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The Goodness of America

Coffee and More

Employees at Dutch Bros., a coffee shop in Vancouver, Washington, exhibited kindness when they encountered a grief-stricken customer at the drive-thru window in March, in a story that has since gone viral.

Yahoo News reported that Barbara Danner was waiting in line at the drive-thru when she noticed three employees reaching out from the drive-thru window to offer comfort to a woman in the vehicle in front of her. Danner snapped a photo of the interaction.

It was not until it was Danner's turn to pull up to the window that she learned that the customer in front of her had lost her husband the day before and was visibly overcome by her grief.

The employees told Danner that they were heartbroken for the widow, gave her free coffee, and asked if they could pray with her.

Danner posted a photo of what she saw on her Facebook page with the following note:

Snapped this picture waiting in line at the Dutch Bros on 138th Avenue today. Turns out the young lady in line ahead of us lost her 37-year-old husband last night. When the DB guys & gals noticed she was falling apart, they stopped everything and prayed with her for several minutes, invited her to come back for prayer and support, as well as anything else that she might need. Prayers for the young family, and you know where to stop for coffee!

The story went viral. The employees later told *The Oregonian* what compelled them to act. "She was crying," said 19-year-old Pierce Dunn.

Another employee said he was happy to pray with the woman, even though he is not religious. "She could have said she wanted an apple, and I would have gone and planted a tree and grown her an apple. It just happened to be religion that she wanted," Evan Freeman said.

Dutch Bros. owner Jessica Chudek told *The Oregonian*, "We do these kinds of things every day, and rarely is it caught on camera."

Lunch on a Stranger

Thirty National Guardsmen were treated to a free lunch on March 23 thanks to the kindness of an anonymous person.

According to *Fox News Insider*, the troops were in Rockford, Michigan, for training at the Belmont Armory when they stopped for lunch at Corner Bar.

The management at the bar had already applied a discount to the lunch bill, bringing it to about \$200. And the generosity continued when a stranger quietly met with the manager to ask about paying the bill. "The guest was very adamant about remaining anonymous," general manager John Vanaman told Fox 17. "He said he wanted to pick up the bill in appreciation for what our service men and women do."



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Four-month-old College Student

Kate Humphrey, a Marine veteran, is a full-time college student in Salado, Texas, and a mother whose babysitter cancelled at the last minute just as she was preparing to leave for her college class one March morning, giving her very few options. Rather than missing class, Humphrey elected to bring her four-month-old daughter with her, something that many professors would frown upon. Fortunately, except for hers.

Shortly after class began, Humphrey's daughter Millie began to fuss. The professor's response was incredible.

"I just went over, picked her up, carried her back, and went right back to lecturing without missing a beat," professor Darren Willoughby told KWTX.

Fox News Insider reported that for the remaining hour of the class, Willoughby held Millie and taught the class. Humphrey states that the baby remained content the entire time she was held by Professor Willoughby.

And Willoughby stated, "Taking care of others in a time of need and when it is not a time of need, just loving and caring about others — that's God's purpose."

Incredible Display of Gratitude

Stefun Darts of Houston refrained from doing many of the things young people do for fun in order to save his money and give his grandparents an unforgettable gift.

Darts told Today.com that his grandparents took him in at a young age, and that he wanted to repay them for their years of kindness by paying off their remaining mortgage. For six years, he scrimped to achieve this goal. "I had to sacrifice a lot. Friendships, relationships, going around and partying."

Darts recalled his friends saying things like, "You never go out. You need to have some fun." But for Darts, it was more important to save his money than indulge his own adolescent interests.

Darts worked numerous jobs to save money, even earning licenses to sell life insurance and real estate. He also adopted a "frugal" lifestyle. Today.com wrote, "He rarely buys clothes and still uses the first wallet he ever owned. He eats at home whenever possible and, lately, gets teased about his diet of cheap, microwave pizzas."

Darts, who currently works multiple jobs and studies applied science at a local community college, still managed to find time to create a nonprofit called Caring Heart Youth, which brings supplies to poor children and teens.

All of his hard work paid off. On March 20, Darts threw his grandparents a surprise party, where he presented them with a \$15,000 check. The money was enough to pay off their mortgage and send them on a trip to the Bahamas to celebrate.

"I promised God in the second grade I would pay off you guys' house and help you retire. A promise I would never break," Darts posted on Facebook, along with a picture of him presenting the oversized handmade check to his grandparents. "Even with this, I could never repay you for what you've done for me."

— Raven Clabough



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