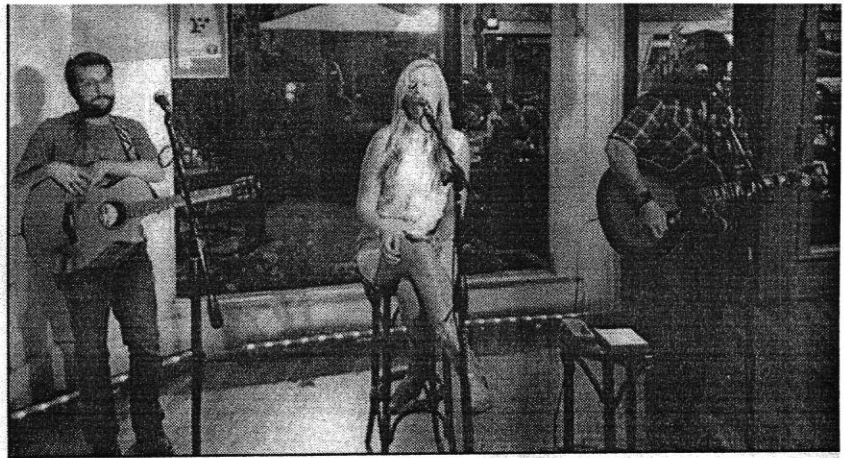


Billy's employee Ty Martin performs at Tips for Tuscaloosa.



Andy Branton (left), Cat Taylor (middle), and J.P. Miller (right) perform at Tips for Tuscaloosa.

Billy's Grill and Bar Holds Tips for Tuscaloosa Benefit for The Little Closet Food Pantry

By Brian Hamilton

Billy's Grill and Bar in downtown Northport hosted it's monthly Tips for Tuscaloosa fundraiser on Wednesday, July 27th, where it welcomed the Johnny Williamson Good Shepherd foundation's The Little Closet Community Food Pantry as its guest. The Tips for Tuscaloosa event features various singers and songwriters and serves as a vehicle to raise funds and awareness for non-profit organizations within the Tuscaloosa community.

The Little Closet's motto is 'Neighbors helping Neighbors' and it is supported through a cooperative with the local churches and a partnership with local businesses and individual support. A board of volunteers from the Samantha, Alabama and the surrounding communities work to operate the Pantry. "We were honored to be part of such a wonderful event, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves", said Little Closet's chairwoman Sandy Milling. "The night before when we distributed our groceries, we didn't have hardly anything left, so what we did make was the foundation for what we give away in this month's (August's) grocery."

The event kicked off with a performance by Micah Kidd and Tabitha Cooley. The next performer was Micah Kidd, a 14-year old from Brookwood, Alabama. Robert Daniels and Victoria Kemp also performed, followed by headliners Cat Taylor, J.P. Miller, and Andy Branton, along with a special performance by Billy's own Ty Martin. Taylor and Miller are from the Tuscaloosa area and Branton is from Athens, Alabama. "As far as the restaurant, the staff was wonderful and the program is a fabulous program", said Milling. "I wish it (Tips for Tuscaloosa) had more recognition and



The Little Closet Food Pantry volunteers at Tips for Tuscaloosa.

Billy's and The Little Closet Food Pantry would like to give special thanks to event sponsors GiGi's Cupcakes and Bam Bed and Breakfast.

