



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on March 4, 2022

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The Goodness of America

Young Girl Makes Big Donation

Eleven-year-old Olivia Knowles of West Palm Beach, Florida, raised more than \$4,000 this year for a local children's shelter, her biggest donation yet since she started her charitable efforts years ago.

Olivia has been setting up a hot chocolate stand in her area since she was six years old. Each year, she donates her earnings to Grandma's Place, a local shelter for abused children that also provides short-term care for children with disabilities and the people who support them, CBS 12 reported.

This year, the donation was the biggest one yet. Olivia's Annual Hot Cocoa Stand social-media page announced on February 6 that she had raised \$4,331.

"To get this kind of money gives us the chance to do a little something extra for our children that we haven't necessarily budgeted for," said Joan O'Connell, president of the board at Grandma's Place.

Olivia looks forward to donation day every year.

"I love bringing it here and knowing that I'm helping people," Olivia says.

Party of Five Eight

A Texas family of five grew into a family of eight when they adopted three siblings out of foster care.

The Mills family of Abilene, Texas, had just begun the process of becoming licensed foster parents when they got a call from their foster-care agency about the three children the family lovingly refers to as "the trio" — Xavier, 10; Marie, nine; and Cristian, eight.

"Their birth mother's rights had just been terminated," Jake Mills told *The Epoch Times* on February 19, "and the agency knew it would be very difficult to find a family who would want to adopt a sibling group of three older kids. They thought we might be a good fit."

Jake and his wife, Erin, said they prayed and sought counsel from friends before making the big decision.

"We were committed to not causing more rejection in these precious kids' lives, so we knew we would have to be fully committed before they ever heard we were interested in adopting them," the couple explained. "Our agency organized a 'respite care' weekend where we took the kids, to give the other foster family a break. Honestly, we had already decided that God wanted us to adopt them by that time."

Despite the trauma the trio had suffered in their short lives — including an absent birth father, a mother who struggled with mental illness and addiction and passed away shortly after losing her parental rights in the summer of 2021, and being in and out of foster care most of their lives — the children were remarkably happy and healthy, according to Jake.

Jake and Erin said that their biological kids — Kennedy, 13; Joshua, eight; and Hannah, six — were beyond excited when the family decided to move forward with the adoption. Joshua, in particular, was excited to gain brothers.

"We've tried to raise them to live open-handed and share their lives with those in the greatest need,"



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said Jake, “so when we told them about the trio’s situation, they teared up and said, ‘We have to adopt them!’”

The adoption became official on December 23, 2021.

Jake and Erin said there have been so many wonderful moments since the children joined their family.

“Some of the most memorably amazing moments have been the things the kids have said throughout the process,” Jake explained to *The Epoch Times*. “When we told them we were going to adopt them, and explained what that meant, Xavier cried and said, ‘I’m just so happy I don’t have to be a foster kid without a family anymore!’”

During one of the family’s “high and low” conversations at dinner one evening, Cristian said his “high” was joining the Mills family.

Jake also recalls the first time Marie asked if she could sit on his lap during family movie night and the first time each child told him they loved him.

Of course, Jake admits, it is not always easy. “These precious kids haven’t been in a family like ours before; it’s taken some time for them to get used to having rules and boundaries, even though they’ve never faltered in their desire to be in our family,” he said.

The family said they have found a routine that works for them, and this includes all of the children pitching in with chores. They have also received tremendous help from extended family and their church community.

The Mills feel incredibly blessed to have added to their family the way they did. “Children are a gift from the Lord,” Erin posted on her Facebook page, “no matter the path they take to your home.”

Comfort Bags

Ten-year-old Sophie Enderton of Niagara County, New York, started making comfort bags for chemotherapy patients after watching her late grandfather undergo the harrowing treatment during his battle with pancreatic cancer.

Sophie was very close with her grandfather, and was saddened when she learned from him about chemotherapy and how difficult it can be for cancer patients. It was in October that she conceived of the idea of the “chemo comfort bags” for her granddad and other chemo patients.

By December, she and her grandmother had created the crocheted bags, which contained pillows, blankets, socks, snacks, tea, and games, WQRZ reported. Sadly, just a few days later, on December 15, her grandfather succumbed to the disease.

But in spite of the heartbreaking loss, Sophie continues to make the comfort bags for other cancer patients and donates them to the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Her goal is to produce 20 chemo bags for pediatric and adult cancer patients by the end of March, to commemorate her grandfather’s birthday.

The community has come out in full support of her efforts, [Breitbart.com](#) reported, and is donating items and money to help her reach her goal.

“I think he would be very proud of me,” Sophie said of her grandfather.



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