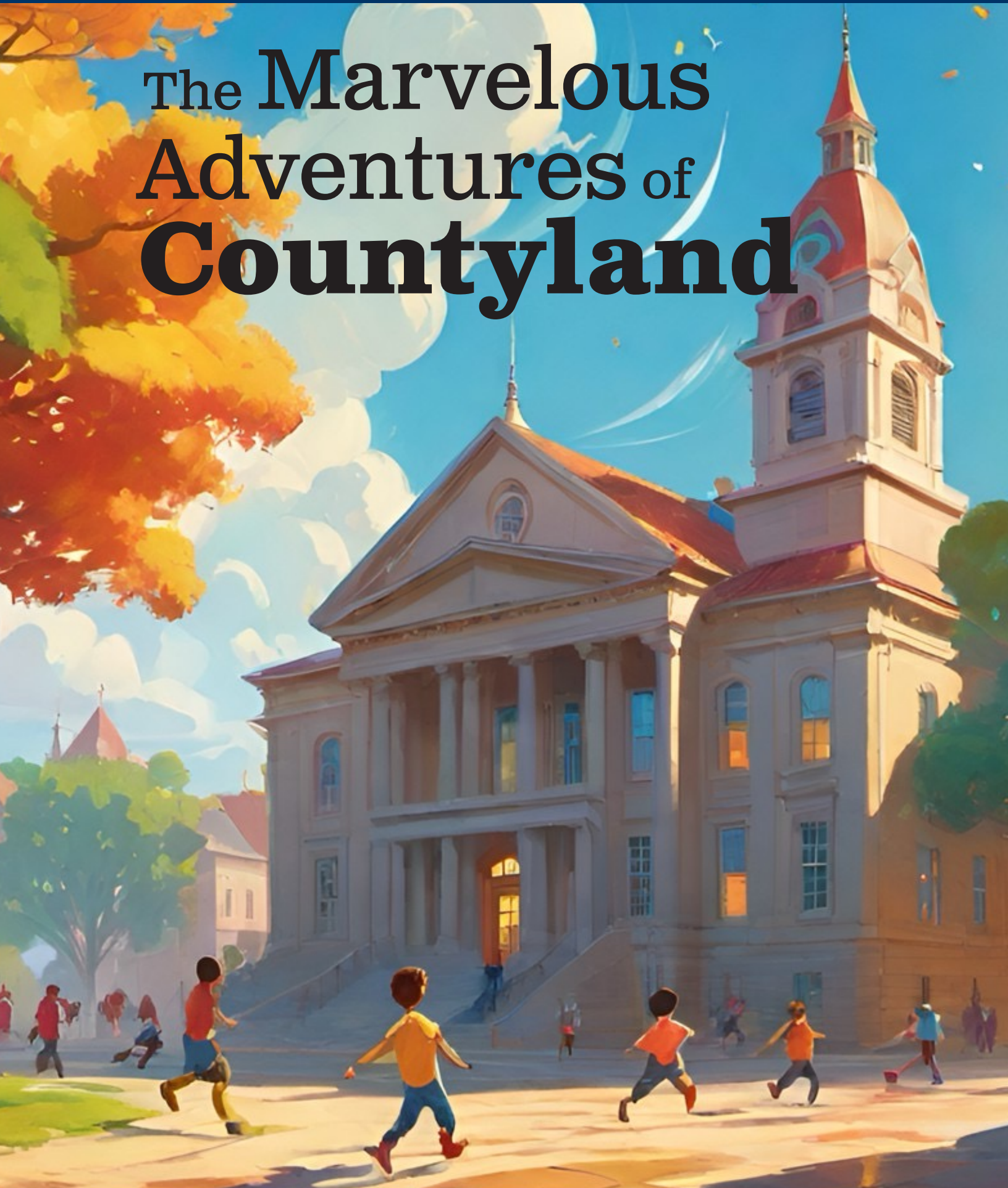


The Marvelous Adventures of Countyland





DRAFT FOR REVIEW ONLY



DEDICATED TO

The Millions of County Government Officials
Who Have Served America with Passion and Purpose,
As We Inspire the Next Generations of Public Servants.



AN A.I. EXPERIMENTAL PUBLICATION

of the National Association of Counties (NACo)

PROMPTED AND CREATED BY

Matthew D. Chase, CEO/Executive Director

USING

*Open.AI's ChatGPT 4.0 for the Narrative
and Dream.AI by WOMBO for the Illustrations*

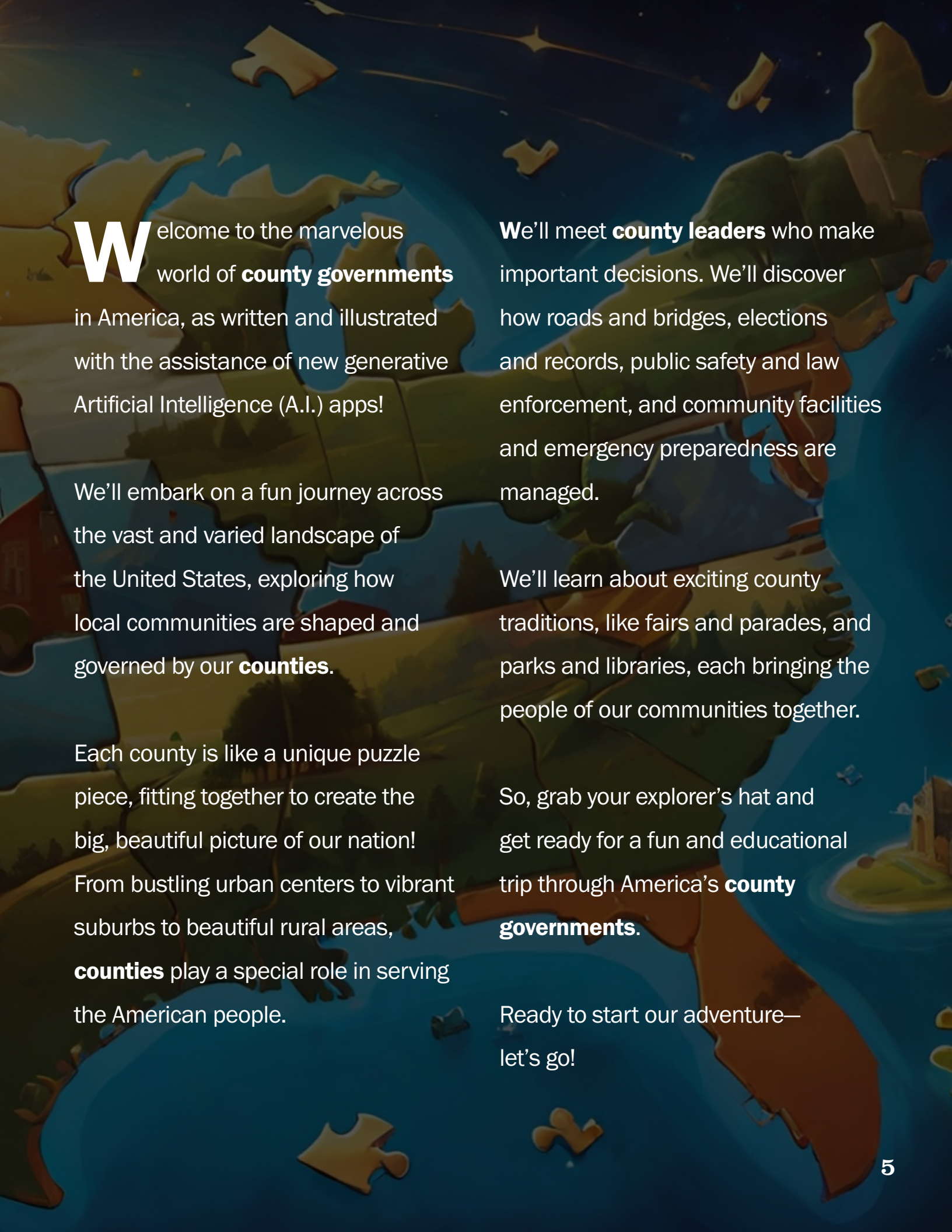
ABOUT THE BOOK PROJECT

With county government policymakers and practitioners now facing the realities of generative A.I., this book was developed with three main objectives:

- (1) Showcase the remarkable capabilities and intricate nature of contemporary A.I. technologies,
- (2) Stimulate collaborative policy discussions among intergovernmental partners regarding the near limitless applications within the public sector, taking into account the possible inherent biases in A.I. systems, and
- (3) Inspire the young people of America to explore the exciting and meaningful roles and responsibilities of county government officials.



The Marvelous Adventures of **Countyland**



Welcome to the marvelous world of **county governments**

in America, as written and illustrated with the assistance of new generative Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) apps!

We'll embark on a fun journey across the vast and varied landscape of the United States, exploring how local communities are shaped and governed by our **counties**.

Each county is like a unique puzzle piece, fitting together to create the big, beautiful picture of our nation!

From bustling urban centers to vibrant suburbs to beautiful rural areas, **counties** play a special role in serving the American people.

We'll meet **county leaders** who make important decisions. We'll discover how roads and bridges, elections and records, public safety and law enforcement, and community facilities and emergency preparedness are managed.

We'll learn about exciting county traditions, like fairs and parades, and parks and libraries, each bringing the people of our communities together.

So, grab your explorer's hat and get ready for a fun and educational trip through America's **county governments**.

Ready to start our adventure—let's go!



Marvelous counties, we'll explore,
With public officials, we all adore.
Each one special, tailored to soar,
Adventures await, with wonders galore.



Each county has its own special flair,

Traditions and treasures, none can compare.



Festivals, fairs, and parades so grand,

Bring the people together, hand in hand.



In the courthouse, so grand,
The **County Board**, a stellar band,
Meet as a routine, think and debate,
Budgeting to invest, what plans to create.



With a visionary plan, and keen insights,
County administrators work, by day and night.
Managing and organizing, and exploring it all,
With the noble goal, a better future for us all.





In election season, a spectacle so grand,
Candidates on podiums, speeches in hand.
Residents voting, a marvelous sight,
county recorders tally, with skill and delight.



At the library, where tales awake,

Books come alive, even dance and shake.





Characters leap, stories come alive,

Our **county library**, oh, so much pride!

Our **sheriff**, with a badge shining bright,
Keeps us safe, through day and through night.
With a smile, a wave, and a fair hand,
Ensuring safety for us all, across this land.





When help is needed, no time to spare,
911 operators, always there.

Answering calls, both night and day,
Guiding heroes, along their way.

Firefighters zoom,
strong and bold,


Through smoke and flames,
a sight to behold.

With hoses and ladders,
they train every day,

To douse fiery dragons,
keep them far away!







In **county courts**, where justice is sought,
Judges and juries ponder cases brought.
Fair and wise, with a gavel in hand,
They uphold the laws of the land.



Flip, flap, the papers go,

In the **District Clerk**'s world,
they're never slow.

Helping guide our courts,
with cases in hand,

Logged with precision,
always in demand.



Public defenders,

in justice they trust,

Working sincerely,

their cause is a must.

With cases in hand,

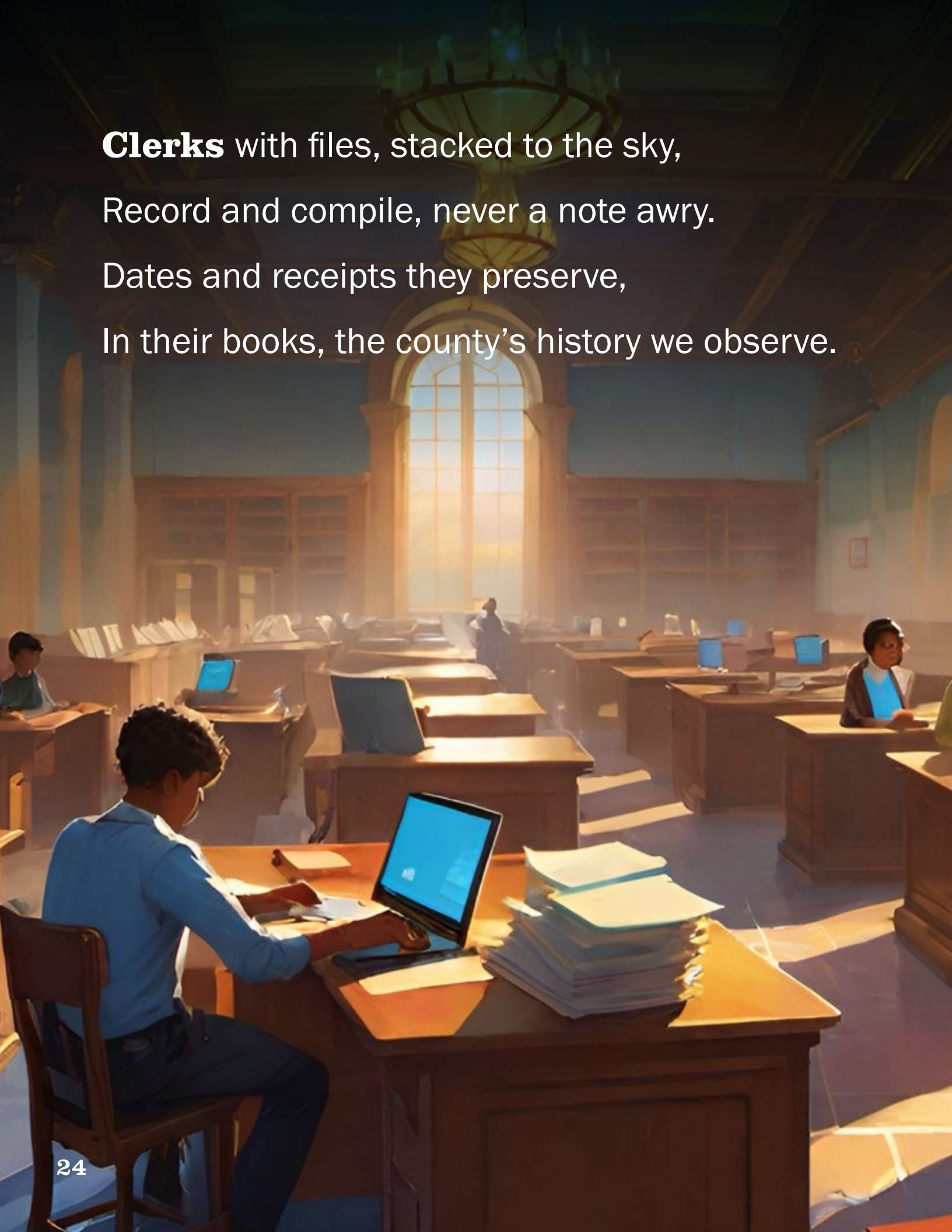
and courage untold,

For those without voice,

their duty is bold.



In an office so clean, yet papers galore,
County Attorneys work, with laws to explore.
They buzz with rules, from morning to night,
Helping the county do what is right.



Clerks with files, stacked to the sky,
Record and compile, never a note awry.
Dates and receipts they preserve,
In their books, the county's history we observe.

Meet the **Assessor**, with maps, data and charts,
Determining values for taxes is their art.
Houses, lands, and buildings too,
Old and new, fair and true.





Treasurers count with care,

Investments and funds, they prepare.



For the people, they are precise,

Every dollars journey, very concise.

Roads weave, and bridges span,
Buses and trains, all part of the plan.
Airports buzz, planes take flight,
In our county, **transportation** is a delight!





Engineers

keep our counties spry,

Fixing things that break,
under the sky.

Water pipes, sidewalks
and lights they mend,

So our daily comforts never end.

Parks abound, with joy so bright,
Swings sail skyward, with pure delight.
Children at play, runners in stride,
In these spaces, our county beams with pride.





Our nation's **public lands**, so vast and grand,
Working together, is part of the county plan.
From prairies to forests, and mountains so tall,
We present and protect, for one and for all.

Recycling, where old becomes new,
With gadgets that spin, hum, and coo,
Containers line up, in a merry brigade,
Turning trash into treasure, a resourceful crusade!



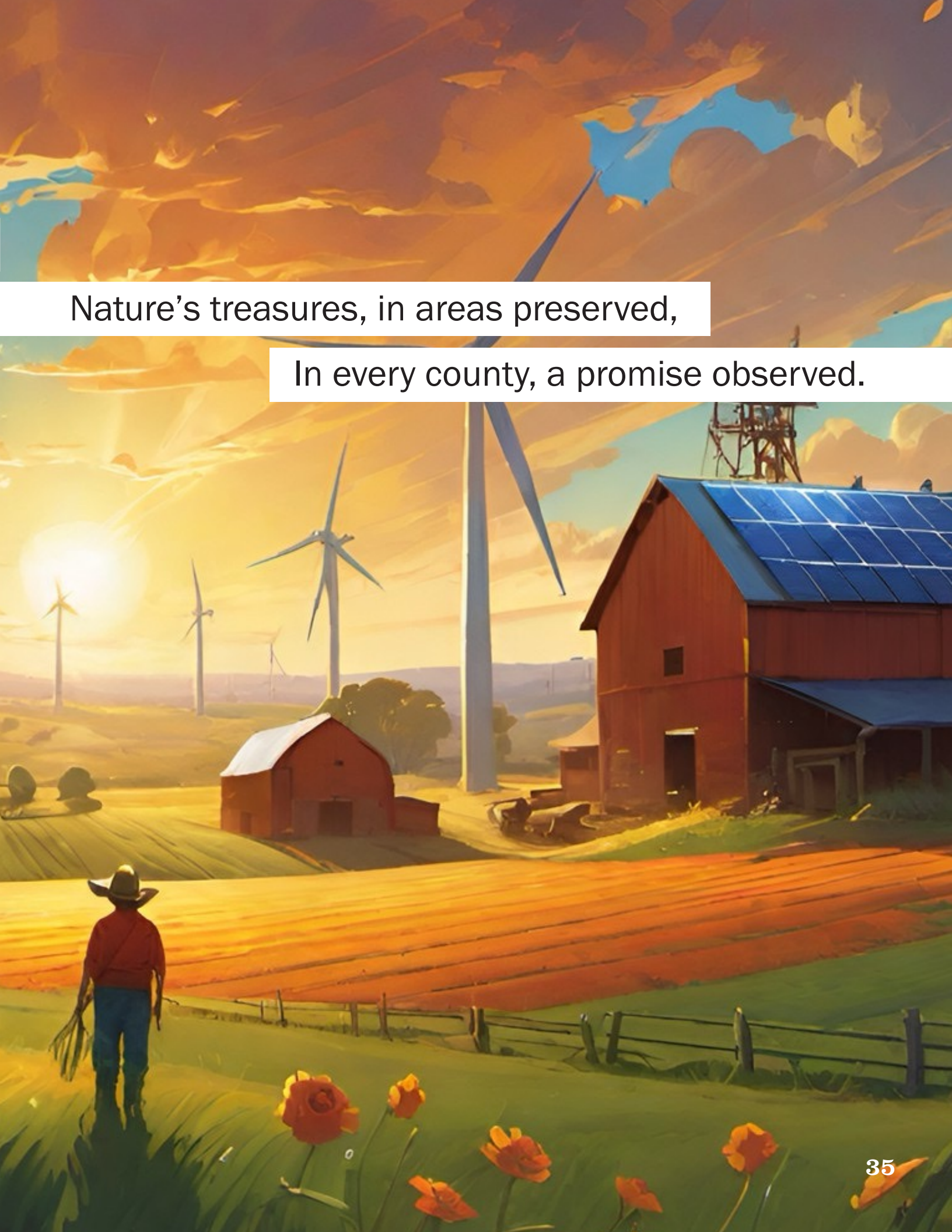
Children and critters, side by side,
Planting trees, with hearts open wide.
Cleanup adventures, a collaborative quest,
In every county, **environmental** zest.



Visions of stewardship, with initiatives bold,

Conservation projects, a joy to behold.





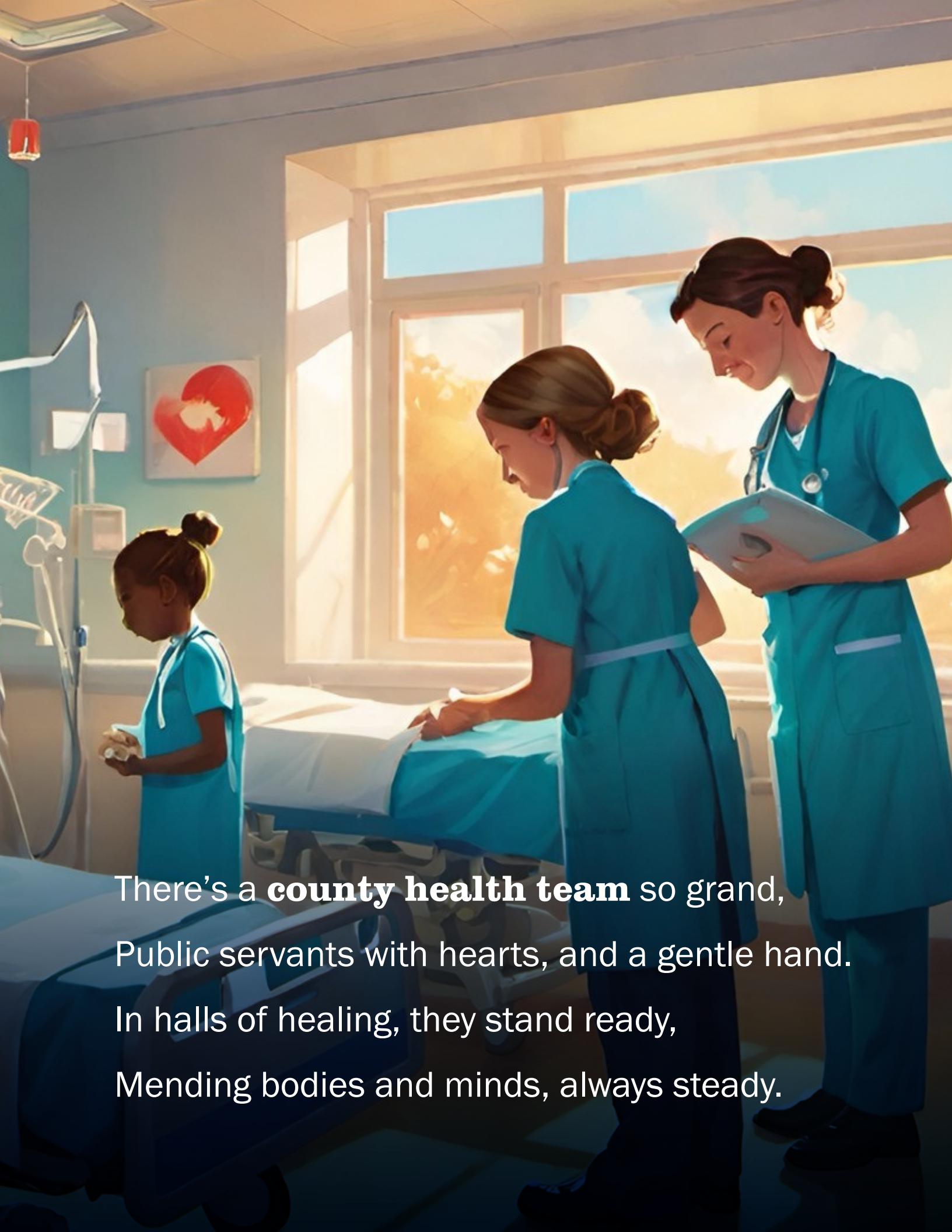
Nature's treasures, in areas preserved,

In every county, a promise observed.

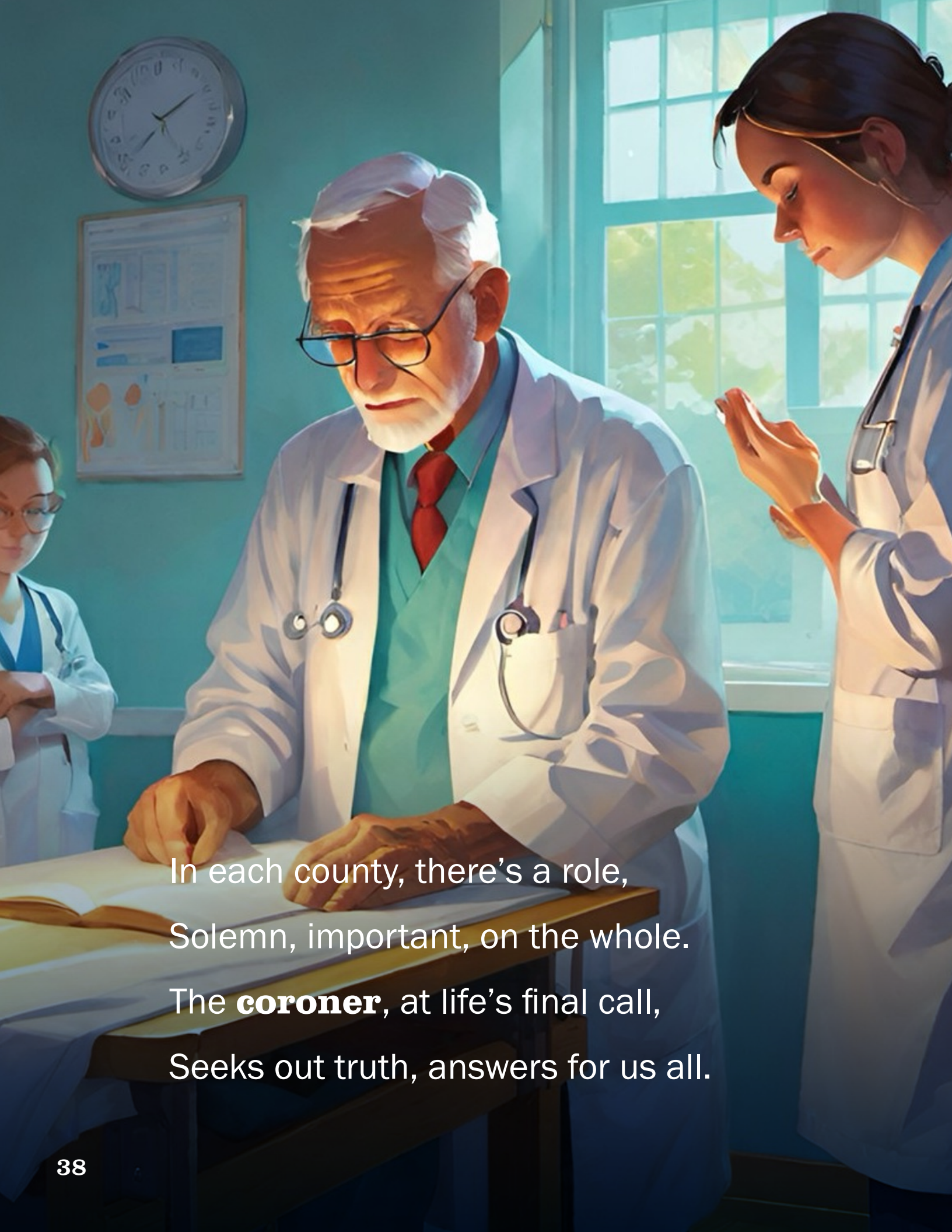
When nature stirs, caution is best,
Emergency planners, put to the test.

They're ready fast, by day or night,
Guarding us all, no matter the fright.





There's a **county health team** so grand,
Public servants with hearts, and a gentle hand.
In halls of healing, they stand ready,
Mending bodies and minds, always steady.



In each county, there's a role,
Solemn, important, on the whole.
The **coroner**, at life's final call,
Seeks out truth, answers for us all.



In counties far and wide, a mission so pure,

Veteran Service Officers, assure and secure,

For our military veterans, with a caring embrace,

For protecting our land, with valor and grace.





As our countyland adventure comes to a close,

Dream your dreams, they are yours to compose.



What wonders to see, what future to weave,
In our land of marvels, just believe and achieve!



GLOSSARY OF MOST COMMON COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Like the federal government, America's 3,069 county governments have executive, legislative and judicial powers. These powers are exercised within the framework of state and federal constitutional and statutory law. These powers are distributed across a county board, agencies and independently elected officials.

County boards, led by nearly 19,500 elected officials nationally, generally exercise executive and legislative powers, including oversight of the county budget, policies and general operations. In more than 700 counties, the executive function is led or shared by a chief executive who is elected countywide.

County governments are designed for "checks and balances" of power, mandates and functions across mostly executive and judicial functions, with the county board retaining the legislative functions. More than 18,600 independently elected officials are elected nationwide for specific county functions.

As outlined in the book, below is a sample of the most common elected positions in county government:

- **Assessor:** Establish value of land and property for taxation
- **Auditor:** Oversight of county assets and finances
- **Clerk of the board:** Administrative support and record management for the county board
- **Clerk of the courts:** Lead administrative officer of the county court system
- **Commissioner:** Serve on county board with oversight of the budget, policy and general operations
- **Coroner:** Investigate cause and manner of death
- **County attorney:** Legal advisor for the county
- **District attorney:** Chief prosecutor for the state within the county
- **Executive:** Chief executive officer of the county, similar to a city mayor or state governor
- **Public defender:** Represent the constitutional right to legal representation within the community
- **Recorder:** Administer public records of the county (e.g., elections, land, birth & marriage)
- **Sheriff:** Chief law enforcement officer (and also typically manages the county jail)
- **Treasurer:** Management and investment of financial assets



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Leon Lawrence, Design Director
Britney Butler, Executive Operations Specialist
Kevin Carr, Center Operations Manager





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for supporting the NACo Intergovernmental Partnership Project
as we educate the American public and policymakers about
our nation's 3,069 county, parish and borough governments,
with nearly 39,000 elected officials and a dedicated
county workforce of 3.6 million public servants.





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