



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on July 25, 2023

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## The Goodness of America

### #KindnessMatters

When the people of Amarillo, Texas, learned that a young boy was being bullied and was in desperate need of friends, they stepped up in a big way.

Shayden Walker rang the doorbell of his neighbor, Brennan Ray, on July 6 with a strange request: “Hi. I just wanted to see if you knew any kids around like, 11 or 12, maybe, because I need some friends. Like, really bad.”

When Ray suggested a nearby home where children Walker’s age lived, Walker said he was not friends with the kids in that house because they bullied him.

Walker returned home that day with assurances from Ray that he would say hello when he saw Walker in the neighborhood, but Ray wanted to do more.

Ray posted a video of his encounter with Shayden, captured by his doorbell camera, on TikTok that same day hoping to bring attention to bullying, and it quickly went viral. Within just three days, it received more than 61 million views, the *New York Post* reported.

“It takes 2 seconds to make someone’s day, you never know what people are going through until you get a chance to talk to them. This young man is well-mannered, kind, and brave,” Ray wrote on his TikTok video.

Viewers were moved by the video and suggested setting up a GoFundMe for Shayden to show him that there were people who cared about him.

Ray and his wife, Angell, loved the idea, and set up a GoFundMe page with a goal of raising \$7,000. The page explained, “We are raising money to help buy him a gaming system, school clothes and hopefully some amusement park tickets and anything else he may want or need. 100% of the donations will be given directly to Shayden and his family, he may raise enough to take a family trip. Let’s continue to show kindness to Shayden, and raise awareness for bullying and suicide prevention!”

Within just six days, the page raised more than \$37,000.

In an update to the page posted on July 6, Angell wrote, “Thank you all for your generosity and kindness! We expected to see support from this community but we’re shocked and amazed by how everyone’s shown up for Shayden. We decided to turn off donations while we coordinate with his family, but all funds will stay in the GoFundMe account until then. We’ll keep you updated along the way. Thank you! #kindnessmatters.”

### Cinnamon Rolls Galore

Twelve-year-old Meredith Allen of Mobile, Alabama, spent many hours this summer baking nearly 2,000 cinnamon rolls to raise money for Christian missions at Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Breitbart.com reported that Meredith had come up with the idea as part of a friendly competition between boy and girl Vacation Bible Schools to see who could come up with the biggest offering. The boys had edged out the girls year after year until Meredith came up with the idea to have a bake sale. In 2022, she raised \$800, which helped the girls’ team win.



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Since this is the last year Meredith will be able to attend VBS, she decided to focus her efforts on baking cinnamon rolls, which she made from scratch and sold in her community every week for the entire month of June. Her endeavor raised \$2,610, according to a June 30 Facebook post, all of which will go to missionaries in Puerto Rico and Southeast Asia, and to the Gideons.

Meredith's parents were proud of their daughter's selflessness.

"She could've been playing with friends or sleeping in ... but the way God was using that to grow her character was really great," her mother, Lindsay, said.

## **\$8 to Make a Day**

When Jason Mosier's credit card was declined at a McDonald's in Knoxville, Tennessee, his young cashier, known only as Hayden, immediately pulled out his own debit card to pay for Mosier's order, Fox 13 News reported.

Mosier's bill came to \$8, but repeated efforts to pay using his credit card were declined. "Don't worry about it," Hayden told Mosier before he took care of the bill himself.

Mosier initially tried to stop Hayden and told him to simply void his order, but when Hayden insisted on paying for the meal, Mosier asked Hayden to at least accept whatever cash he had in his wallet, which was just \$4. Hayden rejected the offer, but Mosier insisted that Hayden take the cash. It was only when Mosier opened his order outside in his truck that he discovered Hayden had put the \$4 back in his meal bag, along with a note that read "Have a blessed day."

Mosier was moved by Hayden's kindness and took to Facebook to share the story. He said he felt compelled to return to the McDonald's and snap a photo with the kind young man.

"Well young man, you did bless my day and thank you and never [lose] that giving heart," Jason wrote in the Facebook post. "The world is a better place with you in it."

Mosier's story touched a lot of hearts, garnering 43,000 likes and being shared 38,000 times, with more than 1,000 comments.

## **Right Place, Right Time**

Dylan Durham had just gotten into a motorcycle crash in Stockbridge, Georgia, on the night of June 8 when Joe Hoagland happened upon the scene.

Durham was critically injured and bleeding on the side of the road after hitting a deer when Hoagland noticed his motorcycle blocking the road. Hoagland had stopped his car and pulled out his flashlight to look around when he heard the faint sound of someone calling for help.

Durham was relieved to see Hoagland, and, believing his injuries to be life-threatening, pleaded with him to keep him alive. Hoagland called 911 and stayed with Durham to keep him calm until first responders arrived.

Days later, Hoagland reunited with Durham at the hospital where Durham was recovering from a severed leg, broken arm, crushed fingers, and fractured foot.

Hoagland told WSB-TV he believes it was divine intervention that placed him on the road that day, as he did not normally take that route.



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“God put me there for a reason because I can’t explain it,” he said.



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