



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on September 5, 2023

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The Goodness of America

To Serve and Protect

When Arapahoe County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Weiner responded to a domestic dispute in Denver, he went above and beyond to help a struggling family in need.

Weiner arrived at a Denver-area home on June 30 to find 71-year-old Vicki Green, a great-grandmother raising two small boys under the age of 10. Green called the police after a fight with her partner, who allegedly intentionally ate the last two hot dogs in the house meant for the boys and made the children sit and watch him eat them. The house had no other food to feed the boys, and they were hungry.

Green told Weiner her social-security check would not arrive until the following week. Weiner wanted to do something to help the family, so when he left their home, he went to a nearby Walmart and purchased milk, bread, chicken, hamburger meat, breakfast foods, hot dogs, peanut butter, jelly, and juice.

Green was very appreciative for Weiner's act of kindness, calling him a blessing. She encouraged him to share his body-cam footage, which captured the good deed, to inspire others, according to an Arapahoe County Sheriff's Facebook post.

CBS News reported Weiner's partner connected Green with her local food bank, which has been bringing her groceries ever since.

Haircuts, Hamburgers, and Humanity

Nineteen-year-old Darnell Wells is a barber at "The Shop" in the Memphis northside neighborhood of Frayser. This summer, Wells decided to take his skills outside to offer free haircuts to the homeless in his community. He reached out to friends via social media to see if anyone would be interested in teaming up with him to provide food during the free haircuts, and Zac Sherrod responded enthusiastically.

When Wells first arrived at the spot where he had announced the haircuts would be provided, there were only two people waiting for the service. But by the end of the day, he had given nine haircuts, with five more people waiting.

"We were just trying to help as many people as we can. We didn't know we were going to help that many people," said Wells.

And while Wells cut hair, Sherrod grilled and distributed hamburgers to those who came for haircuts. Sherrod paid for the food out of his own pocket, News Channel 3 WREG Memphis reported. Sherrod believes he handed out at least 30 burgers by the end of the day.

Wells said he learned a lot through the experience, as the men shared their stories with him about how they became homeless.

Initially, the boys did not want to share their good deeds, which have since gone viral on social media. But when it became clear that there was a great need in their community, they decided to tell their story in the hopes that it would inspire others to give generously in their own communities.



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Football Family

When Brian Dooley learned that one of his teammates at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) needed to donate plasma to be able to afford school, he decided to give him his own hard-earned scholarship instead.

Dooley is an offensive lineman who earned a full scholarship to undergraduate and graduate school at EMU. His friend Zack Conti earned his place on EMU's football team as a "walk-on" in 2019, according to ABC News, meaning he did not earn a scholarship. Instead, Conti paid his \$7,000-per-semester tuition all on his own, even donating plasma to do so.

"Football is something I really love, so ever since I got to school, I've had to do whatever it takes to stay here and stay in a good position with academics and football and everything," Conti, a senior at Eastern Michigan, said in a video shared by the university with ABC News. "So I work a landscaping job and I rip out carpets and I demo tile floors whenever I'm not working or not doing football or going to school."

But as much of a hustler as Conti is, the bills continue to pile up. On top of that issue, he is also dealing with a family health crisis, as his mother awaits a kidney donor. Conti had been considering quitting the team. When Dooley heard this, he went straight to his coach and asked how he could go about transferring his scholarship to Conti to keep him on the team. Dooley said Conti's work ethic had been an inspiration to him.

After a pep talk about Conti's work ethic, EMU head football coach Chris Creighton announced during an August team meeting that Dooley was gifting his scholarship to Conti.

As a graduate student in his final year of eligibility, Dooley knew that Conti would need it more than he did. Conti will be able to use the scholarship for the rest of his undergraduate career, as well as for graduate school, *Good Morning America* reported.

"It's a family here and we've got the season coming up here soon," Dooley said. "I know [Conti] and I are going to do well, and it all starts with the o-line and we're going to take it week by week."

EMU kicked off its football season on September 1.

Forever Brothers

Corporal Shawn Kelly of the Denham Springs Police Department (DSPD) in Louisiana was killed in the line of duty before he could see his son, Liam, start kindergarten, so his friends at the department showed up at Liam's school on the first day of school to show their support.

Officer Kelly was shot on May 11 after responding to a call about a man involved in multiple road-rage incidents in the area, and succumbed to his injuries on June 2. Liam was sad that his father could not be there when he started school on August 17, but officers with the DSPD made sure to be there to send Liam off, KBTX reported.

"We wanted him [Kelly] to know just how much his blue family supported him, and we were honored to help make sure that Liam's first day was unforgettable," the department wrote in a Facebook post, which featured several photos of Liam wearing his backpack alongside DSPD officers.



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