

Written by **Raven Clabough** on April 23, 2024





The Goodness of America

Bounty of Baskets

In Worcester, Massachusetts, 12-year-old Josh Sowden is proving that kindness knows no age limits. With a heart as big as his dreams, Josh embarked on a mission to bring joy to homeless children this Easter.

Drawing from his own experiences with adversity, Josh set out to collect enough donations for 175 Easter baskets to brighten the holiday for local children living in homeless shelters. However, his project quickly gained attention and support from both his community and people across the nation after his story was aired on WBZ-TV earlier this year.

Thanks to the overwhelming response, Josh's goal was not only met but exceeded, CBS News reported. The project garnered enough donations to create more than 300 Easter baskets, ensuring that even more children would be touched by his kindness. Sixty of these baskets were tailored for infants, while an additional 100 donated eggs were given to a nonprofit group called Community of Love and Support Project, which had previously supported Josh's family when they faced homelessness.

With the help of the Worcester Railers hockey team, Josh personally delivered the baskets to homeless shelters across Massachusetts, bringing smiles to the faces of many children. Inspired by his success, Josh and his family aspire to establish a nonprofit to continue spreading joy and kindness in the future.

Lemonade in Loving Memory

In Scottsboro, Alabama, seven-year-old Emouree Johnson has sparked a wave of kindness and support in her community, AL.com reported. After tragically losing her mother, Karli Bordner, in March, Emouree decided to take action. With the determination only a child can muster, she set up a lemonade stand at her grandmother's house to raise money for her mother's tombstone, which her family couldn't afford due to financial hardship.

Emouree's story spread through word of mouth and social media, capturing the hearts of many. Debbie Light, owner of Gear Jammers restaurant, was one of the first to share Emouree's story online, inviting others to join her in supporting the young girl. The response was overwhelming, with hundreds of people flocking to buy lemonade and offer donations.

The community's support has been nothing short of astounding. Local businesses, motorcycle groups, police officers, judges, and first responders all rallied around Emouree's cause, some even bringing supplies to ensure she'd never run out of lemonade. The local Piggly Wiggly grocery store even ran out of lemons due to the high demand.

But it wasn't just about the lemonade. Emouree received an outpouring of love in various forms, from food to clothing, as the community wrapped its arms around her and her family during their time of need. Monument companies have also stepped up, offering to donate a tombstone for Karli.

Emouree's grandmother, Jennifer Bordner, expressed her gratitude for the overwhelming support, noting how much it has meant to Emouree. "Just the love that Emouree has felt from this ... she keeps saying, 'Everyone loved my mommy,'" Bordner shared. The community's outpouring of kindness has not only helped raise funds, but also provided comfort and healing to a family in mourning.



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Man of Action

In Surfside Beach, South Carolina, a young man's quick thinking and bravery saved the day for a couple in a terrifying car crash, WMBF reported. Joseph Moreau, a manager at Bonefish Grill, sprang into action when he heard the sound of a collision on the Highway 17 Bypass on March 21.

Without hesitation, Moreau rushed through a ditch to reach the scene of the accident, where he found the couple trapped inside their vehicle. Despite the danger, he managed to pry open the door and rescue them just before the car burst into flames and its tires exploded.

But Moreau's heroism didn't end there, as he was able to save a third person from a different car. His quick actions helped prevent a potentially tragic outcome.

While Moreau downplays his actions, stating he doesn't consider himself a hero, he credits his ability to stay calm in chaotic situations to his experience in the restaurant industry. "I thrive in chaos, that's kitchen work in general, that's restaurant work in general. You have to keep calm in chaos," he explained.

Harrison's Heroes

In Raleigh, North Carolina, 11-year-old Harrison Johnson has shown remarkable determination and compassion. Despite being thousands of miles away from Hawaii, Harrison has raised an impressive \$81,000 for history projects commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Harrison first learned about the attack in third grade, *The Washington Post* reported, and it left a mark on him.

"I was so drawn into it, and I noticed that other children in my neighborhood didn't know much about it," said Harrison. "After I finished the project, all I wanted to talk about was Pearl Harbor."

This led him to study the event extensively, including reading books and newspapers and speaking with survivors.

Harrison's fundraising efforts have included collecting donations door-to-door, selling patriotic popsicles, and delivering public speeches. He's hosted three events at a local Panera Bread for his cause, and has even had the opportunity to connect with some of the few remaining survivors of the attack.

A visit to the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Oahu further inspired Harrison to start his campaign, "Harrison's Heroes."

"It was like everything I learned about fit together," Harrison told the *Post*. "I was at the place where it all happened; it was like a story book."

Through Harrison's Heroes, he hopes to raise \$100,000 for Pacific Historic Parks, the nonprofit organization managing the Pearl Harbor memorial.



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