



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on June 25, 2024

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The Goodness of America

Heroic Flood Rescue

A Houston resident's life was saved during a severe storm thanks to the heroic actions of a stranger. On May 28, Jeff Jones found himself in a perilous situation while driving home amid heavy rain and strong winds that wreaked havoc across the city.

Jones, navigating through the flooded streets near Interstate 45, underestimated the depth of the water, and his truck was swept into a pedestrian bridge before being carried into a drainage ditch. As his vehicle began to sink and the roof collapsed, Jones knew he was in serious danger.

"Within moments, my truck sank, and I was thrown out into the water," Jones told FOX 26 Houston. He knew that leaving the truck would be even more dangerous, as the current could easily overpower him.

During those terrifying moments, Jones couldn't help but think about his loved ones. "I was worried about what I might leave behind," he admitted. Desperate, he called 911, but was unable to give his exact location due to the chaotic situation.

Witnesses saw the harrowing scene unfold. Renee Young, an onlooker, recalled seeing Jones struggling inside his truck. "The water was nearly chest-deep, and he was banging on the windshield," she said.

Just when things seemed dire, Robert Chance appeared on the scene. "The truck was lifting and water was pouring in," Chance explained. He acted quickly, knowing that time was of the essence. A construction worker, Chance had tools with him, which he was able to use to break a passenger-side window and pull Jones out.

Chance's timely intervention allowed Jones to escape from the sinking truck. "I have a few cuts and bruises, but the emotional scars will take longer to heal," Jones said, expressing deep gratitude for Chance's bravery.

Big Heart, Big Impact

In Blue Springs, Missouri, a young student has made a remarkable difference in his school community with an act of kindness. Eleven-year-old Daken Kramer, a fifth-grader at Thomas Ultican Elementary School, took it upon himself to raise funds to pay off the school's entire meal debt by the end of this school year. His efforts resulted in donations of more than \$7,300, as reported by CNN.

Daken's initiative started with a modest goal of \$3,500, roughly equivalent to the school's meal debt. However, the response from the community and beyond was overwhelming, allowing him to surpass this goal. The additional funds were donated to a local high school.

"It's important for kids to eat. I don't think they could make it through the day without eating a school lunch," Daken told ABC 7. This understanding of the importance of proper nutrition for his peers fueled his determination to help.

The fundraising campaign began when Daken appeared in a video on his mother's Facebook page, appealing to friends, family, and local businesses for support. The heartfelt message resonated with many, including donors from Texas, Florida, and New Jersey, who contributed to the cause and helped Daken exceed his goal.



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The significance of a nutritious lunch cannot be overstated. As noted by Live Strong, lunch is crucial for re-energizing the body and maintaining focus and concentration, especially for school-aged children who rely on this meal to sustain them through the day.

In recognition of his extraordinary efforts, Daken was honored with the creation of the Daken Kramer Legacy Award, a new accolade that will be given to children who demonstrate exceptional dedication to helping others.

During the fifth-grade graduation ceremony, Daken's teacher, Kristi Haley, announced the award, commending Daken for his compassion and perseverance. "Your selfless actions will impact dozens of students throughout the district. It's not the amount of money you raised, although that was absolutely incredible. It's your heart, your drive, your determination, and your grit to help others that inspires us," she said.

Teacher's Gift of Life

A young boy in New York has been given a second chance at life thanks to the incredible generosity of his former preschool teacher. Five-year-old Ezra Toczek has been struggling with liver complications since birth. His health took a turn for the worse in February when he was diagnosed with end-stage liver disease. After waiting for months on the transplant list, Ezra's family received some uplifting news.

Carissa Fisher, who taught Ezra in preschool, decided to help without telling his family. She applied to become a living donor in March, and recently received approval to donate part of her liver. On May 24, Fisher went to the Toczek home with balloons, a stuffed animal, and a sign to share the wonderful news.

Karen Toczek, Ezra's mother, was deeply moved by Fisher's actions. "We are completely overwhelmed with her kindness and generosity. It keeps hitting us unexpectedly that it's really happening," she told People.com.

Fisher will work with the transplant team to schedule the surgery after a required two-week reflection period. Karen expressed her gratitude in an emotional Facebook post, sharing her astonishment and relief. "Miss Carissa is a perfect match! The tears keep coming, and though I knew we'd be relieved to get the news eventually, I had no idea just how it would hit me! The most amazing gift," she wrote.

To help cover the costs associated with her trips and stay in New York City for the surgery, Fisher started a GoFundMe campaign. She also encouraged others to consider becoming living donors, highlighting the significant difference it can make in someone's life. "There are thousands of people in need of livers and kidneys, and you never know whose life you'll be changing," she said.

Despite his condition, Ezra remains resilient. Karen explained, "He has struggles, fatigue, sleep difficulties, and days where he just isn't feeling well, but overall he is a trooper and finds joy every day."

Reflecting on the moment she revealed her plans to Ezra and his parents, Fisher described it as highly emotional. "It made me very happy to see both of them happy," she told WKBW.



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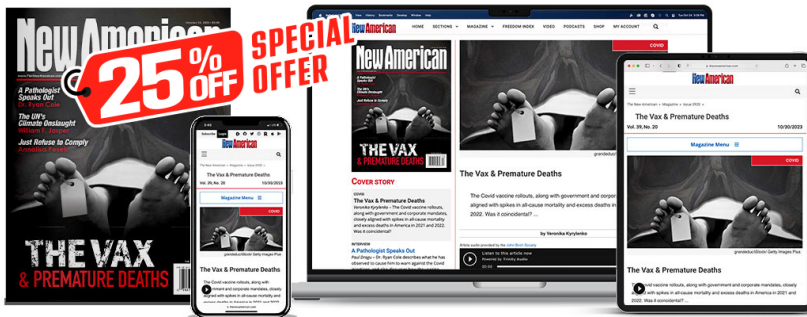
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