



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on September 3, 2021

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## The Goodness of America

### Are These Seats Taken?

When brothers Jaylin, 18; Christian, 17; Jordan, 14; and Tristan, nine; of Warner Robins, Georgia, noticed 83-year-old Shelby Garrett eating alone at the Ole Times eatery on June 20, they decided to join her and make her dinner a little less lonely.

“Initially she seemed a bit shocked,” the boys’ mother, Courtney Hendrix, told the *Epoch Times*. “However, that was quickly replaced with gratitude and sheer joy. She was delighted to have them join her.”

According to Hendrix, the boys were upset to see Garrett eating alone, and kept hoping someone would join her. When it became clear that hers was a dinner for one, the boys asked if they could join her.

The conversation between the unlikely group was both light-hearted and profound, ranging from the mundane to deeply personal discussions.

“They talked over peach cobbler and ice cream,” Hendrix recalled. “They talked about God. She asked them about their lives and their goals.”

Hendrix told the *Epoch Times* that the boys were inspired to do something because they recently lost their grandmother.

“When they saw this woman at the table alone, they couldn’t help but to think that this woman may have been someone’s grandmother,” she told the *Epoch Times*. “Having lost their own grandmother in February of this year, the boys have spent some time thinking about their favorite memories with her.”

Hendrix said Garrett turned to her and her husband and said she was delighted to be sitting with their children.

Hendrix was so proud of her boys that she snapped a photo and shared it to her Facebook page, hopeful that their good deed would inspire others. Her post was shared thousands of times, and even reached Garrett’s family, who contacted Hendrix to extend their thanks and to share a bit about Shelby. They said that Shelby had taken on the care of her parents, and had never married or had children of her own.

Hendrix said her faith instilled in her children the importance of treating others with love and respect.

“We don’t have a philosophy when it comes to raising kids,” she told the *Epoch Times*. “We have just tried to raise them to be the best human beings that they can possibly be.”

The response on social media has been enormous, with thousands of shares and comments from people who were moved by the boys’ altruism.

“This story makes my heart smile,” one user wrote.

“Praise God,” added another.

### 500,000 Books

Ten-year-old Orion Jean has made it his mission to share his joy of reading with hundreds of thousands of children in Texas. Jean set a goal of donating 500,000 books throughout Texas by the end of August.



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“I want to be able to share my love of literacy with as many people as possible,” he told CBS News. And with the help of generous donors, he is on his way to getting there. As of August 16, Jean had already collected 120,000 books. According to NBCDFW, financial consulting firm Whitley Penn launched a book drive in support of Jean. It collected more than 1,000 books and raised \$10,000 in support of his mission. Jean is also working with a number of partners to host book drop-off events throughout Texas.

Jean said he was inspired to start the book campaign when he learned that two out of three children living in poverty have no books of their own, *Texas Monthly* reported.

This is just Jean’s latest mission in his Race to Kindness. His kindness campaign began when he won a 2020 student kindness speech contest, earning him \$500, which he used to donate toys to Dallas Children’s Hospital.

He told CBS that winning the contest was “really just the catalyst to something so much bigger.”

After donating his winnings to the hospital, Jean partnered with a relief group and hosted food drives to collect 100,000 meals for families in Texas.

Jean’s mother, Kherri, helped create a website for his Race to Kindness campaign. The website, which tracks Jean’s latest missions, also accepts donations.

Jean said he is motivated by his “moral duty to help people.”

“You know, it’s my responsibility to be able to see these people who need help and knowing that I have the resources to help them,” he added, according to CBS.

More importantly, Jean believes his passion will motivate others. “I hope that the impact that I have had is enough to keep people continuing to race to kindness and continuing to join me in this marathon because it’s not a sprint,” Jean said.

## **I Think This Belongs to You**

When Evan Byington of Utah dropped his cellular phone and a wallet full of money in a reservoir during an ice-fishing outing two years ago, he assumed he would never see them again. But thanks to the kindness of scuba diver Matthew Wesselink, Byington will be reunited with his possessions once again. According to Wesselink, finding interesting items while scuba diving is typical.

“I find GoPros, scuba masks, a lot of paddleboard oars, phones, sunglasses is a big one,” Wesselink told Fox 13 in an interview.

While scuba diving in Deer Creek Reservoir in Utah this summer, Wesselink discovered a cell phone and a wallet full of credit cards and \$56 in cash.

Wesselink said “integrity is a big thing” for him, and took to Facebook to find the owner of the phone and wallet.

It did not take long before Wesselink found the rightful owner, Evan Byington.

Byington recalled losing the phone and wallet two years ago during a fishing trip with his neighbor. When the items fell into the reservoir, he thought he would never see them again.

Wesselink contacted Byington, and the two made arrangements to meet up in October. Wesselink,



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according to the *Epoch Times*, even went out of his way to replace the worn-out bills from the wallet with new ones from the bank.

Byington is grateful to Wesselink for his efforts to reunite him with his things.

“It’s great that there are still kind and loving individuals who are honest, like Matthew,” Byington said.



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