



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on January 23, 2024

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The Goodness of America

Restoring an Invaluable Memory

Linda Swartz of Champaign, Illinois, thought a voice-recording of her late mother was lost forever until an electrician with a heart of gold intervened.

Since she was a child, Swartz had owned a cherished copy of the popular children's story *Frosty the Snowman*, which included a voice-recording of her mother reading the words of the story, but after years of use, corrosion took hold of the book's circuitry and the recording no longer worked. She continued to hold on to the book for sentiment, but after her mother passed in 2020, Swartz was especially saddened by the notion that the book could no longer play her mother's voice.

Electrician Lars Robins had been called to Swartz' home just before Christmas to take care of an electrical problem when he stumbled upon the book. Swartz told him the story of the book, and Robins, a former teacher, felt compelled to help.

"Helping people is the heart of what we do, so being able to help somebody in that kind of specific way, those opportunities don't come around too often but when they do you kind of jump on them," he explained.

Robins was able to clean the corrosion off the book's circuitry and got the recording to work again.

Swartz told WCIA News that she was shocked he was able to fix the recording.

"This is pretty special, brings tears to your eyes when you hear your parent's voice again," she said.

Replaced Roof

A generous company and kindly neighbor in Marietta, Georgia, came together in a big way for a struggling mother with a leaky roof.

Amy Koonce, a single mother of two, had been dealing with a very leaky roof for the last few years, Fox 5 reported, but she simply did not have the \$10,000 needed to fix it.

"I was worried about it, didn't expect to ever get it done because it's a very expensive project," Koonce said.

Serendipitously, Transformation Roofing & Home Services posted on its Facebook page on November 28 that it was going to give away a free roof to a family in need.

"If you are reading this and this isn't something you may need, we would like to ask you to think about someone that may need it and pass it along to them as this could change their holiday season," the post read.

Koonce's neighbor, Alexa Waters, jumped at the opportunity to nominate the Koonce family for the roof, and they were selected to be the lucky recipients of the free roof.

Just after Christmas, the roofing company replaced Koonce's entire roof, noting that her old roof was in dire need, suffering from numerous leaks, rotted decking, and missing shingles.

"We've had a really good year, we're blessed to have that good year, but this is where the real impact happens, being able to give back like this. So, it's just a great feeling," owner Tyler Streetman told Fox



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For Koonce, the new roof takes a load off her mind.

“I have a type one diabetic 8-year-old daughter, and a 16-year-old son,” she explained. “We’ve had a lot of ups and downs, and this is a good moment.”

Waters is happy she could help her neighbor.

“Merrily” Indeed

Thanks to some generous theatergoers in New York City, server Clair Rachel Howell was able to fulfill her dream of seeing *Merrily We Roll Along* on Broadway.

Howell was serving a table at a restaurant in New York City’s theater district when the patrons at the table mentioned they were headed to see *Merrily We Roll Along*, a show Howell said she had wanted to see but couldn’t afford because the ticket prices were too high.

When the diners finished their meal and paid their bill, Howell was astonished to see a \$500 tip and a note attached to the bill, written by the gentleman who paid.

“Go see *Merrily*! Sit in the orchestra,” it read.

Howell posted about the strangers’ kindness on Instagram and shared photos of her amazing night at *Merrily We Roll Along*, expressing her deepest gratitude for the kind, anonymous patron who made it possible.

Taking a Knee for an Actual Good Cause

When the Michigan Wolverines took to the field before their playoff game against the Alabama Crimson Tide on January 1, they had no qualms about showcasing their spirituality. The players gathered in a large circle and knelt in prayer before the game. What’s more, following their 27-20 overtime Rose Bowl victory over Alabama, the players gave all the credit to God in their post-game press conference.

Michigan linebacker Junior Colson opened his comments by giving “all glory to God.” His sentiments were echoed by quarterback J.J. McCarthy, who bowed his head and pointed heavenward.

Later, Michigan running back Donovan Edwards talked about his faith in an interview posted to YouTube by WolverinesWire.

“Before I committed to Michigan, I heard a voice say ‘Do not worry. Everything will be alright.’ And I figured that was God talking to me,” he said.

Edwards detailed how his faith in God was unwavering, in good times and in bad.

“It’s not difficult for me to praise God and, you know, to give Him glory because He’s always given me — He’s always been there for me, you know when everything was high, so I’d be doing a disgrace to God if I wasn’t praising Him when everything was low,” Edwards said.

It’s refreshing to see college students openly expressing their faith, particularly when college campuses have become hotbeds for atheism and secular worldviews. Hopefully these young men will be able to retain their values and spirituality if and when they enter the world of professional sports.



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