



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on October 22, 2021

Published in the November 8, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 21

The Goodness of America

Struggling Mom Helps Other Struggling Parents

Brittany Starks of Nashville, Tennessee, is a single mother who understands what it means to struggle, so when it was time for the local children to return to school, she offered her hair-braiding talents for free to help parents avoid the expense of a salon.

The idea struck her in a sort of “pay-it-forward” moment. With the 2021-2022 school year approaching, Starks was concerned she would not be able to afford school supplies for her nine-year-old daughter and her seven-year-old son. Thankfully, a family friend surprised her with a bookbag full of school supplies and much-needed clothes for the two kids, and Starks was overwhelmed with gratitude. She decided she wanted to offer that same sort of relief to other families in her position.

According to Fox News, Starks posted on Facebook on August 4 asking if any struggling single parents needed their child’s hair braided, and expected anywhere from five to seven responses. Instead, she got 35.

The overwhelming response had Starks working every night for two weeks until late hours, as she usually gets off work around 5:00 p.m. and does not start braiding until then. And as the responses continued to trickle in, even from outside of Tennessee, she found herself needing additional help.

Starks said she is motivated to help the families reaching out to her because she relates to them.

“The parents’ stories are very similar to mine,” she said. “Being homeless, struggling with depression, and just struggling being a single parent.”

Starks dealt with homelessness and job loss after staying home with her daughter, who was diagnosed with autism and several other conditions that impacted her daily health.

“I’ve seen how much the community appreciated what I was doing and how much of a need it is,” she said.

Her goal is to continue to offer her services once a month for children throughout Nashville, Fox News reported.

“Doing this makes me happy,” she said. “The smile on the children’s faces are priceless. It brings me so much joy to know I made a difference in their life.”

Not Alone

Though nine-year-old Noah of Las Vegas lost his father to COVID, he was not without male companionship on his first day of fourth grade.

Noah’s father, Officer Jason Swanger of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, died on June 24 from complications related to COVID-19, MSN reported.

“He was known as a devoted father and husband who went the extra mile for people in need and dedicated himself to policing to make a difference in other people’s lives,” according to the department’s press release on Swanger’s death.

The department knew Officer Swanger would have wanted to be with Noah on Noah’s first day of fourth



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grade, so when Noah arrived at his elementary school on August 9, he was met by a group of officers who were there in Swanger's place.

Noah's mother, Christa Swanger, was touched by the outpouring of support from her husband's colleagues. She took a video of the moment, which was later posted to the police department's page.

"This is his connection to his dad on the police department so it means a lot to him that they are all here for him," Christa told WAFB.

Honor and Respect

A small deed by a group of boys in Batesville, Indiana, speaks volumes about their character and offers a glimpse of hope for the future of America.

Two boys, whose identities remain unknown, were riding their bicycles on September 2 when they rode past a funeral procession for a military veteran, 89-year-old Charles Everett Yorn, Fox News reported.

Taking note of the procession, the boys immediately jumped off their bikes and waited in reverence for several minutes until "Taps" was completed, according to onlooker Jacqi Hornbach, who was so impressed by what she was witnessing that she snapped a photo of the boys. They can be seen standing with their hands behind their backs as they silently looked on.

Hornbach could see the procession from the home where she was dog sitting, WJW reported, but when she saw what the boys did, she felt compelled to also stand and show her respect.

She told Fox News she was initially hesitant to even post a photo of the brief and private moment, but ultimately decided that it was worth sharing, given "all the negative things going on."

"I had to snap a pic as I was so proud of these two young men," she said. "Their parents should be so proud, and I'm sure the serviceman was in heaven smiling down on them."

Man Captures Inspiring Video of Officer in Action

When Kaleb Hall of Indianapolis spotted a police officer clearing trash from a roadside memorial, he stopped to help and captured a video of the officer's good deed.

"I just wanted to thank him for what he was doing," Hall said. "I didn't expect him to have the story he did. I just hit record on my phone. I didn't want it to be stereotypical; I didn't want to take away the good that he was doing by trying to put a camera in [his face]. But I did want to capture it."

When Hall spoke with the police officer, Jeff Stagg of the Indianapolis Metro Police Department, he learned that the roadside memorial was put up 20 years ago in honor of a high-school student named Shelby who had been killed at the intersection.

Since the memorial is on Stagg's patrol circuit, he felt compelled to care for it.

Stagg is heard saying in the video footage, "I didn't know her but I remember the incident. No one's keeping up the memorial anymore. I guess her family has maybe moved on."

Hall said he was touched by the officer's kindness and wanted to share the video as a way to show good cops in action.

"I wanted people to see that," he told *The Epoch Times*.



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