



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on March 21, 2016

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The Goodness of America

Surprise for Simpler

When Burlson High School students in Texas learned that their English teacher, Kyle Simpler, had not had a birthday cake in an entire decade, they took action. The students surprised Simpler by throwing him a surprise birthday party and presenting him with a beautiful birthday cake.

“I was floored,” Simpler told *Inside Edition*. “It was totally a surprise, let me tell you that.”

The students captured a video of the surprise, which went viral after being shared on Twitter.

According to *Inside Edition*, Simpler’s students collected money to purchase gifts for their teacher, as well as the cake, which featured Felix the Cat.

The party was organized by student Karlie Moran, who stated that she was compelled to do something nice for her teacher after she learned that Simpler had not had a birthday cake in 10 years. “I work at the grocery store, and went to the bakery on my breaks,” said Moran. “I told them Mr. Simpler really likes cats and they made something cool.”

Simpler explained that his family does not tend to make a big deal about birthdays, but his students’ surprise was “memorable to say the least.”

And for the students, seeing their teacher both happy and surprised was worth all their efforts. “When I saw his reaction, I was like, ‘yes!’ It was perfect,” Moran recalls. “He’s always been one of my favorite teachers.”

Boat Fund Funds College

Marty Burbank and his wife, Seon Chun-Burbank, of Fullerton, California, were so inspired by a sermon at their church that they decided to forgo their dream of buying a boat so that they could fund the college education of an entire elementary-school class.

People magazine online reported that the sermon that inspired the couple came two weeks before Christmas and focused on sacrifice. It was at that point that the Burbanks began to think that saving their money to buy themselves a boat was “a very selfish thing.”

Instead, they decided that they would help students at an elementary school at which they had been volunteering.

Fox 11 reported that the couple pledged to pay for two years of community college and two years at a Cal State university for 26 kindergarten students at Rio Vista Elementary School in Anaheim, California. They made the announcement to the classroom of students during a February visit to their school.

Marty estimates that the total cost of their good deed will be about \$1.1 million. “I’ve pretty much canceled the boat plans until these kids get educated and if I win the lottery, maybe I’ll buy a boat,” Marty said. “Putting these kids through school seems like a much better investment.”

According to *People*, Marty and his wife understand the difficulties of financing a college education. They were the first in their families to graduate from college, but were only able to afford it with the help of the military and family.



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Seon states that buying a boat has been a dream of theirs, particularly for Marty, but that they feel very good about their decision. "We met on a boat, got engaged on a boat and got married on a yacht in Newport Beach," Chun-Burbank says. "Sailing is one of the things Marty really values and it has a lot of personal meaning to him."

"Then he decided to give that up and I think we both agree this is more meaningful," she adds. "We can always rent a boat."

Selfless Lottery Winner

When single mom Sofia Andrade of New Bedford, Massachusetts, won \$200 on an instant lottery ticket, she decided to use her winnings to help a homeless man she noticed at a stop sign just after cashing in her winnings on February 13, WCVB 5 reported. She invited the man, Glenn Williams, for a cup of coffee at a nearby coffee shop. That evening, temperatures were expected to plummet, and when Andrade learned that local shelters were full, she decided to use her lottery winnings to put Williams up in a hotel.

Andrade posted about her evening with Williams on Facebook and was astonished by the response. Friends reached out to donate clothing and winter necessities for Williams, and a local barber offered to give him a free haircut.

And even after all Andrade did for Williams, she wanted to do more. She decided to set up a GoFundMe page with the intention of raising \$5,000 to help him get back on his feet. Within three days, the page raised over \$16,000.

However, it was subsequently reported, and the New Bedford Police Department confirmed, that Williams is a Level 2 sex offender. Andrade's reaction? "People are now like, 'This is what you get for trying to help somebody. You should have known better.' I just wanted to help somebody, because it was cold," she told *Wareham Week* "through tears."

Andrade has not given up on Williams, saying "he deserves a second chance at life." She also told *Wareham Week* she will give some of the donated money to Williams so he can go to an addiction recovery center and will give most of it to groups that help the homeless, without taking a dime to reimburse what she had spent herself to help Williams.

As a single mom with three children, Andrade could have found other ways to spend her money and time. Her choice to help give a stranger a second chance at life exemplifies the goodness of the American spirit.

Journey to Flint

South Carolina resident John Wright made a nearly 1,000-mile journey to deliver clean water to the residents of Flint, Michigan, after the discovery of high levels of lead in the public drinking water last fall.

WCIV reported that Wright hosted a three-day donation drive in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, that brought in so much water he was compelled to abandon his plans to use a rented U-Haul truck and use an 18-wheeler tractor-trailer instead.

Wright arrived in Flint on February 7, and delivered approximately 700 gallons of water, including 108



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one-gallon jugs and six pallets of bottled water.

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