



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on January 10, 2023

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# The Goodness of America

## Planting Seeds

A liquor-store employee in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, proved that a single act of kindness can inspire goodness in others.

Brooklyn Center Liquor employee Ta Leia Thomas, better known as “Ace” by friends and family, was working at the front of the liquor store on December 6 when she noticed a homeless man digging through the trash outside the store. The man pulled out two boxes and strapped them to his feet in a desperate attempt to create makeshift shoes to protect his feet from the bitter cold.

Without hesitation, Ace called after the man and unlaced her own beloved, and very expensive, retro Air Jordans from her feet and helped put them on the man’s feet.

The man was shocked by Ace’s generosity, noting that nobody else would have given him such unique and expensive shoes.

The entire interaction happened to be caught on the store’s security camera and has been widely shared.

For Ace, the decision to give the man the shoes right off her feet was an easy one.

“I tell everybody I didn’t even care about the shoes, I cared about that man,” Ace told KARE 11. “I felt like if somebody was able to give one person a chance, the world can be a better place.”

When Ace’s manager, Tom Agnes, arrived at the store and saw Ace working in her socks and learned of what happened, he bought Thomas a new pair of sneakers so she did not have to continue to work in just her socks.

“I was gonna walk home in my socks, and I live across the street. I didn’t care about the shoes, I have shoes at home. I was like, ‘OK, replacements.’ I just look at it as replacements,” she explained.

Agnes was so proud of his employee he later posted the positive news on Facebook.

“I wish I could have a dozen Aces on staff,” he told CBS News.

Agnes and a few friends in the industry wanted to replace Ace’s favorite shoes, so they raised \$450 to do just that. But when they learned that Ace was also taking care of her mother, who was staying with Ace, they gave her the money instead so that she could use it to purchase a bed for her mom, CBS News reported.

It was not long, however, before Ace was flooded with new replacement shoes. According to KARE 11, a stranger came to the store days later and gave her a custom pair of brand-new Air Jordans and gift cards for her family.

Ace also received a package from the Jordan brand with three pairs of the most iconic sneakers in the world, KARE 11 reported.

When the Brooklyn Center Community Emergency Assistance Program caught wind of Ace’s story, they decided to launch “Ace’s Winter Drive.”

“We were inspired by Ace’s story of giving a man her own shoes,” said Mark Zobel with the Brooklyn



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Center Community Emergency Assistance Program.

For the drive, donation barrels were placed at Ace's store for people to donate mittens, scarves, coats, and shoes.

Ace is thrilled to see that her good deed has inspired others to act in turn.

"I feel like, honestly, giving that man a pair of shoes is like I planted a seed in the soil and now it's blooming to something more beautiful," Ace said. "I want to keep planting seeds so that it's blooming all over."

## Hair for Prayer

In an effort to spark faith in others, a barber in Midland, Texas, offers free haircuts in exchange for prayer.

David Lopez, owner of Premier Mobile Cuts barbershop, told WFAA that he wanted his customers to feel valued and good about themselves. While customers who can afford it are welcome to use traditional methods of payment for their haircuts, he also allows customers to use prayer as a form of payment.

"I'm trading haircuts for prayer!" he wrote on his Instagram. "I believe in prayer and am in need that only our father can provide, so if you stop by for a cut, instead of money, I'm accepting prayer out loud after the cut is complete."

Lopez said he believes in the power of prayer and believes it is the greatest currency.

"I guess it just depends on what people value. Some people value money, some people value different things and put their faith in things of this world. I just, bottom line, I just have more faith in prayer than I do money," he commented.

Lopez is outspoken about his faith on his social-media page and warned customers that he will "not hide his faith" when they are in his store. He also wrote that 10 percent of his profits is always earmarked for "the kingdom."

The customers' experience at Lopez' shop is a unique one, which includes listening to gospel music while they are cut and cleaned.

For Lopez, the best part of his job is having the opportunity to do God's work.

"Just knowing that God is real, he's hearing my brothers and sisters speak up on my behalf. He's seeing that, you know, I'm kind of doing His work and showing the power of prayer and the value of prayer," Lopez said. "So I'm pleasing the Father and at the same time, I'm kind of sparking the faith in others."

## "Pete" Strikes Again

For the last 32 years, an anonymous donor known only as "Pete" has blessed the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center in Evansville, Indiana, with donations annually, totaling more than \$100,000.

This year was no exception, according to WNIN. On December 5, the center received a call from Pete, who instructed staff to look for his donation outside the nonprofit's headquarters.

What they found was a gift bag with a red, Christmas-decorated truck inside. Tucked into the truck



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were 30 \$100 bills, with a note to use the money to provide gifts to children with disabilities from disadvantaged families, a request he has made every year since 1990.

Pete's generous donation helped to make the holiday special for children in need.

"Thanks to the combined generosity of Pete and others in the community, more than 140 children served by Easterseals will receive assistance this year," Easterseals spokeswoman Megan Irish told Yahoo!News. "Gifts will range from toys, books and games to socks, shoes and winter coats."



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