



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on April 9, 2024

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## **The Goodness of America**

### **Art for Valor**

In Central Texas, a heartwarming story is unfolding, starring a young boy with a big heart and a talent for art, KWTX reported. Gunner Caldara, just eight years old, is not your average kid. He's the son of two Waco police officers, Kalyn and Frank, who are both deeply committed to serving their community.

Gunner's story took a remarkable turn when he decided to use his artistic skills to support a cause close to his heart — the American Valor Foundation. This nonprofit, founded by the family of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, aims to support first responders, veterans, and their families. Chris Kyle, known as the deadliest sniper in U.S. history, tragically lost his life in 2013 while trying to help a fellow veteran.

Gunner's journey began when, at the age of six, he drew a simple but powerful image — a smiley face with the words "you are worth it." With the help of his parents, Gunner turned his artwork into shirts, hats, and stickers, which he began selling to raise money for the American Valor Foundation. His efforts caught the attention of Officer Jeff Kyle, Chris Kyle's brother and president of the foundation, who was deeply touched by Gunner's generosity and compassion.

Last year Gunner donated \$500 to the foundation, and this year he hopes to double that amount in time for the Chris Kyle Memorial benefit on April 27 in San Antonio. His story is a shining example of the impact that one person, no matter his age, can have on the world. Jeff Kyle expressed his admiration for Gunner, highlighting his selflessness and caring nature and encouraging others to follow his lead.

### **Lost and Found**

In New Hampshire, an uplifting story began when Jake McAlpin accidentally threw away his 16-year-old daughter Charlotte's beloved stuffed animal, Cupcake. Cupcake, a floppy-eared dog, had been Charlotte's faithful companion since she received it for Christmas when she was just four years old.

When Charlotte realized Cupcake was missing, McAlpin's heart sank as he remembered possibly tossing the stuffed animal in the trash. Determined to find Cupcake, Charlotte's stepmother, Meredith, took to Facebook, asking for help to open the dump.

Brian Monahan, the town's Selectman in Strafford, saw Meredith's post and sprang into action, WMUR News 9 New Hampshire reported. He contacted a colleague with keys to the dump and asked if he could assist in the search for Cupcake. On a rainy Thursday morning, March 7, the two embarked on a mission to sift through the trash compactors.

The compactors had compressed the waste bags so tightly that Monahan's colleague, Strafford Recycling Center Superintendent Dan Conway, had to use a backhoe to loosen the trash. Despite the unpleasant conditions, they were determined to find Cupcake. When McAlpin arrived and saw their efforts, he jumped in to help.

Together, the three men rummaged through the trash until, finally, they found Cupcake. The relief and joy were palpable. Conway remarked, "It made us feel pretty good; no one wants to be without their stuffy, and the smile on her face said it all."

The town's unity and willingness to go above and beyond for Charlotte and her cherished toy demonstrate the kindness and compassion that exist in the community.



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## Unique Gifts

In Albany, Minnesota, kindergarten teacher Jody Abraham took on a very thoughtful project, inspired by her grandmother's gift from her childhood, reported KARE 11. Her grandmother had crocheted a warm hat and scarf for her, a gesture that left a lasting impression on her.

Wanting to create a similar experience for her students, Jody came up with a creative idea. Just before the start of Christmas break, she asked her young pupils to draw and color pictures of hats. Little did they know, these drawings would become the basis for real hats that she would knit for each of her 18 students.

Over six weeks, Jody set aside some of her household chores to focus on knitting the hats. For her, this project was more than just creating caps; it was about cherishing each student's unique qualities and pondering their future paths.

"As I knit [for] each student, I like to think about them and wonder: Who are you going to be someday? And what are you going to do? And right now, these are the amazing qualities you bring to our class," Jody shared.

When the children received their surprises, they were overjoyed. They loved wearing their personalized hats, a tangible reminder of their teacher's care and thoughtfulness.

Jody's act of kindness and creativity didn't go unnoticed. Social-media users praised her for her dedication and compassion, with one person commenting, "Jody you are an amazing person and phenomenal teacher. You truly care about all of your kiddos and it shows. Thank you for being so awesome!! You are making a difference."

## Helping the Homeless

In Palm Beach County, Florida, 10-year-old Cassadee Wood is being celebrated for her compassionate efforts to help the homeless community. It all began three years ago when Cassadee decided to forgo traditional birthday gifts, and instead asked for money to give to those in need.

For her most recent birthday, Cassadee worked alongside the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office homeless intervention team to deliver 20 care packages to homeless individuals across the county. The office took notice of Cassadee's kindness and is now recognizing her for her selflessness.

As a token of appreciation, the sheriff's office is planning to take Cassadee to Boomers (a local indoor amusement center) as a belated birthday gift. Additionally, they have offered to pay for her tuition, since Cassadee expressed her desire to become a police officer when she grows up.



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