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The Goodness of America

Wallet Found, Wallet Returned

An Arkansas teen saved the day for a grandmother who left her wallet in a Forest City Walmart parking lot on January 12.

Delivontae Johnson, 19, stopped at the Walmart on his way to a mechanic and noticed the wallet. He searched the wallet for a license, learned it belonged to Dee Harkrider, and decided he would return it to her in person.

"I just wanted to do something good and take the wallet to the owner myself," Johnson told *The Epoch Times*.

He found Dee's profile on Facebook and sent her a message letting her know that he was going to drive to her address in Wynne. And when he didn't hear back from her, he reached out to her Facebook friend, Elaine Keown.

Keown contacted Harkrider and found out she was in the nearby town of Palestine. Johnson decided he would drive to Palestine to hand a very thankful Harkrider her wallet.

"He was on his way to Wynne, but then told [Keown] he would come to Palestine to bring it to me," Harkrider recounted in a Facebook post highlighting the encounter. "So he went out of his way and met me and gave me my wallet back."

The post featured a photo of Harkrider and Johnson.

Harkrider was so moved by the young man's actions that she handed him a \$20 bill to thank him. She later told WREG that she wished it could have been more, but Johnson said, "It was more than I expected."

Johnson said the entire incident proves that goodness begets goodness.

Accessible Playground

When students at Glen Lake Elementary School in Minnetonka, Minnesota, noticed their playground was not equipped for students with physical disabilities, they took action to remedy it.

Fifth-graders at Glen Lake were saddened that there were no wheelchair merry-go-rounds or swings for the eight wheelchair-bound students at their school, CBS News reported.

"It just didn't seem fair that some kids were just left out," fifth-grader Wyatt Feucht noted.

"They didn't look happy, and recess is about having fun," Rhys Riley added.

They brought their concerns to their teacher, Betsy Julien, who told them that upgrading the playground would be expensive. She estimated it to be approximately \$300,000.

The students decided to try to raise the money. They collected spare change, went door-to-door, and held bake sales. They even began cold-calling businesses and asking restaurants to donate portions of their profits.

With additional help from the Glen Lake Parent Teacher Organization, and a very generous \$200,000 donation from an anonymous donor who lives in Minnesota and also has accessibility challenges, the





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students managed to raise enough money to purchase a merry-go-round and accessible swing.

And now that the students have seen what they are capable of achieving, they have decided to set a new goal of raising funds to purchase adaptive equipment for other schools in their district, CBS News reported.

Fifth grader John Buettner, who uses a wheelchair, said the entire effort has made him feel like he matters.

"I feel loved, in a sense that I know that I'm going to have fun for the rest of my days in this school now that this is possible," Buettner said.

Life-saving Rescue Caught on Camera

A Las Vegas police officer and a passerby performed a daring feat on January 27 that saved a drunk driver from his crashed vehicle just before it went up in flames.

When the driver crashed his car near Las Vegas Boulevard, smoke immediately began wafting from the car's engine. Officer Derek Stebbins and a civilian named Justin Mouser were captured on video moving quickly to pull the driver from his vehicle just before the car erupted in flames.

"I could still see smoke. I didn't see any flames at the time, but I did see a lot of smoke at the time coming from 'neath the car. He's unconscious, he's not moving," the officer said in a video released by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department days after the incident.

Mouser was on vacation in Vegas with his wife, and just happened to be in the right place at the right time. He recalled that Officer Stebbins had yelled at the crowd that had gathered around the vehicle to stay back, but that his "instincts kicked in," prompting him to take action.

Of Mouser, Officer Stebbins said, "He is just as much of a hero as I am for just wanting to stick around and help get that gentleman out of the car."

Fox 5 Vegas reported that the driver was taken to the hospital after the incident and was charged with a DUI, according to court records.

Yes, Scarlett, There Is a Santa Claus

When 10-year-old Scarlett Doumato of Cumberland, Rhode Island, sent some of Santa's DNA along with a letter to her local police department in the hopes of confirming his existence, the local authorities decided to take it very seriously.

Police officers at the Cumberland Police Department posted the girl's letter on Facebook "in a press release for immediate release," and announced the launch of its "special investigation into the confirmation of Santa Claus."

"In our estimation, and to quote Francis P. Church, 'Yes, Scarlett, there is a Santa Claus,'" Chief Matthew Benson said at the news conference. "Most importantly, however, is that you achieved exactly what Santa Claus represents. You brought a smile to millions — and I mean millions — with your small gesture of human innocence and wonder."

Scarlett was presented with her very own Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) kit, a CSI jacket, and a Junior Investigator badge. She was also treated to a tour of the station, which included hands-on fingerprint





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development and examination.



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