



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on March 26, 2024

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The Goodness of America

“Golden” Opportunity

In a touching tale of dedication and community spirit, the trash collectors of Greenville, South Carolina, went above and beyond to reunite a woman with her lost wedding band.

Melanie Harper accidentally lost her ring while separating recyclables at the local recycling center on January 28, Greenville News reported.

“[The bin] was full,” she explained in a video shared on the City of Greenville’s Instagram page. “My hand was in between some papers and I felt it slip.”

She was devastated, as the diamond wedding band was a gift from her husband on their 25th wedding anniversary.

Despite the slim chances of finding the ring in the vast sea of trash, Harper reached out to the city’s public-works department for help.

Moved by her plight, the city’s litter pickers and public-works employees took on the challenge. Led by a man serendipitously named Travis Golden, the team meticulously searched through the refuse, overturning bins and sifting through trash in a parking lot. Their determination paid off when Golden spotted the glittery band among the waste.

The city of Greenville shared the heartwarming story on Facebook, praising the efforts of Golden and the other staff members involved. Harper was overjoyed to be reunited with her ring, thanks to the dedication and commitment of the public works team.

“Ball for All”

In a twist of fate, a California bride-to-be faced with an unfortunate circumstance chose to turn her misfortune into a heartwarming act of kindness. After calling off her nonrefundable \$15,000 December 2 wedding reception, she decided to donate the entire event to Parents Helping Parents, a nonprofit supporting parents with children who have special needs.

The reception, which included dinner, dessert, drinks, a DJ, dancing, and a photo booth, was repurposed for a special event called the “Ball for All” held at Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Gilroy. The bride’s generosity didn’t go unnoticed, with Maria Daane, the executive director of Parents Helping Parents, praising her resilience and kindness.

Invitations for the event were sent out, and all the seats were reserved within 48 hours. The ballroom was filled with young adults with special needs, their parents, and caregivers, creating a heartwarming atmosphere of joy and delight.

Daane expressed her surprise and gratitude for the bride’s donation, highlighting how it showcased the best in people.

“I’ve never heard of anyone ever calling a nonprofit and saying, ‘We want to donate a \$15,000 party in two weeks to you,’” Daane told NBC Bay Area.

“This just doesn’t happen,” she added. “I don’t expect in my career to ever see this again.”



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If the Shoe Fits

Jor'el Bolden, a 16-year-old from Missouri, faced a unique challenge when it came to finding comfortable shoes. Standing tall at 6'5" and weighing 380 pounds, Bolden wears an impressive size 23 shoe, which is difficult to find in stores. His mother, Tamika Neal, shared their struggle with KCTV 5 in January, explaining the difficulty of finding shoes that fit him properly.

Their story caught the attention of many, including NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal, who wears a size 22 shoe himself. O'Neal, known for his philanthropy, reached out to the Bolden family via Facetime, promising a surprise in the mail. True to his word, a few days later, Bolden received three boxes filled with clothes and an incredible 20 pairs of shoes.

This act of kindness isn't the first time O'Neal has reached out to help a teenager in need of shoes. Previously, he assisted Michigan teenager Eric Kilburn, Jr., providing shoes, clothes, and gifts for his younger brother, Graesyn.

For Bolden, the gift from O'Neal was life-changing. Previously, he had to make do with size 22 shoes his family found on eBay, which were so tight they prevented him from enjoying simple activities such as going to the movies. "It has been 'torture' wearing such small shoes," he shared with *USA Today*.

Even as a baby, Bolden's feet were too large for shoes, so he wore socks for the first few months of his life, according to his mother. The family had started a GoFundMe to raise funds for custom-made shoes, as buying shoes off the rack in his size would cost thousands of dollars. The fundraiser has since garnered nearly \$12,000.

"The money raised will help buy shoes as he continues to grow," said Neal, thankful for the assistance received. "Thank you for taking the time and the money that you have earned to give to me when I needed it," Bolden said during an interview with KCTV 5. "Thank you for all of the things that will come from it and that already have."

Unidentified Hero

In a bizarre turn of events, a Florida dive bar narrowly escaped destruction thanks to a quick-thinking bystander who thwarted an attempt to burn it down, Action News Jax reported.

The Jug Saloon in Jacksonville, known for its community vibe and named after a Lynyrd Skynyrd song, faced potential disaster when a regular customer entered with gasoline containers and started pouring fuel on the floor. Surveillance footage captured the tense moment as patrons and staff fled, realizing the danger.

Despite a call to the police, it was an unidentified older man who heroically tackled the suspect and prevented the fire from being lit.

After breaking free, the suspect evaded authorities for a short time before being found asleep in a nearby vehicle. Kenneth Gray, the bar's owner, vowed to take measures to ensure such an incident wouldn't happen again, and police confirmed that the state fire marshal was investigating the incident.

The suspect, identified as Vincent Siegrist, may have been motivated by a prior altercation involving another bar. Despite the drama, the Jug Saloon remains standing, a testament to the quick action of a brave individual.



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