



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on June 20, 2016

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## The Goodness of America

### Second Chances

High-school senior Trey Potter of Gahanna, Ohio, gave his mother a memory that she thought had passed her by: the high-school senior prom.

Trey's mother, MelissaRoshan Potter, who goes by MelRo, was pregnant and homeless by the age of 16, and had been in and out of 23 different foster homes throughout her life. When she found out she was pregnant, she dropped out of high school.

She states that she never had anyone in her life to encourage her or make her feel valuable as a person. "My mother had me at 13 by rape. So I was subsequently placed in the foster care system when I was 10," MelRo explained. "I've lived in 23 foster care and group homes, and have endured physical abuse, sexual abuse and child labor abuse. There was many times I thought I wasn't going to make it out of the system."

She never made it to her senior prom. "It wasn't easy. Emotionally it was hard seeing my friends going off to prom [and] getting ready to graduate, when I had a baby," she said. "But he was so precious and so cute ... when I first had him. He cracked me this smile and I thought to myself, 'I will never leave you.'"

MelRo and her son lived in a homeless shelter for the first two years of Trey's life, ABC News reported. She recalls being told that she would not be able to provide a better life for her son: "When I was pregnant with him, I heard, 'Mel because you lived in the foster care system, you're probably not going to raise a thriving individual. It just doesn't happen.... You can't give him what you don't have.'"

But according to MelRo, it was the love she had for Trey that inspired her to persevere and turn her life around. People.com reported that she worked two jobs to support her newborn and went back to school for her GED.

At 36, she is now a model and an advocate for foster-care youth. And because of her hard work and sacrifices, Trey will be the first person in the family to attend college, People.com reported.

As for Trey, the sacrifices his mother made for him and the life she had to endure were all the more reason to ask her to be his date to his April 16 senior prom.

Trey explained, "She was a teen mom and from all the stories she told me it's made me realize that to be a parent it takes a lot of sacrifice and a lot of time and energy."

According to Trey, his mother did not take his invitation seriously until "about a week before the prom." But despite ample opportunity to change his mind, Trey wanted to do this wonderful thing for his mother. "She has done so much for me," he said. "I wanted to fill that void that had been empty for years."

MelRo was overwhelmed by her son's kindness. "I was initially shocked because it's an incredibly selfless act and my heart was just overwhelmed with gratitude because it was so sweet," she told ABC News. "I felt very stoked and excited. I was like, 'Oh my God. I'm about to get the best dress and turn up at the prom!'"

The mother-son couple made quite a show, with MelRo arriving in a beautiful coral Vera Wang gown on



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the arm of her handsomely dressed 18-year-old son. They reportedly had a wonderful time. “She looked so beautiful!” said Trey. “She didn’t look 36 at all, she looked 16 again. It meant a lot to me to see her so happy.”

“This was her night, not mine,” he added. “And that’s how I wanted it.”

Afterword, MelRo said, “I didn’t miss out on prom. I gained. When I made the choice to have [Trey], I knew I was going to ‘miss’ a lot of things but when you choose love, it’s a gain and it’s all worth it. And I truly mean that.”

## **Firefighters Repair Roof**

On May 4, a 67-year-old homeowner in Merrimack, New Hampshire, fell off his roof while attempting to repair it. The *New Hampshire Union Leader* reported that a family member was aware of the fall, called 911, and had already started CPR on the homeowner by the time firefighters and paramedics were on the scene, according to Assistant Fire Chief Brian Borneman of the Merrimack Fire Department.

A member of the Merrimack Fire Rescue continued to attempt life-saving measures on the man, who had suffered “traumatic, life-threatening injuries,” Borneman told the *Union Leader*.

The homeowner was transported to a hospital for additional medical care, but sadly did not survive. “We were notified that he passed away a short time later,” Captain Peter Albert of the Merrimack Police Department told the *Union Leader*.

But the firefighters and paramedics who rushed to the man’s aid decided that they did not want his family to have to worry about a leaky roof during this tragic time, and went back to the man’s home to finish what he started.

“They were concerned that the house’s roof was not finished and was open, and rain could potentially cause more damage to the house, causing more pain to the family at that point in time,” Fire Chief Michael Currier said. “So they decided to take a drive back to the house and tarp the roof.”

However, with permission from the family, they decided that rather than simply placing a tarp on the roof, they would finish the job.

Neighbors noticed what the rescue workers were doing and volunteered their help, as well as tools to complete the task. EMT Marissa Jimenez told WMUR, “Before we knew it, there were neighbors coming over. They were willing to help us. They jumped in, and we were able to get it done pretty quickly.”

According to Borneman, the kind deed was the rescue workers’ way to try to “make a bad situation a little better.”

“We can’t always change the outcome and we do what we can. We at least try to make a difference,” said Borneman.

He also emphasized that the endeavor was a community one. “It is the community we are in, and neighbors helping out neighbors,” he added.

Borneman contends that the department is very proud of its workers. “It absolutely is above and beyond,” he said. “The administration here, especially the chief of the department, Michael Currier, is very proud of the guys and what they did. It is nothing that we wouldn’t expect.”

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