



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 7, 2015

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The Goodness of America

Car Seats Instead of Citations

A routine traffic stop in Cedar Park, Texas, proved to be much more than that for one father down on his luck.

Police officers stopped a driver who had an expired registration and a malfunctioning light on October 17, only to discover three small children in the back seat who were not in car seats. The officers learned the driver was homeless and living in his car in an effort to save money, and realized that giving him multiple tickets for his violations would not be a fruitful endeavor. Instead, they elected to help the man.

"Giving him three tickets, it wasn't going to do any good," said Justin Gower, one of the officers. "Those kids were still going to have to be driven somewhere, somehow with no car seats."

"We just kind of stepped off to the side and said we need to kind of do the right thing and get these people some car seats," Officer Cale Hawkins added.

Fox News reported that Officers Gower and Hawkins pooled their money together to purchase "three pink age-appropriate car seats for the children, ages 1, 3, and 4 years old." The Walmart from which they purchased the car seats also gave them a discount for their good deed. The total cost for the three car seats was \$145, KVUE reported.

"I recognized some of the management staff and told them immediately what I wanted to do," Hawkins explained. "She walked back with me and helped me."

Officers Hawkins and Gower helped the man put the car seats into the vehicle.

When other officers back at the station heard what happened, they chipped in to help pay for the car seats as well.

Meanwhile, the driver, who asked to remain anonymous, was touched by the officers' good deed. "It was nothing short of a miracle. It was something that was really needed," he said.

Fairy Godmothers Galore

An entire community in Manchester, Pennsylvania, came together to ensure that a young girl battling cancer had a homecoming dance she'd never forget.

Hope Westrick, 14, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a cancer of the bones, two years ago. According to the *York Daily Record*, in the two years since Hope's diagnosis, "a lot of people have stepped in to play the supporting role of fairy godmother."

The *York Daily Record* reported that members of the community have hosted bake sales, sold sweatshirts, and engaged in other fundraising activities on behalf of Hope.

Hope's father, Robert Maldonado, began missing a lot of work after Hope was diagnosed, as a result of multiple appointments and hospital visits. His colleagues wanted to help, so they pooled their hours together and donated a year off to Maldonado so that he could spend time with his family. "Never in my life have I heard anything like that," he said. "We're not really ones to ask for help. We're a really independent family. For us, it's kind of hard sometimes."



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His company later asked him to come to work for a pizza party, and handed him a pizza box to take home to his family. Inside was \$6,000, which his coworkers had helped raise.

The generosity and support from the community, among other things, made it possible for Hope to purchase a new dress for the dance. She rode in style, too, as a limo took her, her date, and her best friend to the dance.

On the day of the dance, approximately 60 to 70 friends and family arrived at Hope's home to be with her as she prepared for her exciting night.

"It was nice," Maldonado said. "Lots of family and friends getting together laughing and talking. To get our minds off it a little bit."

He explained that the community has often been to their home to check in on Hope while she was in and out of the hospital, but that this time was different. This time, they were there just "enjoying life."

At the dance, Hope was surprised with a present from Miss New Jersey, Lindsey Giannini: a pink lava lamp.

Plus One

Miss New Jersey, Lindsey Giannini, helped make Marcus Josey the envy of all his friends by agreeing to be his escort at Josey's homecoming dance, which took place on October 17.

Northeastern Senior High School student Marcus Josey is battling leukemia and has been struggling through chemotherapy. He took notice of Giannini in the Miss America Pageant and decided to ask her to be his date for his school's homecoming dance. He was astonished when she agreed. "When I found out she said yes, I instantly felt better and my mood went up from that moment forward," he said.

According to the *York Daily Record*, Josey and Giannini began the evening of the dance with photographs at the prestigious Yorktowne Hotel, followed by dinner at the White Rose Bar & Grill. They then piled into a limousine and were escorted by 40 motorcycle riders from the Shiloh American Legion Riders and Warrior Brotherhood motorcycle groups to the dance. The group also paid for dinner.

Josey had a great time at the dance, and told the *York Daily Record* that he and Giannini danced to every song.

Giannini did not let the evening end after the dance. She suggested that they go for ice cream at Friendly's, where, she indicated, they talked about "just normal things, just every day kids stuff."

At the dance, Giannini gave a pink lava lamp to Hope Westrick, a 14-year-old student at Northeastern High School who is also battling cancer.

The *York Daily Record* also reported that businesses in the community gave donations to make the evening special for Josey. Flowers were donated by Everyone Deserves Flowers, and the Yorktowne Hotel gave Giannini a complementary room for the night. The limousine was free, compliments of Diana's Limousine and Corporate Transport.

Giannini and Josey have become good friends, they both reported. The two have continued to text and are planning several trips, including one to visit cancer patients and give out care packages.



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