



The Goodness of America

Aiding a Security Guard

Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue will be recognizing a number of heroes who stepped up to assist a security guard who had been stabbed in a Danville Social Security office earlier last month.

When security guard Jason Alsbaugh was stabbed on February 3, David Hyde and Pamela Anthony, visitors to the office, as well as Anthony Burt and Justin Hacker, employees at the same office, came to Alsbaugh's rescue.

Hyde indicates that he was in the lobby of the building when he heard another client exchange words with the guard. When the guard turned his back to the client, the man attacked Alsbaugh.

Hyde sprung into action, grabbed the attacker, and pulled him off of Alsbaugh. Hyde was then joined by Burt and Hacker.

"The guard did nothing, absolutely nothing, to provoke this. He was just doing his job, escorting the man outside," said Hyde. "I couldn't let that man be assaulted. He was just blindsided. He was being hurt. It was just instinct; I jumped up and helped him."

Once the attacker was detained, Pamela Anthony applied pressure to Alsbaugh's wounds until an ambulance arrived.

Following the commotion, Michelle Anaya, an employee at the Social Security office, described the scene as she observed it from her cubicle: She heard people screaming, "He's being stabbed; he's being stabbed!" As she peeked out from her cubicle, Anaya saw the injured guard, who suffered wounds to his abdomen and throat, and noticed the suspect lying motionless on the floor.

County administrator Dan Sleeper notes that the situation could have been far more dire had it not been for the heroics of those involved, particularly Hyde, who was the first to act.

"He was there representing America and he did the right thing," said Sleeper.

Hyde contends that he is no hero, just an old, retired tire builder who is getting unprovoked credit for something that resulted from his being in the right place at the right time.

"That guard would've done it for me. If I'd been the one getting stabbed, the guard would've been there for me and everybody in that room. He deserved help, and he got it," Hyde explained.

He adds jokingly, "I was in the office applying for disability. I guess they may not think I'm so disabled now."

Local Basketball Team Sets Stellar Example

The Lakota East High School basketball team is exceptional for more than its undefeated record. The team has employed the efforts of sophomore Joey Huff, who has cerebral palsy, to help keep the team equipped with water and towels.

Likewise, Huff notes that the team protects him and assures that he is guarded from bullying. "They look out for me," says Huff. "It's fun."

This is especially true of senior John Brady and his brother Keith, who have taken Joey under their



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wings.

Brady went to a fitness class for special-needs boys to root for Huff. "That fitness camp for Joey is kind of his Friday nights, so for me, to go out there and support and cheer him on, I thought it was something that everyone would enjoy," said Brady.

Huff's parents could not be more proud. According to Joey's father, Dennis, "It touches my heart. It means the world to get to see my son participate and be a part of things that normal kids do."

Huff's parents also assert that the team's simple gesture of offering Joey the position of the team manager has helped to alter Joey's life for the better. Dennis explains, "It means the world to Joey to be involved with his fellow students."

The team's coach, Wally Vickers, says that the team, which includes Joey Huff, has become a family. "We really take a family approach to how we do things and Joey has been embraced by the team."

Today, when bullying has become a prevalent force in our nation's schools, the Lakota East High School basketball team proves Albert Einstein's wise words, "Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another; it is the only means."

Dynamic Duo Saves Family

On February 14, Jason and Kayela Voss planned to go out for a romantic Valentine's Day dinner. Little did they know that they were about to become heroes for a local family who were in a minivan in Detroit, Michigan, that had crashed into a bridge support and burst into flames.

As the Vosses drove down I-94, they noticed the fiery minivan. They immediately pulled over and took action. Jason, along with a number of others, helped to remove the driver from the car after it became clear that she was stuck inside.

"If that lady didn't get out of there I knew she was going to burn up," said Jason, asserting that she likely only had a few minutes to spare. "There's no way I would just sit there and watch somebody burn. I'd hope if I was ever in that situation or more importantly, my wife or my kids, that somebody would do the same thing."

Once the driver was pulled from the vehicle, Kayela, who worked as an emergency room nurse for five years, used her nursing skills to tend to the driver's burns. She also treated the wounds of the other passengers in the vehicle.

One of the van's passengers suffered a wound that could have caused him to bleed to death. Jason removed his belt so that Kayela could use it as a tourniquet, but once they discovered that the belt was too large, Kayela removed her sweater and wrapped it around the passenger's arms to stop the bleeding, an act which Jason contends was life-saving. Kayela then laid the man on his side, wrapped a coat around him, and elevated the side of his body where the wound was found in order to slow the bleeding.

Kayela says, "It was completely instinctive."

Six of the seven members of the family were hospitalized, but the injuries suffered were minor compared to what could have happened had it not been for the Vosses.

According to Jason and Kayela, it was miraculous that they were in the right place at the right time. "I



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feel like God just had other plans for us,” remarked Jason.



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