



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on August 8, 2023

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The Goodness of America

God's Love and Bounty Abounds

Mike and Lana Cross of Anadarko, Oklahoma, are spreading kindness in their community in a unique way — by giving away the produce grown from their abundant garden for free.

KFOR reported that the couple is in their 70s, but they continue to spend six hours a day harvesting crops in their garden through all types of weather. Their crops include onions, okra, zucchini, berries, potatoes, and peas, the majority of which they provide to members of their community.

The Crosses take this job very seriously, and have built a kitchen in their garage to wash and prepare their produce before storing it in multiple deep freezers.

Beyond growing, washing, and storing the produce, Mike and Lana also deliver the produce themselves to those who need it most in their area.

“They bring their car loaded down with it to church, and after church they open up the tailgate and let people get what they want,” neighbor Sondra Weaver told KFOR.

The couple also provide free produce to the widows who rent duplexes from them on their property.

Weaver was so touched by the Crosses' generosity that she nominated them for the KFOR “Pay It Forward Recognition” segment and the chance to win a \$400 gift card. On July 13, a news van from KFOR arrived at the Crosses' home, along with a church van full of the Crosses' closest friends, to deliver their winnings and record an interview with the couple.

When asked what compelled them to give away their produce, Mike simply answered, “God grows it; our part is to share it.”

Lana told KFOR they do it “to bring joy to my friends and just to glorify God. Every morning we thank him for the bounty of the garden because it's so much fun to grow.”

According to KFOR, the couple's last name is fitting, as Lana and Mike have several crosses on their property to create a “mission ‘field,’ so to speak — a place where kindness is always in bloom.”

Come One, Come All

Two brothers in Ohio were devastated when none of their invited guests showed up to their July 16 park party, but strangers from the Defiance community helped to turn the party around.

The boys' dad, Ronny Meyer, told WECT that his sons Niklaus and Kol wanted similar parties, so he decided to throw them a joint birthday celebration for their fourth and sixth birthdays.

But even though many of their friends who had been invited said they were coming, none of them turned out for party. Seeing the boys' disappointment, Meyer's wife, Lacy, turned to the Defiance community page on Facebook and invited families to come to Diehl Park for cake, hot dogs, water balloons, and fun.

Before long, the pavilion was filled with dozens of guests — strangers turned friends. The Defiance Fire Department was among the group of strangers who arrived to brighten the boys' day. One guest even showed up in a Spider-Man costume, and Spider-Man just happens to be one of Kol's favorite



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characters.

Meyer said the boys are still glowing from the excitement of the day. “They’re still excited about it. They’re so surprised at how it all turned out,” he said. “My wife and I were both in tears because it’s nothing like what we would’ve expected.”

Dumpster Diving

Parks Operation Supervisor Laura Perez of Corpus Christi, Texas, went above and beyond her job requirements to “dumpster dive” in search of a 17-year-old’s invaluable ring.

Emily Dickerson of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was with her choir in McGee Beach in Corpus Christi on June 16 after a performance at the San Antonio Six Flags when she removed her rings for safekeeping. Unfortunately, all four of them were accidentally thrown away. One of the rings contained the ashes of her deceased father.

When Dickerson realized her error, she was already on the bus back home to Iowa. Dickerson’s mother, Tina, called the city and left a message with the Parks and Recreation Department, hoping for a miracle. Fortunately, Perez heard the message and acted immediately.

Breitbart.com reported that Perez traced the trash back to a large, four-ton dumpster that had been sitting outside in the heat. Perez and her teammates decided to dive right in and sort through the trash until they found all four rings. After three hours of searching in temperatures that felt like 115 degrees, they found the ring with Dickerson’s father’s ashes. They continued to search until they found the remaining three rings — one from Dickerson’s grandmother, a Sweet 16 ring, and a promise ring from Dickerson’s boyfriend.

Amazingly, Dickerson told news station KSAT, the team did not even know the sentimentality behind the missing rings, yet still “went above and beyond” for her.

A Stylish Sendoff

When 10-year-old Drew Patchin headed to Houston from Creve Coeur, Missouri, for a July 19 surgery for a rare form of brain cancer, his firefighter neighbor Joshua Gumpenberger wanted to send him off in style, Fox2Now reported.

Gumpenberger, of the St. Louis City Fire Department, knew that one of Drew’s wishes was to be famous, so he decided to organize a police and fire escort to lead Drew and his family on their white tour bus out of the city. He invited friends, family, and community members to line the streets to salute Drew as they drove off to Houston.

Before boarding the bus, Drew was presented with his own fire helmet and received patches and challenge coins from various emergency services departments, according to a Facebook post. Police, firefighters, and ambulance drivers waited to begin escorting the tour bus out of the St. Louis area.

Gumpenberger felt compelled to do something for Drew, having experienced similar health challenges as a teenager. His advice to Drew is to stay positive. In the meantime, he invites everyone to pray for Drew and his family. Drew’s surgery was a success, but his treatment and journey ahead will be long and complicated.



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