



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on September 27, 2022

Published in the October 17, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 19

The Goodness of America

How to Save a Life

Tomika Johnson of Cleveland was in the right place at the right time, and her intervention helped save the life of a local police officer during a back-to-school event on August 24.

Sergeant Ray O'Connor was playing football with some school children when he was stung by two bees, WOIO reported. Deathly allergic to bees, O'Connor collapsed. Unfortunately, he did not have his EpiPen with him.

O'Connor's partner, Officer Brooklyn Barnes, and another officer carried O'Connor to a police cruiser, where they began to perform first aid, but without the EpiPen, things were looking dire.

Witnessing the ordeal unfold, Johnson ran to her house to grab her son's EpiPen, rushed back to the scene, and injected O'Connor with the medication.

Johnson told WKYC that the incident happened so fast that she can barely recall who injected O'Connor with the life-saving medication. "I don't even know who I gave the EpiPen to that was tending to the officer, Sergeant O'Connor. But I kept yelling, 'Hit him in the hip! Hit him in the hip!'" she told WKYC.

Medical staff at St. Vincent Hospital said Johnson's actions saved the sergeant's life, KKTU reported.

On October 6, Johnson will be recognized with a "Citizen Award" during the City of Cleveland's Fourth District Awards Ceremony.

Strangers Helping Strangers

A December prayer request in the Facebook group The Laughing Christian resulted in a New Jersey man receiving a life-changing gift from a complete stranger in Texas.

Roy McIntosh was in desperate need of a living kidney donor, CBN News reported, prompting his wife, Toshira, to ask for prayers on The Laughing Christian.

"Please pray for my husband that God sends a type B+ living kidney donor to him," she wrote, adding, "We believe in God for a miracle. Please pray for him."

The post struck a chord with Heather Shaefer, a military wife who lives 1,700 miles away from the McIntosh family.

Shaefer recalled, "I read the message and thought, 'That's for me.' Somehow I just knew I had a part to play. So, I messaged the lady about 30 minutes later and wrote, 'I am B+ [blood type] and I'd like to look into if I can donate my kidney.'"

After months of tests determined that Shaefer and McIntosh were indeed a perfect match, Shaefer generously donated her kidney to McIntosh on June 8.

Shaefer chronicled the months leading up to the kidney donation in a YouTube video series called "Adventures with My Kidney," hoping to inspire others to consider organ donation.

A video posted on August 16 shows the McIntosh and Schaefer families meeting after the surgery, and McIntosh could not resist hugging his life-saving donor more than once. McIntosh and his wife presented Shaefer with a necklace and a ring as a show of gratitude, but emphasized there was "no gift



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to match what she has done for their family.”

Community Supports Local Officer

When Wichita police officer Daniel Gumm was diagnosed with metastatic esophageal cancer in July, the local community came forward in a big way to show their support.

An August 20 fundraising dinner and auction was organized by the Honore Adversis Foundation and area residents for Officer Gumm and his family, and the turnout was enormous. Nearly 1,000 people gathered to support Gumm, KWCH reported.

As a K-9 handler and 18-year veteran with the police department, Gumm is well known in the community. He has been involved in some significant news stories, including one in which his K-9 partner, Rooster, had been shot and killed. Rooster was the first K-9 officer to be killed in the line of duty in the history of the Wichita Police Department, and the tragedy brought the community together.

So when news of Gumm’s cancer diagnosis circulated, area residents wanted to show their support.

“He was in the army at one point and protecting our country. Now he’s in our city, protecting our city,” said Steve Jerrell of the Honore Adversis Foundation. “He’s a very well respected nationwide K-9 handler.”

The Honore Adversis Foundation also hosted a 5K run and one-mile family run for Gumm on September 3, and will continue to lead fundraising efforts to support the Gumm family at this difficult time.

Strangers Attend Veteran’s Funeral

When Vietnam War veteran Glenn Cook died without family and friends to mourn him, dozens of strangers in St. Louis turned up at his funeral to honor his life.

Prior to his death, Cook donated many of his belongings to BackStoppers, an organization providing financial assistance to families of emergency responders who died in the line of duty. When BackStoppers learned that Cook had died without any surviving family, they contacted Michel Funeral Home to help coordinate and plan his funeral.

The day before Cook’s funeral, Michel Funeral Home posted on Facebook, inviting members of the community to pay their respects.

On the day of Cook’s funeral, dozens of strangers appeared at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, where Cook received full military honors, including a gun salute and a motorcycle escort, Fox 2 reported.

BackStoppers board member Dan Raniere said he expected approximately five or six people to show up for the funeral, but was astonished by the turnout.

One of the people in attendance was Mickey Terry, who brought her grandson to show him what it means to show respect for our veterans.

“I love the veterans,” she told KSDK. “We are only able to do what we do now because of them.”

— Raven Clabough



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