

Written by <u>Raven Clabough</u> on February 22, 2016 Published in the February 22, 2016 issue of <u>the New American</u> magazine. Vol. 32, No. 04

#### **Goodness of America**

## **Our Coupons Care**

Sixteen-year-old Hannah Steinberg of Scarsdale, New York, picked up a very valuable skill from watching reality television in 2011. Four years later, a number of homeless shelters and hospitals have benefited.

When Steinberg was in high school, her favorite reality TV show was *Extreme Couponing*, a show that documents the couponing efforts of discount-obsessed people who go to extreme lengths to purchase items at significant discounts.

Steinberg soon realized that she could use couponing to purchase items for those in need. "These people [on the show] have mounds and mounds of items in their garages, so I thought I'd try and see if I can do something with this to give back," she told today.com.

Years later, Steinberg's extreme couponing has helped her to give exponentially. In October 2014, she started her own charity, Our Coupons Care, a federally recognized nonprofit charity that she started in order to turn her couponing efforts into charitable endeavors.

The *Boston Globe* reported, "These days, the 20-year-old Steinberg has a registered charity that has donated more than \$100,000 worth of household items, canned goods, and electronics to homeless shelters and hospitals by using the couponing tricks she observed on the show."

Steinberg meticulously keeps track of which stores are offering which discounts, and buys items in bulk to maximize her savings. She funds her purchases through donations made to Our Coupons Care.

"This has become something so much bigger than I would've imagined, for me and for the families," Steinberg said. "What I'm doing is very simple....There are people who've done much bigger things," she told the *Globe*.

But according to those who know her, Steinberg is being much too modest. Ivan Smith, a youth coordinator at Coachman Family Center in White Plains, New York, said he believes Steinberg's charity has donated nearly \$100,000 worth of items to his shelter alone.

"She's always apologetic because she wants to do more," Smith said. "And she doesn't want any recognition of it."

Today.com reported that she has made significant donations around the holidays, but her most recent back-to-school delivery "was the best yet," as she donated hundreds of crayons, markers, notebooks, and backpacks, all of which were purchased through discounting.

Now that Steinberg is in college, she has come to rely on her family and friends to assist her in coupon cutting and purchasing. "My parents thought I was crazy at first, but once I showed them and everyone else how much \$500 and coupons could get you, they realized I was on to something," Steinberg said. "They're now so supportive that they let me take over the dining room table and garage."

Steinberg told today.com that she was excited for the future of her charity, which has allowed her to combine a hobby with her desire to be altruistic. "I feel lucky that I'm able to use my interests to help others," Steinberg said. "It's really fun for me!"





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## **Food Delivery**

When a 79-year-old Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee, man called 911 saying he went two days without food, the local police sprang to action, using their own money to buy him enough food to last a month.

According to the officers, the man, who asked to remain unidentified, was clearly surprised when the police showed up at his house with \$160 worth of food. "I think he was shocked at the amount of food that we bought and just the fact that it was there without question," said Nathan Bolton.

The man is reportedly on a fixed income and relies on his Social Security benefits, but found himself in a particularly difficult situation when a former caretaker stole his debit card, WKRN News reported.

Mt. Pleasant police say they arrested the caretaker, Tammy Brooks, on January 10, and she has been charged with theft and fraudulent use of a debit card.

WKRN News reported that someone had snapped a photo of the officers packing the groceries into the man's cabinets and posted it on Facebook. The photo went viral.

The Mt. Pleasant Police Department has begun to accept canned food donations for those who find themselves in dire straits. "It's difficult for us to see as police officers. We're out here to take care of the public at large and that doesn't always mean stopping a car. Sometimes it's us doing little things like this," said police officer Mark Billions.

#### **Community Love**

An entire community has rallied around Paulina Archibeque, a nurse and fitness boot camp instructor who lost part of her leg after a routine bunion surgery went wrong.

For Archibeque, the loss has been particularly difficult, as she is used to being a highly active person. "I'm a very active person. I don't get down, but when I get down, I go way down," Archibeque said. "So I'm trying to fight the way down part."

She has made a name for herself in the community as a full-time nurse, church and community volunteer, and fitness instructor. And for those whose lives were touched by Archibeque, this trying time in her life represents the perfect opportunity to give back.

KAKE News reported that her friends and co-workers came together to remodel her house to make it easier for her to get around. "We don't really talk about what she can't do," said Archibeque's husband, Michael. "It's how we can make it accessible for her so that she can get back to a normal of life as possible."

The community has hosted several events to raise money for the efforts, including a bake sale, and has set up a funding page on GoFundMe for kindhearted people to donate. The page has already surpassed its \$5,000 goal. According to the GoFundMe page, the money will be used to add handrails throughout the house, as well as a ramp.

Paulina and her husband say they are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support they have received. "I feel the love," she said. Maintaining an optimistic outlook, Paulina claims that her surgery has started a new beginning for her, and she's confident she will be "just fine."

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