



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on March 7, 2016

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## The Goodness of America

### Two Men and a Sheriff to the Rescue

Two men and a San Bernardino County sheriff are being credited with saving the life of Jersuan Gibson, who was trapped in a burning vehicle on January 15.

KABC News reported that Gibson's vehicle crashed into a pole in Victorville, California, and "burst into flames while the driver was unconscious in the wreckage."

Fortunately, Daniel Reyes came upon the wreckage while driving his work truck, which proved to be a valuable asset in the ordeal as a fire extinguisher had recently been installed in the company vehicle.

When Reyes stopped at the scene, he noticed another person already attempting to help Gibson out of the car. Reyes grabbed the fire extinguisher and used it to keep the flames at bay while the other man continued to work on pulling Gibson from the vehicle.

"I felt the flames. I smelled the smoke, but my concern was getting him out because he was out cold," Reyes recalled. "If I had not had that fire extinguisher, the fire would have been out of control."

Gibson's legs were trapped under the dashboard, however, making it nearly impossible to drag him from the vehicle. It was not until Sheriff's Deputy Asiah Medawar arrived that Gibson was able to be pulled to safety.

Gibson's mother, Brenda Johnson, stated that her son suffered burns to his hands, as well as a broken hip, leg, and ankles, but was grateful that he was alive and credited the two passersby and Medawar for that. "I appreciate it, what all that they did for my son. I am so blessed. I am so blessed because without them then my son wouldn't be here today," she said.

### Snowy Gift

While January's blizzard was a source of dread for many East Coast residents, children at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Maryland would have given anything to be able to play in the snow. Thanks to the thoughtfulness of nurse Alex Classen, they did.

The *Washington Post* reported that it started with seven-year-old Lucy Wiese, who had just undergone bone marrow surgery six weeks earlier. When the snow began to fall, Lucy, a huge fan of the movie *Frozen*, was looking longingly out the hospital windows on January 23, wishing she could play in the snow.

"Before the storm, her doctors had talked about, maybe she could go outside a little bit in the snow," Lucy's mother, Jan Wiese, said. "But it was really coming down pretty hard and it was windy, and I thought ... maybe we should wait," Wiese said. "She was a good sport."

But Nurse Classen, wearing nothing but her hospital scrubs, ran out into the snow with several basins and scooped up large piles of the snow to bring inside the hospital for Lucy and the other children who were unable to go outside.

"We have a bunch of patients who are really sick and can't necessarily go out and play in the snow like normal kids," she said. "So I thought it would be fun for them to be able to touch and play and experience the snow."



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"I had the idea in the morning," she said. After clearing it with the doctors and hospital staff, she made multiple trips into the blizzard to retrieve basins of snow.

And though Nurse Classen recalls getting "blasted with snow," for her, it was worth it. "Anything I can do to make these kids smile is awesome," she said. "So whenever they're happy, it just makes my day."

## Human Chain

A group of strangers came together to rescue a truck driver whose rig crashed on a snowy road and left him hanging off a cliff in Bedford, Pennsylvania, on January 26.

According to eyewitness Arlyn Satanek, the truck driver appeared to lose control of his vehicle as snow quickly accumulated, causing the tractor-trailer to teeter over the edge of a hillside. People immediately reacted, he recalled. "It was a mess, dangerous. The truck was smoking, couple hundred gallons of diesel fuel, debris everywhere," Satanek said. "People didn't seem to care, they jumped out to help."

WTAE News reported that the driver "took out nearly half a mile of guardrail" and covered the road in debris and fuel.

With the driver trapped inside the cab, motorists jumped out of their vehicles, interlocked arms, and formed a human chain in order to reach the cab and pull the driver to safety.

Satanek witnessed the entire rescue and was moved by the strangers' act of heroism. "I decided I knew they had him, and I wanted to get a picture. I want to remember this," he said.

## Heroic Pond Rescue

James Brazier was visiting his wife at her insurance business on February 3 in Port St. Lucie, Florida, and, while there, saved the life of a driver whose vehicle went off the road and into a nearby pond.

TCPalm.com reported that a Kia Optima struck a Mercedes driven by Hixford Banton, 73, causing Banton to lose control of his vehicle. He drove off the road into the pond, estimated to be 12 to 15 feet deep.

Brazier heard the sound of tires screeching and saw the vehicle drive off the road and into the pond. He immediately ran out of the building and dove into the pond. "When I got to the guy, he was real scared, so I told him to calm down," Brazier recalled later. "I opened the door and got him out, he panicked, took us both under and then I hit the bottom, pushed ourselves back up."

An eyewitness, along with three Port St. Lucie police detectives, helped get Banton and Brazier to shore.

Banton was not conscious for most of the rescue, but recalls Brazier arriving to help him before he lost consciousness. "He came to me and he said, 'I got you, I got you, are you ready?'" Banton said. "And he opened the door, and I just went out."

Banton said Brazier's actions saved his life, as he cannot swim. "He's my hero," Banton said. "He helped me. It's people like those, they're rare to find." n

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