



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on October 7, 2020

Published in the October 19, 2020 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 36, No. 20

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## **The Goodness of America**

### **Altruistic Veteran Gifted a Car**

An anonymous donor worked with an auto body shop to surprise a veteran with a car in this story out of Knox County, Tennessee.

Breitbart News reported that Jerrold Eaton served in the U.S. Army for nine years, four of which were in active duty. Now retired, Eaton spends his days engaged in community service, which includes caring for his elderly neighbors by taking them grocery shopping, mowing their lawns, and ensuring they make it to their doctor's appointments.

But as much as his elderly neighbors appreciate his good deeds, they struggle climbing into his large Ford F-150 pickup truck, which is without air conditioning, making the summer months in his truck particularly difficult.

Serendipitously, a vehicle became available that would eventually be gifted to Eaton. According to WATE, an ABC-affiliated TV station, a woman who wished to remain anonymous went into an auto repair shop owned by Wendy Caldwell and her husband, Miller Brothers Transmission Auto Repair and Body Shop, with an SUV that belonged to her deceased father. The woman said she wanted to donate the vehicle to someone in need and wanted to do so anonymously.

Caldwell's shop performed repairs on the vehicle — a 2012 Jeep Liberty — gave it a tune-up, and replaced the tires. Once the vehicle was in good condition, they were unsure of how to go about deciding who should receive the donated vehicle, but "As we learned more and more about her dad, we found out he was a proud Vietnam veteran," Caldwell said.

With the help of the Knox County Mayor's Office, the Caldwells contacted the Disabled American Veterans Tri-County Chapter 26, a local veterans' organization, and they suggested Eaton would be a good candidate for the gift.

Of Eaton, Howard McNeill, a commander with Chapter 26, said, "He's a giver and has a servant's heart."

Eaton received the car on August 14.

For Eaton, the new car is only going to make it easier for him to continue to do the good work he has been doing for his neighbors.

### **Paying It Forward Since 2017**

A \$1,000 tip given in 2017 continues to reverberate goodness three years later.

Lexy Burke was a waitress at the Honky Tonk Central in Nashville in 2017 when she received a \$1,000 tip from a very generous customer.

Stunned, all she could do was repeatedly ask, "Are you sure?"

Burke and her husband decided they were going to pay forward the kindness shown to Burke on that fateful day.

The *Tennessean* reported that Burke and her husband recently gave \$1,000 to a man playing violin



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outside a Target with a sign that read, “Need to help my mom with rent — God bless.”

Footage of the August 8 encounter went viral, prompting kind people all across the country to donate more than \$80,000 to Burke’s Venmo account so that she could continue to bless others in the same way.

“\$80,000+ raised to date just because you all have wanted to make a strangers [*sic*] day!! still so much to give. THANK YOU,” she wrote on her TikTok account, which now features a compilation video of all the individuals who have received gifts.

But even though Burke’s campaign has only recently gained national attention, she has been handing out \$1,000 gifts since May.

According to some of the worthy recipients of Burke’s gifts, the experience is more than just the money — it offers a sense of hope in a world that seems hopeless at times. “It’s great to know there’s really good people out in the world. Everything, all the chaos and anger, went away for a minute,” said deli server Toni Hayes, who immediately gave \$20 to each of her fellow workers in the restaurant after receiving \$1,000 from the Burkes on August 2. “It really just gave me a sense of hope.”

The feedback has been so positive, both from the recipients of the money as well as from generous donors, that Burke has announced she will be able to start increasing her tips to \$2,000 up to \$2,500 in the very near future.

## Forever Family

When nine-year-old Jordan of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, said his only wish was to find a forever family to adopt him after his little brother, Braison, was adopted last year, his story tugged at many heartstrings.

“I would just like to have a family to call mom and dad or just mom or just dad. I don’t really care. The reason it’s important is because so I could have some people to talk to anytime I need to. I hope one of y’all pick me,” he told KFOR’s Lacey Lett in an August TV interview.

Jordan and Braison were featured in a story by KFOR three years ago, when, at the time, the siblings lived in separate group homes and were desperate to be adopted together.

Unfortunately, Braison was adopted, but Jordan was not, and Jordan admits he does not get to see much of his little brother anymore.

By the time he was featured again by KFOR in August of this year, finding a forever family was the only thing on Jordan’s mind.

“If you could go anywhere, anywhere in the whole wide world, where would it be?” Lett asked.

“To an adoption party for a home,” Jordan said.

And if he were granted three wishes? “To have a family, and family, family. Those are the only wishes I have,” Jordan said.

Just days after the feature, Lett announced Jordan’s story had been viewed more than two million times. According to Jordan’s permanency planning worker, Christopher Marlowe, more than 5,000 applications have flooded in for the boy.



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What's more, Marlowe said he was hopeful he would be able to reconnect Jordan and Braison. "His brother's adoptive family has been agreeable to that and even if things go well, they said they would be willing to take them out on day passes so they could spend some good quality time together," he said, according to Breitbart News.



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