



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 21, 2015

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The Goodness of America

Brave Intervention

A perceptive convenience store owner in Philadelphia noticed a man and woman behaving strangely in his store on November 11 and decided to intervene. As it turned out, the man, later identified as Nathaniel Rodriguez, had hijacked the woman's car and was holding the woman against her will.

According to ABC News, Rodriguez had abducted the woman, a Pennsylvania Hospital doctor, from a parking garage at approximately 6 a.m. that day. The doctor later told police that Rodriguez got onto the elevator with her while she was on her cellphone with her husband and flashed what looked like a gun. He forced her into her car, and they drove to various ATMs until her debit card was declined for exceeding her limit.

They then stopped at the Port Richmond Exxon station, where the doctor's terrifying ordeal would come to an end.

Yahoo News reported, "Manveer Komer was working the overnight shift ... at a gas station in the Port Richmond neighborhood of Philadelphia when the suspect arrived with the female doctor."

[Philly.com](#) reported that Komer thought something seemed off about the pair, noting that they stood far apart from each other. "She looked so nervous," he said. "She was shaking."

Surveillance footage captured the scene. Rodriguez attempted to purchase cigarettes with the doctor's credit card. As they were leaving the store, Komer came out from behind the counter and stopped the doctor, placing himself between her and the man. "You come behind my back. I help you. No problem," Komer said to the woman, as captured by surveillance cameras.

Komer then addressed Rodriguez directly. He told him to give the woman back her keys and cellphone. Surveillance footage captured Rodriguez reaching into his pocket but then driving away in the victim's car. Komer gave the doctor some water while they awaited the police.

Rodriguez later turned on the victim's cellphone, unknowingly providing his location for police. They apprehended him and charged him with numerous crimes, including aggravated assault, kidnapping, carjacking, robbery, and other offenses.

Officer Helps Homeless Woman

Police Officer Bruce Pierson of Temecula, California, inspired charity in others with his good deed that went viral.

On November 8, Officer Pierson was called to the Promenade mall in Temecula because of a person who was behaving suspiciously in the parking lot, AOL News reported. When Pierson arrived, he approached the suspicious person, who was a homeless woman. She was barefoot and stated that she was moving from car to car to find shade for her feet, which were calloused and filthy. The woman, who goes by the name of "Franki," is 18 years old and told Officer Pierson that she had not worn shoes for two months.

AOL News reported that Franki has been homeless since she was 12 years old, and currently lives on the streets with her boyfriend and two dogs.

Officer Pierson decided to bring her to the Payless ShoeSource store in the mall and buy her a pair of



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shoes, whichever she selected.

When two other shoppers in the store heard what Officer Pierson was doing, they each came forward and offered to purchase an additional pair of shoes for Franki. Likewise, a shopper named Joshua Rounds offered cash to pay for some items. By the end of the day, Franki had two pairs of shoes, some socks, a scarf and a hat.

Pierson's wife, upon hearing Franki's story, also purchased two large bags of dog food for Franki's dogs, and provided her some sweaters and a warm blanket.

Joshua Rounds took several photos of the work that Pierson and several others did for Franki and posted them to his Facebook page. They went viral within 48 hours.

Officer Pierson later told KSWB that the entire experience made him emotional, but that he believes he did what anyone in his situation would do. "It was the right thing to do.... I would hope any human would do that," he said.

Toy Store for Tots

A New York City woman has ensured that many homeless children will have a wonderful Christmas through donating the contents of an entire toy store to charity.

Carol Suchman donates toys to homeless children every Christmas, and saw a wonderful opportunity to go above and beyond while walking through her West Village neighborhood one afternoon in November. She spotted a toy store that was going out of business and knew just what to do.

"When I saw all of the toys just sitting in the store, it occurred to me that it would be so great to be able to somehow get them to the kids in the homeless shelters that have so little," Suchman told the Huffington Post.

She negotiated with the store's owner and purchased the entire inventory, then turned everything over to the NYC Department of Homeless Services.

Antonio Rodriguez, director of special events at the Department of Homeless Services, told NY1 News, "I've been doing this for many years and we have many generous sponsors.... But I have to say, that this is the first time anybody ever bought out an entire store and donated it."

The inventory included thousands of toys, ranging from puzzles and stickers to stuffed animals and games. It also included loads of school supplies.

According to the Huffington Post, Suchman has been purchasing birthday presents for children in the Brooklyn foster system for years. "Children [are] always my focus," she said. "So that's why, a lot of foster kids get a lot of used things and I realized a lot of them never had a birthday gift that they actually wanted."

The toy store donation is just the latest in a long series of good deeds.

NY1 noted that Suchman "has the means to do it," as she and her husband own a successful technology company.

Her wonderful deed is sure to make Christmas brighter for the needy children. "There will definitely be a lot of smiles and happy kids when they get these toys," Suchman said. "If it brings them some joy and they realize there are people looking out for them, then my job is done."



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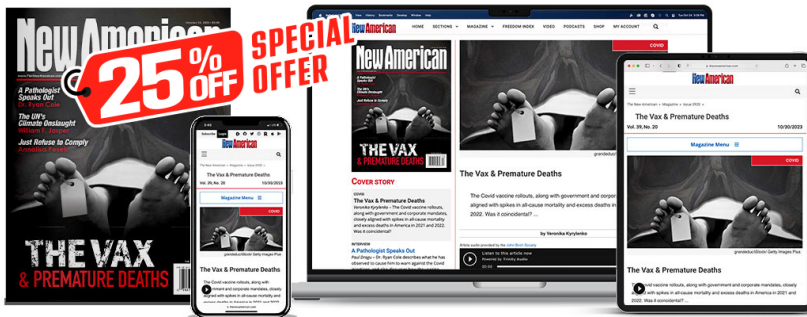
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