



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on January 7, 2022

Published in the January 31, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 02

The Goodness of America

Good Samaritans Offer Much-needed Necessities in Wake of Tornadoes

When tornadoes ripped through the South and Midwest in December — claiming lives, homes, and buildings — good Samaritans stepped forward to offer light in an otherwise dark place for the many people who were affected.

Jim Finch drove nearly two hours from his home in Clarksville, Tennessee, and set up right in the middle of devastated Mayfield, Kentucky, with a grill and a truckload of food to feed anyone who needed it.

“I know they don’t have no electricity, so that means they don’t have no electric, no restaurants, no running water, so I just figured I’d do what I can do,” he said. “Show up with some food and some water.”

With no ties to Mayfield but motivated by his desire to help, Finch set out on December 12 to spend the day feeding residents. With his meat smoker, he cooked chicken, hot dogs, burgers, and soy patties. He also handed out bottled water, the *Washington Post* reported.

Finch told local news station WLWT, “Everybody’s talking about they’re sending up prayers and, you know, their well wishes and everything. You know, folks can’t eat no prayer. You gotta put something in their stomach. Give them something to hold on to.”

According to the *Post*, grateful residents seemed relieved to have a hot plate and a momentary break from sifting through debris. Volunteer cleanup crews and workers also grabbed a quick meal before returning to their work.

The *Post* reported that the Moss family, Mayfield natives, had a similar idea. Anthony Moss owns a food truck that was miraculously unscathed by the storms. The family parked the truck right next to Finch and began to cook and serve food to area residents.

Amazingly, as news of Finch’s and the Moss’ food spread by word of mouth, residents came by to share the contents from their freezers to be cooked. Moss told the *Post* that people came by later in the day to offer cash donations, cleaning supplies, and more food to share.

Jeff Thompson, a friend of the Moss family, also came with a trunk filled with paper towels and water.

Directly across from where Jim and the Moss truck set up, a church service took place in the parking lot, offering residents a glimmer of hope in a bleak situation, *Today.com* reported.

“Some people are in good spirits — just the fact of us being here is enough to lift people up,” Finch told the *Washington Post*. “Others are more sensitive and emotional, and they have more to deal with.”

Finch and Moss set up again on December 13 to serve more food. Both said they would be there as long as they needed to be.

Finch said he would continue to pay for the food out of his own pocket until he could no longer afford to do so.

“If it comes back to me, it comes back to me, if it don’t, it don’t,” he told the *Post*.



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He already had plans for what to do when the money did run out.

“When I run out of money to pay for food, I have an 18-foot trailer I’m going to bring and help people haul stuff away,” he said.

Home Is Where the Heart Is

It is not every day that a person is gifted a house, but that is exactly what happened to Ebony Johnson of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Johnson works at the local Dunkin’ Donuts, and befriended a regular customer, Suzanne Burke, about three years ago.

“I go every morning,” Burke told ABC News affiliate WCPO. “Ebony has worked the drive-thru for three years and really has provided amazing customer service.”

Burke looked forward to seeing her friend during her regular morning visits to the donut shop, so she took notice when Johnson had not been at work for several weeks. She inquired about Johnson’s absence and learned that Ebony and her three young children had been evicted from their home.

Burke knew she had to do something for her friend. She reached out to area nonprofit groups and a staging designer to surprise Ebony and her family with a fully furnished house in time for Christmas, WCPO reported.

“When she experienced this hardship, I just wanted to see if I could help her just improve her life and the life for her kids,” Burke explained. “I wanted to make sure that they had stable housing so that she could continue to provide the excellent service she does at Dunkin’.”

Burke surprised Ebony with the house on December 3.

“The Lord really looked out for me because I kept praying and saying ‘can I be at home before Christmas?’” Ebony told WCPO.

Ebony’s children were also excited about their new home.

“So nice, so nice,” her youngest son said about his new room.

Little Boy, Big Hero

Brody Sims of Clarksville, Tennessee, proved to be one heck of a brave 11-year-old when a fire broke out in his house on December 5.

“My mom and dad told us, if there was a fire, to grab everyone and run out of the house and call 911,” he told WSMV.

And that is just what he did. Brody made sure that all four of his siblings made it out of the house, risking his own safety in the process.

“He ran past the fire to get his 2-year-old brother, who was in a bedroom in the back of the house,” Brody’s aunt, Hannah, wrote in a GoFundMe page set up for the family.

“I was just crying and yelling my brother’s name,” Brody recalled to WSMV.

And even though the house was completely destroyed by the fire, Brody managed to rescue all of his siblings and get them to safety.



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While the family of seven is beyond grateful that everyone is safe, they struggled with finding themselves without a house or any of their belongings just before the holidays.

However, generous donors helped the GoFundMe page surpass its \$2,500 goal, with more than \$30,000 raised in just 10 days.



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