



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on November 19, 2021

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The Goodness of America

Dads on Duty

When Southwood High School in Shreveport, Louisiana, saw a violent week of fighting that resulted in the arrests of 23 students in a matter of three days at the start of the school year, a group of dads decided they needed to take action, and it worked.

Concerned fathers formed “Dads on Duty” to take shifts spending time at the school and greeting students to help maintain a positive environment and try to stop the violence on campus.

“We’re dads. We decided the best people who can take care of our kids are who? Are us,” said Michael LaFitte, who started the group.

Five men came up with the idea after meeting at LaFitte’s office to discuss how they could help lessen the violence at their children’s school, *Good Morning America* reported. The group has since grown to more than three dozen dads.

“Although we’re titled ‘Dads on Duty,’ we also serve as uncles on duty, we serve as men of the community on duty,” LaFitte said. “Because there are some folks who don’t have a father or don’t have such a great relationship with their father, and it’s our goal to let them see what the right relationship with a male figure is supposed to look like.”

LaFitte works with an independent security company to vet the dads who wish to participate, according to *Good Morning America*. Approximately six to 10 dads are on campus at every shift throughout the school day. They also have shifts at extracurricular events, including school dances and sporting events.

CBS News reported that the presence of the dads on the campus has had a significant impact, as there has not been a single incident on the school grounds since Dads on Duty arrived.

School principal Kim H. Pendleton, Ph.D. said the school was facing threats of serious gang violence before Dads on Duty arrived on campus, but the threats have since tapered off.

“After the fights, there was a heavy police presence at the school and the kids told me they did not like that,” said Pen-dleton. “The dads are from the community.”

When students were asked why they thought having the dads on campus made such a difference, one told CBS News, “You ever heard of ‘a look?’” indicating just a stern look from a dad had the power to stop bad behavior in its tracks.

Other students said the dads came with “dad jokes,” which are enough to disarm the students from most bad behaviors.

CBS News wrote, “It’s that perfect mix of tough love and gentle ribbing that dads do so well that has helped transform this school.”

Dads on Duty have been on the campus for more than six weeks and plan to continue going to the school indefinitely. They also are hoping to start other chapters in schools throughout Louisiana and that the movement will eventually become nationwide.

“We just want people to know that it’s possible,” said Dads on Duty member Zachary Johnson. “We went



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with it hoping it would make an impact on the school, and now that we see that it's working, we want to take it to other schools."

Lifeguards on Duty

Ninety-five-year-old Dottie Schneider from Indiana had the best vacation with her family at the beach in October, all thanks to the kindness of the lifeguards who helped make it happen.

AL.com reports that Schneider loves adventure, and even went parasailing at the age of 89. Not even a stroke she suffered four years ago managed to quell her spirit. Doctors believed she would not learn to speak again, but she defied the odds.

While in hospice care, Schneider told her daughter, Kimberly Waterbury, that she desperately wanted to go on vacation this year and feel the sand under her feet.

Waterbury made arrangements to take her mother to visit Orange Beach, Alabama, along with Waterbury's friend Pamela Jones and Jones' mother-in-law, Linda.

It wasn't easy, however, for Waterbury to maneuver her wheelchair-bound mother through the sand, especially with Waterbury's bad wrist. Fortunately, she did not have to worry about that for long.

Lifeguard Shane Martin reportedly spotted Waterbury struggling and came to her rescue. He offered to drive Schneider in his ATV to whichever spot she wanted on the beach. Once they selected their spot, Shane lifted Dottie and gently placed her on her beach lounge.

The kindness did not stop there. Throughout the entirety of Schneider's vacation, the lifeguards ensured there was always someone available to meet "Ms. Dottie" when she arrived at the beach to escort her to her spot in the sand.

Brett Lesinger, beach safety division chief for Orange Beach, was not surprised by the generosity of his lifeguards.

"Our guards have been instructed to try to help people out if they're having a tough time," he told AL.com. "Any day she felt like coming down, we wanted to make sure she got there. We told her to holler if the sun was too much."

But for Dottie and her daughter, the good deeds meant the world.

"I was not a caregiver; I was her daughter," she said, explaining that the assistance from the lifeguards throughout their stay meant that she could relax and simply enjoy her trip. "That was overwhelming. They were faithful. They were there. It made my mom's whole trip."

What's more, the lifeguards refused tips offered to them by the family. They said the only tip they needed was to see Dottie's smile.

Waterbury said her mother did not want to leave at the end of the week.

"We are forever indebted to the guys with Orange Beach Surf Rescue," Waterbury continued, growing emotional. "They made my mother feel special. She was not made to feel like she was a burden on anybody."

Orange Beach Surf Rescue posted several photos of Dottie and the lifeguards on its Facebook page, where users gushed over the heartwarming story.



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A photo featuring one of the lifeguards carrying the 79-pound woman to her beach chair prompted one user to write, "This should be the cover of every magazine in America."

A group photo of Dottie with several of the lifeguards compelled another user to post, "God bless you guys! You are what's right in this world."



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