



The Goodness of America

A Tip to Remember

An Arizona couple's dream wedding became a reality through the kindness of strangers, sparked by a heartfelt note from a food delivery driver, Fox 10 Phoenix reported.

It all started when Erica Hernandez ordered food from her local Chipotle in June and received a note from her delivery driver, Paul Slobodzian, kindly asking her to consider leaving a tip. The note read, "Thank you for your order. I am driving on the side to give my fiancée the wedding she deserves," and included information for Slobodzian's Venmo account. Touched by the message, Hernandez decided to share it on social media. "I just felt really inspired to post it and see if my friends or followers would be willing to donate," she explained.

Slobodzian and his fiancée, Aly Perkins, had been working extra hours delivering food to save for their wedding. Paul didn't anticipate the response his note would elicit. "I never set out to leave those notes with the intention of somebody making a video about it or even trying to broadcast it to anybody besides the person I was delivering to," he mentioned.

Hernandez' post went viral quickly, gaining attention within hours and reaching millions. The outpouring of support from strangers was overwhelming. "Your phone just started blowing up," Aly recalled, with Paul adding, "Yes, seriously and honestly, it hasn't stopped since Friday afternoon. It's been thousands of messages of people supporting us."

Thanks to the donations, the couple now have enough money for their wedding in September. They were deeply moved by the generosity of strangers. "We didn't really expect anything to come of this, and the fact that a stranger got our note and felt so compelled to post it on the internet and advocate for two strangers is unbelievable," Perkins said.

To express their gratitude, the couple gave Hernandez \$1,000 and invited her to their wedding, an invitation she gladly accepted. Reflecting on his and Aly's journey, Paul shared, "It's just a very special bond that I actually didn't even know if I'd find with a person, and to know that I found it with Aly is the best."

Families Who Fight Together Stay Heroic

On what should have been a typical Tuesday afternoon, the tranquility of the Yong-In Taekwondo studio in Katy, Texas, was shattered by a piercing scream. Simon An, a seasoned taekwondo instructor, and his family immediately knew something was terribly wrong.

Around 4:00 p.m. on June 18, as evening classes were about to begin, Simon; his father, Hong; his mother; his older sister, Hannah; and his younger brother — all fourth-degree black belts — heard alarming cries from a neighboring business. Initially dismissing the sounds as playful noise from employees, a final desperate scream compelled them to act.

The An family, owners of the family-run studio outside Houston, rushed next door to investigate, NBC News reported. Upon opening the door, they found a horrifying scene: a man assaulting a young woman. The attacker had his hands inappropriately on the victim, who was struggling to defend herself. Simon's father swiftly intervened, pulling the assailant away and pinning him to the ground. Hannah,



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meanwhile, escorted the traumatized woman to safety. Simon and his brother joined their father to help subdue the attacker, who fought back fiercely, scratching and biting in a desperate bid to escape.

Hong, a taekwondo grandmaster, held the attacker down for a tense 10 minutes until law enforcement arrived. "My dad is strong. He expected us to protect him," Simon said. "He had a lot of trust in us."

The Harris County Sheriff's Department credited the An family for their swift and courageous actions that prevented a sexual assault. Sheriff Ed Gonzalez praised them, stating, "By utilizing their training and discipline, they managed to stop the assault and hold [the attacker]."

The suspect was charged with attempted sexual assault and unlawful detention, according to the sheriff's department. In a series of posts on X, Gonzalez expressed his gratitude: "Thank you to the Yong-In dojo for your quick action in protecting others."

Fully Equipped

A touching act of kindness unfolded on June 11 in Memphis when Officer Michael Pointer surprised a young aspiring football player with a much-needed gift. According to WREG Memphis, 10-year-old Kamarri Brooks, a dedicated member of the Lil Longhorns football team, received a brand-new pair of cleats from the generous officer, enhancing his game and boosting his spirits.

The story began when Officer Pointer met Kamarri at the Westwood Community Center while on duty. A few days later, he spotted the young athlete in his football uniform, ready for practice but noticeably lacking proper footwear. "He said he had no cleats, but all his friends do," Pointer recounted. Moved by Kamarri's situation, the officer decided to take action.

Pointer purchased a pair of cleats and socks for Kamarri and delivered them to his house. The heartfelt moment was captured in a video showing Kamarri eagerly running to receive the shoes and immediately trying them on, a smile lighting up his face. The video quickly went viral, garnering thousands of likes and spreading joy across the community.

Kamarri's mother, Carissa Brooks, expressed her deep gratitude for Pointer's kindness. "Officer Pointer was very sweet and helpful for what he did for my son, considering the fact I am a single parent," she said. Carissa shared that Kamarri has been passionate about football for three years, always arriving an hour early for practice to hone his skills. The new cleats not only improved his game, but also reinforced his determination to succeed.

"He is determined to keep going in football, and I am here for it all," Carissa affirmed, beaming with pride. The new shoes symbolized more than just gear; they represented hope and encouragement for a young boy chasing his dreams.

In the sweet video, Kamarri extended an invitation to Officer Pointer to attend his next game. Pointer, touched by the gesture, responded with enthusiasm, saying he was trying to gather a group of colleagues to come and support Kamarri on the field.



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