



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on January 24, 2023

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## **The Goodness of America**

### **Strangers Salvage Nine-year-old Boy's Sad Birthday**

Nine-year-old Jaydenn of West Valley, Utah, was brokenhearted when no one showed up for his birthday party, but strangers came through for him and helped to make his birthday a little brighter.

Jaydenn's mother, Rosario Lopez, sent out birthday invitations to Jaydenn's family and friends in early December for his New Year's Eve birthday. In spite of the early notice, no one showed up for the party.

A sad photo captured by Lopez shows Jaydenn sitting alone with his birthday cake.

According to Lopez, Jaydenn was sad and tearfully told his mother, "I guess I'm going to have to get used to this."

"Obviously as a mom it breaks your heart," Lopez told KUTV. "You try to do what you can for them; run that extra mile. So I went on Facebook and posted about what happened."

Lopez expected her post in the Kearns Township, Utah, group to receive some "Happy Birthday" comments that she could share with Jaydenn and bolster his spirits. What happened instead was completely unexpected.

Strangers asked for Jaydenn's address and mailed or dropped off gifts for him. Others used Venmo and DoorDash throughout the entire weekend to send food, clothes, and toys.

"To be honest, I cried. I wasn't expecting that at all. There are good people out there," Jaydenn's mother said.

Lopez' post was also flooded with kind comments from well-wishers.

"I get the pain point my birthday is 12/26, and most years nobody shows up if I try to do something for my birthday with Christmas. Sending all the wonderfully birthday wishes!! Love the blue, and he looks very dapper," said one poster.

Another user invited Jaydenn and his family to their child's birthday party.

Lopez expressed her deepest gratitude to the strangers who helped make her son's birthday special.

"I just can't say how grateful I am; truly we are so grateful from the bottom of our hearts," she told KUTV.

### **Happy New Year**

When Steve Winick's Carvel ice cream shop in Westwood, California, was looted and vandalized on New Year's Eve, a good Samaritan stepped in to help start 2023 off on a more positive note.

Winick was devastated. Five of his seven windows were shattered, according to Fox 11, and his cash register, which held less than \$200 at the time, was stolen.

The store once had cameras that could have provided valuable information related to the crime, but the landlord recently removed them and failed to replace them.

And while Winick has insurance to help in the aftermath of the incident, he needs to pay a \$5,000 deductible. He set up a GoFundMe in the hopes of raising the funds.



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One day after Winick's story appeared on Fox 11, a viewer who works for a window company offered his services to help.

Armando Chavez, who works for Custom Glass Fabrication in Paramount, California, showed up at Winick's shop to get started on the repairs. He removed the glass and took measurements for the replacement windows.

"I feel bad for [Winick] over here at the ice cream place," Chavez told Fox 11. "He's got a small business here [on] Santa Monica [Blvd.], and it's rough. It's hard enough, you know, to make [a] living now, and then [the burglars] break into his place, doing more damage than what they get."

According to Winick's GoFundMe, business was already a bit tough during this time of year, so the extra expense was a heavy burden.

But thanks to Chavez' efforts and kind gesture, the windows were replaced by Tuesday, January 3.

## **Right Place, Right Time**

Pedro Perez was driving home on December 27 when he spotted a police officer struggling with an armed robbery suspect, Joseph Gonzalez, in Springfield, Massachusetts. Perez immediately jumped out of his vehicle and attempted to help the officer restrain Gonzalez, who managed to grab the officer's firearm just as a second officer appeared on the scene.

The three men tussled with Gonzalez, who fired two rounds in the process, one of which hit his own hand; the other hit Perez' truck. Eventually, they were able to remove the firearm from Gonzalez' hand, and he was placed under arrest.

The Springfield Police Department believes Perez' actions may have saved the life of the officers in distress.

Springfield Police Superintendent Cheryl Clapprood said in a Facebook statement, "Without the help of Mr. Perez there undoubtedly would have been a much different outcome to this incident. His actions in all likelihood saved the lives of two Springfield Police Officers. This dangerous suspect had zero regard for anyone's livelihood and my officers involved put their lives on the line to prevent this individual from causing any additional harm. These officers displayed a degree of professionalism and bravery that their families, our fellow officers and the residents of the city they serve should be extremely proud of."

Perez also received kudos from Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, who said Perez was a "Good Samaritan" who was "in the right place at the right time."

"Once again, we see that these criminals have little to no regard for the safety or lives of our residents or our brave and dedicated police officers," Sarno said. "If this suspect was successful in wresting the officers service pistol and if Mr. Perez wasn't there to assist, I have no doubts that this violent criminal suspect would have taken the lives of our officers and anyone else that was in his way."

Sarno was especially moved by Perez' humility in spite of what he did.

"When I called Mr. Perez to thank him, he simply and humbly stated this was the way he was brought up to help those in need," Sarno said.

Perez' good deed moved local business owners to offer him their services. According to Yahoo, Mastroianni's Auto Body has offered to fix the damage to Perez' truck for free and provide him with



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transportation until the job is finished.



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