



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on November 22, 2022

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## **The Goodness of America**

### **Bus Drivers Help Rescue Toddler**

Two Michigan bus drivers played a significant role in rescuing a kidnapped toddler. The child was in his parents' vehicle when it was stolen, and area cameras captured the rescue.

The two-year-old's parents had stepped out of their car to wait with their older child for the school bus. Someone jumped into their running vehicle and drove off with the toddler still inside.

Video footage released by Kelloggsville Public Schools shows the terrified father approaching a school bus and begging the driver to contact the police.

The Grand Rapids bus driver, Dave Skinner, immediately called 911 and also alerted his team of bus drivers in the area of the incident. Minutes later, another bus driver, Sue Figueroa, saw the toddler sitting alone in a driveway.

Video footage shows Figueroa taking the child onto the bus and saying, "I'll bring you to your mama." When the bus driver arrived at the child's home, she handed the baby back to her mother and assured her that the toddler was okay.

The stolen car was later found abandoned in Grand Rapids, WRAL reported.

The entire ordeal was emotional, not just for the parents, but for the bus drivers as well.

"I was crying all day. It was very emotional. I was very relieved," Figueroa told NBC.

Jim Alston, superintendent of Kelloggsville Public Schools, praised the two drivers for helping to reunite the child with his parents.

"It was probably the longest four to six minutes [of the mom's] life," said Kristin Nickelson, the district's director of transportation. "That mom was so scared, and I just can't imagine what it would have been like not knowing where your baby was."

Nickelson called Skinner and Figueroa heroes, but Skinner humbly declined the title.

"I don't know if we're heroes," Skinner said, according to Today.com. "Drivers are very attentive to all the kids in the neighborhoods while we're picking them up. And if they see something odd or strange, they're real quick to get on the radio and holler back."

### **Church Members Respond to Deadly Car Crash**

Local church members responded immediately after a deadly car crash in Harrah, Oklahoma, claimed the lives of the driver and one of the passengers.

Stephen Stewart and his three daughters spent the day at the annual fall festival in Harrah on October 8. After leaving the parking lot, the family of four hit a tree before landing on the retention road, KOCO 5 reported, just 100 yards from the Faith Baptist Church.

Stephen and his seven-year-old daughter, Maddie, a first grader at Virginia Smith Elementary School, were killed in the crash.

Upon hearing the crash, members of the church immediately ran to the vehicle to help without giving any thought to their own safety.



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“When that accident happened, the response of our guys was to run toward it, not run away from it. They ran there and they helped and that’s what Christ would’ve done,” said Dan Campbell, the pastor of Faith Baptist Church.

Two other children, 11-year-old twins, were injured in the incident, but were rescued from the car by members of the church. Church members stayed with the twins until first responders arrived; later the same parishioners prayed in the field for the family.

Stewart’s sister released a statement to KOCO 5 explaining that the loss is tremendous for everyone. The kids lost their mother three years ago, and now the twins have lost their loving father and sister.

Piecing together the details of what led to the tragic accident, police believe Stephen suffered a medical episode that led to the accident.

A GoFundMe page was set up to assist the family with funeral expenses, and within days, the \$10,000 goal was surpassed.

Campbell said that while the family did not belong to the church, their names would never be forgotten.

“It was just on everybody’s mind. It’s a terrible thing to have happened this close to our church and it just broke everybody’s heart. We have a couple of extended members of the family in our church and so we pray for them and pray for the family,” Campbell said.

## Healing Music

Musician Ryan Carney of Geneva, Illinois, has taken his musical talents to area nursing homes in the hopes of lifting spirits and expediting recovery.

Carney, who recently lost his father to brain cancer, has been bringing his cello to perform at senior-care facilities to entertain the residents. Through his experience with his father, Carney saw firsthand the power of music for individuals struggling with a variety of conditions.

WGN 9 reported on October 6 that Carney’s father, Seamus, had lost his ability to speak because of his cancer, but suddenly broke out in song when the song *Stand by Me* came on at a family party.

“It’s something that’s hardly explainable,” Carney said. “I’m not a doctor, but I know that music is known to be the universal language. And when language is barricaded by a disease, sometimes music can penetrate that like nothing else can.”

According to Bruce Morton, son of 100-year-old nursing-home resident Mary Morton, he has seen his mother positively stimulated by Carney’s cello performances at Bickford Senior Living in St. Charles.

“It is unbelievable how hearing music stimulates her mind,” Bruce told WGN 9. “It’s the trigger to all those long-term memories. The music comes in her head and right out her fingers.”

Susan Frances told Carney that she has seen a great deal of progress in her friend Patricia, who is recovering from a stroke at a facility at which Carney plays.

“Since my friend Patricia’s stroke, she has not been able to speak but through music, she has begun to understand words!” she said. “She remembers your cello playing. It is a gift to hear you.”

— Raven Clabough



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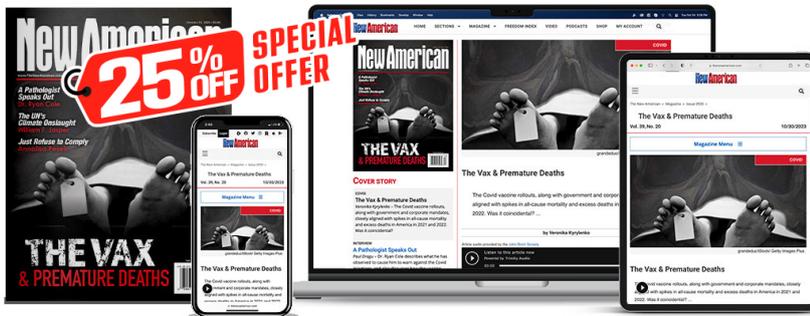
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