

Written by **Raven Clabough** on April 22, 2022

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The Goodness of America

Hawaii, at Last

Residents of Evergreen, Colorado, wanted to show their immense gratitude for the kindness of schoolbus driver Shreevie Kenner, so they raised money to send her on a dream vacation to Hawaii.

Years ago, Kenner lost her only child, just seven years old, to bone cancer. She says that she loves driving the elementary students to and from school because "they take away that hurt from my daughter."

Kenner has made it her mission to entertain the elementary-school children on her bus route with costumes, gifts, and songs.

"Best bus driver and caregiver of children ever!" one parent said of Kenner on the GoFundMe page used to raise funds for the Hawaii trip. "All three of my kids absolutely love her."

In fact, Kenner loves her job so much that she has put off her own retirement.

It's not hard to see why the local community acted when they learned that Kenner's "bucket list" dream of visiting a friend in Hawaii may not happen.

Kenner had been saving money to visit her longtime friend who retired in Hawaii, but her husband's sudden death in 2020 made it nearly impossible for her to afford the trip. Medical bills and funeral expenses virtually eliminated Kenner's savings, so she called off her trip.

When fellow bus driver Joan Cooper heard that Kenner's dream vacation was put on indefinite hold, she immediately created a GoFundMe page with the goal of raising \$1,000 to pay for the cost of the plane ticket.

Within two hours, the page exceeded its goal. By the time the fundraiser was closed, more than \$3,000 had been raised for the trip.

Kenner's long-awaited trip is booked for June, and she could not be more excited. A video shared on the GoFundMe page featured Kenner in a Hawaiian shirt standing outside in the snow blowing a kiss to all those who made her dream a reality.

Yellow Ribbon Flight

Sixteen-year-old Alice Kraatz of Kalamazoo, Michigan, helped raise \$130,000 so that 80 Vietnam veterans can fly to Washington, D.C., in June to visit memorials in their honor.

Kraatz's efforts were in support of the nonprofit organization Mid-Michigan Honor Flight, which will be embarking on its first trip since the pandemic began, 9&10 News reported. The flight is called the Yellow Ribbon Flight and is scheduled to take place in June.

Fox 17 West Michigan reported that Vietnam veterans are typically last on the list when it comes to priority for Honor Flights, free trips for vets to go to war memorials in Washington, D.C.

"So it goes in that order: WWII, then terminally ill, then Korea, then Vietnam," said Kraatz.

Kraatz, who is state president of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR), decided to fund an Honor Flight specifically for those who served in Vietnam, noting that it would be a "really powerful



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experience for them" to heal. And while other states have done Honor Flights comprised only of Vietnam veterans, the June flight will be the first in Michigan history.

"This dedication and the love that she has for veterans, you don't really see that in kids her age," says Bob Green, president of the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight.

According to a 2019 blog post from Kraatz, CAR's 2019-2020 Michigan theme was to honor and remember "the heroes of our nation with a special emphasis on the veterans of the Vietnam War." CAR launched a project to help raise funds for the Yellow Ribbon Flight because the group wanted to ensure that Vietnam veterans who were "not treated with the respect they deserved when they returned from service" would be honored appropriately.

"Some of these veterans have never been to Washington D.C., they've never gotten to see their memorial, so we're dedicated to their service to our country," Green told 9&10 News. "It really means a lot to them."

Joining the Vietnam veterans on the flight will be 23 World War II veterans and 12 terminally ill veterans, the outlet reported.

"Regardless of if you have somebody close to you who's a veteran, it's really important to recognize these people who have supported us and our country through all these hard times," Kraatz said.

Another flight has been planned for this fall, **Breitbart.com** reported.

From Low to High

When a walker was stolen from a young boy with disabilities in Bartow, Florida, the Polk County Sheriff's Department was able to use the community's generous donations to Polk Sheriff's Charities to purchase a brand-new walker for the victim.

A March 26 social-media post by the Polk County Sheriff's Office informed area residents of the incident.

According to the post, the victim is a seven-year-old boy named Marcos, a first-grade student at Wahneta Elementary, whose walker was stolen "right out of his yard." The post stated that Marcos needs his walker to "get around."

The post added, however, that the story ended on a positive note.

"The good news is thanks to your generous donations to Polk Sheriff's Charities, our deputies were able to buy Marcos a brand-new walker, in a beautiful shade of blue," it read. According to the *Miami Herald*, the starting cost of a new posterior walker is approximately \$260.

The post almost immediately went viral, earning 4,500 reactions and nearly 400 comments within days. Social-media users were both angered by the cruelty of stealing a small child's walker, and moved by the generosity shown to Marcos and his family.

"How could anyone be so evil so ... hateful so heartless," Paula Fedele wrote.

"Whoever did this cannot do enough jail time," Frank L. Shirley posted.

"You guys are great for handling this for him. Hopefully karma catches up to the low life that stole his walker," added Scott Gaines.





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As of April 11, the sheriff's office hadbeen unable to determine who stole the walker. They are offering a cash reward for anyone providing information that will help them catch the person responsible.



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