



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on May 9, 2011

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The Goodness of America

Unlikely Hero Saves Woman's Life

While a number of drivers passed the burning house on Dunksferry Road in Bensalem without stopping, Joe MacAdams, 64, was not one of them. As worried neighbors stood on the lawn and awaited the arrival of the fire department, MacAdams took action, responding to the screams of a woman trapped inside the house, reports PhillyBurbs.com.

"As soon as I crested the hill in the road, I saw flames coming out of the window of the house," recalled MacAdams. "The neighbors were trying to flag people down, but people didn't stop their cars. I had my granddaughter with me and told her to stay in the car."

The fire broke out at approximately 1 p.m. after the owner of the home fell asleep with a cigarette in her hand.

"There was a fence around the property," continued MacAdams. "I remember I backed up and just ran into the fence like a football player. It must have been rotted. I put my shoulder into it. I went to the back of the house and there were a couple golfers yelling over a fence that there was someone in the house and they could hear her."

He went on, "I went up to the back door and the glass was broken and I could hear her screaming inside. She was lying on the floor. Somehow I got her up and out of the house. I got her onto a recliner that was sitting in the backyard. I fell to my knees because I was choking."

Bensalem Township fire investigator Robert Sponheimer arrived on the scene shortly afterwards and was astonished by MacAdam's bravery and willingness to take action.

"I guess what really stood out to us was that he actually took action," explained Sponheimer. "So many people will just stop and call 911, and knock on the doors. But this guy did something. He actually ran in there."

Sponheimer nominated MacAdams for the Good Samaritan Hero Award from the American Red Cross Lower Bucks County Chapter.

"It takes a special person to do something like this, it's not for everyone."

Charitable Spirits at North Carolina State University

Walt Whitman once said, "Charity and personal force are the only investments worth anything." Some students at North Carolina State University know a little something about both, as indicated by their willingness to plunge into the freezing cold temperatures of Lake Raleigh in order to raise funds for the Special Olympics.

The charitable endeavor was part of the annual Torch Run 5K and Polar Plunge, which took place at the Centennial Campus and was sponsored by the Campus Police.

All of the proceeds from the event were donated to the Special Olympics of North Carolina (SONC), whose mission is "to provide sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities."

Doctoral student Kathleen Burchardt touts the event as a wonderful opportunity to give back to the



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community. She even recruited 10 other students to join her. Called Team Naked Asci, the group even raised nearly \$2,000 to contribute to the fundraiser prior to the event.

“I thought the event would be a lot of fun and it is for a really good cause. I am interested in raising money for SONC because my younger brother is autistic, and I know the organization does a lot for families with special needs individuals,” Burchardt told NCSU Student Media.

While all members of Team Naked Asci participated in the run, only two brave souls took part in the plunge: Kestrel Lannon and Katie Neufeld.

Neufeld explains her decision to participate in the freezing adventure. “I saw a polar plunge when I was younger and thought the people were crazy. However, I saw an advertisement for the plunge and thought it would be fun.”

In addition to the satisfaction of braving such a challenge, Neufeld contends that the greatest satisfaction is contributing to the community.

“It is very rewarding to know how much your fundraising efforts are appreciated by the Special Olympics athletes and their families,” said Neufeld. “The Special Olympics provides a place for young children to feel accepted and gives them opportunities they may not have had otherwise.”

Local Shop Donates Profits

Despite animosity often directed from the Left at entrepreneurs, business people have proven to be some of the most charitable people.

Take for example the Project Yogurt Shop in Bryan, Texas, which donated 100 percent of its profits from March 31 and April 1 to local charities.

In fact, the yogurt shop has made a routine of this every quarter. The yogurt shop has teamed up with five local non-profit organizations — Project Sunshine, Twin City Mission, Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center, Voices for Children, and Family Promise — and uses what has been dubbed “Partner Days” to donate company profits to the partnering organizations.

In total, the shop donates a total of 10 percent of its sales to the non-profit organizations.

Project Yogurt owner Audrienne Doucet, a senior at Texas A&M University, indicates that helping her community is of primary importance.

Doucet also emphasized the generosity of her customers to KBTX News. On March 31 and April 1, she said, “Combined with customer donations and a previous Partners Day, we were able to donate a little over \$2,000 to our five partners,” said Doucet.

Famed writer Mitch Albom once wrote, “The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.”

Not only does Doucet’s generosity embody Albom’s wise philosophy, it also serves as an inspiration for other local businesses interested in giving back to their communities.

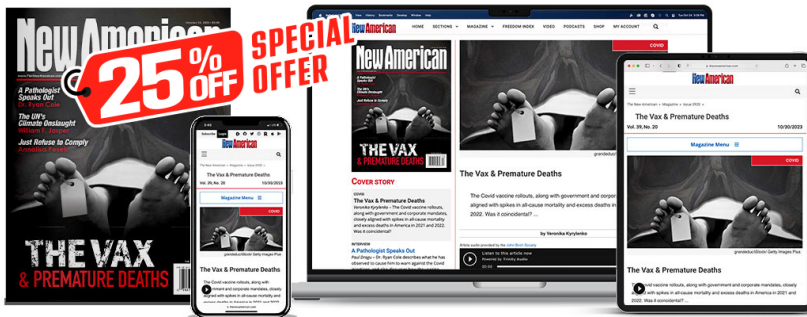


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