



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on September 26, 2023

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## **The Goodness of America**

### **Angel Tipper**

A generous stranger made August very special for four different waitresses at three restaurants in Rowlett, Texas, by leaving them \$2,000 tips on very small checks, Fox 4 reported.

On August 23, an anonymous woman dined at Dalrock Diner, where she ordered an omelet breakfast. To the shock of restaurant owner George Touris, she left her waitress a \$2,000 tip on her \$21 receipt.

Touris told Fox 4 he had seen generous tipping in the past, but not to this extent. "I have people give \$200, \$300, but \$2,000, never," he enthused.

Later that same afternoon, server Gysel Martinez at Senaida's Mexican Kitchen was surprised with a \$2,000 tip by the same woman, who has earned the nickname "angel tipper." Martinez said the woman ordered chicken nachos, and paid for her bill and left without saying goodbye. As Martinez bussed the table, she discovered the receipt with the tip.

Martinez told Fox 4 that the money made it possible for her to buy a flight to see her father for the first time in two years.

Senaida's Mexican Kitchen asked the woman to come forward so that Martinez could express her deepest gratitude in a social media post, but it seems the woman wishes to remain anonymous. "I would like to thank her in person. I would like to give her a hug," Martinez said.

On August 25, the angel tipper struck again at Dalrock Diner. After ordering a house omelet with hash browns and toast, the mystery woman left another \$2,000 tip.

Touris' wife, Clarissa, told Fox 4 that the generosity shown by the stranger was eye-opening and serves as a reminder that "there are a lot of good people out there."

On August 29, Kiki's Mexican Restaurant in Rowlett posted that they too received a \$2,000 tip from the anonymous woman.

"We are truly humbled and grateful for this incredibly generous \$2,000 tip to our server," Kiki's posted on their Facebook page. "Your kindness and support mean the world to us and we're honored to have such wonderful customers like you. Your gesture brightened our day and reaffirms our commitment to providing exceptional service," the restaurant's post said.

According to Texas' *Rockwall County Herald-Banner*, a \$2,000 tip was also left at a Los Pinos in Royse City. They believe it was a fifth from the angel tipper.

### **Teen Tackles Schools' Lunch Debts**

Fourteen-year-old DeJuan Strickland of North County, Missouri, took it upon himself to pay the school lunch debt for every student at McCurdy Elementary, his former school.

Strickland set up a GoFundMe page as a way to raise funds for students who cannot afford to buy food in the cafeteria. He said he was inspired because he remembers fighting hunger at school when he was in fourth grade. At the time, his mother was on disability and had limited income.

"Sometimes a kid's only meal that they eat during the day is at school. If they don't have the money to



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pay for that, then that is a big problem,” he told KOMU.

Strickland presented a \$400 check to McCurdy Elementary just before the start of the school year to clear the students’ debts so they could eat lunch at school when the school year began.

After he reached his goal, he decided he wanted to eliminate school-lunch debts for all the children in Hazelwood School District, *Good Morning America* reported, which includes 19 elementary schools, six middle schools, three high schools, and other facilities. By September, his GoFundMe page had raised more than \$7,000. He plans to use \$2,500 for Hazelwood, and is looking for other districts that may need the funds.

Strickland said his giving spirit was instilled in him by his mother, who would make “blessing bags” filled with toothpaste, toothbrushes, and socks for the needy in the area.

## **Lemonade for Lahaina**

Five-year-old Edison “Eddie” Juel of Seattle was saddened by the disastrous and deadly fires in Lahaina, which he and his family had visited in January, and wanted to do something to help. He asked his parents if he could set up a lemonade stand to raise funds, and in just one week, the family was able to send a \$17,000 donation to Lahaina.

Eddie’s mother, Ami, posted on Instagram that Eddie had struggled with comprehending the devastation from the fires.

“He kept asking questions this last week,” she wrote on August 20, “clearly trying to reconcile his belief in the world being fully good with something that is so awful. He’d ask if kids had really lost all their toys, or their bed, and then drop it, the issue clearly on his mind, but hard to process.”

Ami was proud when Eddie suggested setting up a lemonade stand to help raise money for the victims. They stocked up on pink and yellow lemonade powder, as well as ice-cream sandwiches, candy, water, and popsicles. They set up the stand on a busy Seattle street hoping to raise \$100, and were shocked by the outpouring of generosity.

Some buyers were paying \$5, \$10, \$20, even \$100 for a single glass of lemonade, which was being sold for just \$1, *USA Today* reported. Others just gave money without taking anything for it.

“Most people were like, ‘this is so cool. What a great idea. We’ve been looking for ways to help. We felt so helpless and didn’t know where to donate,’” Ami told *USA Today*. “A lot of people came by and stopped and told us like their story of a trip to Hawaii or some connection they had to the island.”

When Ami saw how much people wanted to give, she set up ways to donate online, and convinced her and her husband’s employers to match whatever money they made from selling lemonade.

Ami said Eddie had a good time raising the money, and she and her husband are happy to support his positive ideas.

“[I’m] struck by how his generosity invited others to be generous,” Ami said. “It was not something we could have orchestrated for him so it was nice to see that was an idea he had.”



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