



The Goodness of America

TV Program Celebrates Charities and Donors

On Sunday, March 6, ABC premiered a new hit series called *Secret Millionaire*, an import from England. On its first day on ABC, the show enjoyed 12.6 million viewers, and for good reason. It is a feel-good reality show that highlights the hard work and struggles of local charities, and provides those charities the opportunity to receive generous donations from charitable millionaires who volunteer for the charities incognito.

In the premiere of *Secret Millionaire*, viewers became familiar with Dani Johnson, who appeared as the secret millionaire. Johnson's life story is incredible, and serves as a motivation for her generous spirit. Johnson grew up on welfare, became pregnant at 17, was homeless by 21, and became a millionaire by the age of 23. Only in America! Johnson became successful when she licensed a weight-loss product and eventually transitioned to starting a company manufacturing her own nutritional and skin-care products. She is now the entrepreneur of five companies, a best-selling author, and a motivational speaker.

Johnson rejected requests to appear on the show four times before she finally accepted, believing that the process of giving to charities should be done in secret. In an interview with *The Christian Post*, she explained that she had a revelation, however, after reading the Bible that she "was fighting God and that God was the one to open up the door and it was clear that He wanted this message to get out there."

On the premiere, Johnson voluntarily headed to Western Heights, an impoverished neighborhood in Knoxville, Tennessee, where over half of the residents live below poverty level. While posing as a volunteer at several local non-profit organizations in the community, including The Love Kitchen — a charity that provides meals, clothing, and emergency food packages to homebound, homeless, and unemployed persons — Johnson admitted that she was inspired by the love and sacrifice of those running the charities. She revealed her identity as a millionaire businesswoman and presented each of the organizations with checks upwards of \$10,000.

Johnson's charitable endeavors are not limited to her appearance on *Secret Millionaire*. She explained, "I just came back from India from an orphanage with 237 boys whose parents were martyred for Christ." She says that she has "expanded the vision that God gave me seven years ago — helping people succeed in business so that they could go and make a difference in other people's lives."

Johnson's spirituality and difficult past have provided her with the determination to help make the lives of others a bit easier. She adds that one does not need to be wealthy in order to aid others.

"No matter how much or how little you make, you don't need to make a lot of money to make a difference in your community."

Viewers of *Secret Millionaire* encounter incredible stories such as Johnson's, pertaining to both the wealthy and generous millionaire donors, as well as to those who are running the commendable charities.

The program, which airs on Sundays at 8 p.m., has provided the opportunity for charities that are relatively unknown to gain national attention, which will hopefully bolster donations to their worthy



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causes. Such charities include Young Detroit Builders, an organization that takes teenagers from broken homes in gang-ridden neighborhoods and teaches them a trade while providing them guidance, and Maintaining a Neighborhood (MAN), a group that helps to patrol the dangerous streets of Detroit to ensure that kids are arriving at school safely.

Man Intervenes in Poughkeepsie Tragedy

George Siegrist, Jr. emerged as a hero during the shooting tragedy in Poughkeepsie, New York, on February 18. On his way home from his office, Siegrist noticed a man, whom he believed to be having a heart attack, lying in the street with his child in his arms.

Siegrist told Hudson Valley's *Your News Now*, "He was standing up when I originally turned on the Route 9 ramp, but then he started to lay down. He was holding his chest, his arm was shaking, classic signs of a heart attack. So I said, 'This guy's having a heart attack, his kid's going to get hit by a car, let me see if I can do something.'"

Upon approaching the wounded man, Lee Welch, however, Siegrist discovered that the man was wounded and holding a gun.

"I said, 'Put the gun down and kick it away. Let me help your daughter,'" explained Siegrist. When Welch refused to comply, Siegrist called the police, who came to the scene.

When a police officer tried to confront the gunman, he tried to run from him. The officer was able to overtake the man and managed to rescue the child from his arms, handing the toddler to Siegrist as other officers arrived.

As more police arrived on the scene, however, a quick exchange of gunfire took place, killing Police Detective John Falcone.

The suspect was shot and killed as well, though it was not clear whether he shot himself or was shot by one of the officers. Later, police learned that the little girl's mother had been shot and killed minutes earlier by Welch.

The efforts of Siegrist and the police helped bring the three-year-old child to safety. Despite Siegrist's bravery, he refuses to call himself a hero, instead highlighting the heroics of the police. "Their training, their heroism, their professionalism, their courage. These guys really need to be put on a pedestal," said Siegrist.

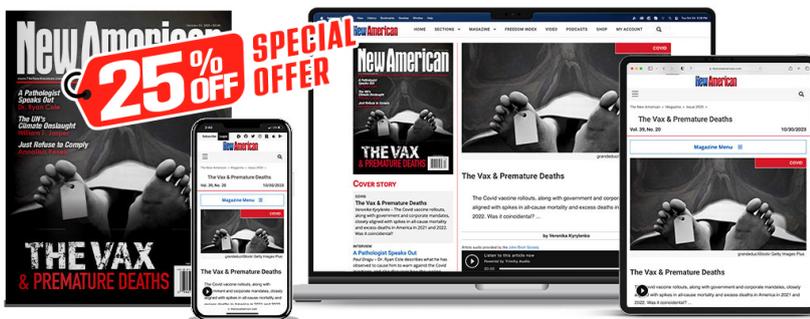


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