



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on September 5, 2016

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The Goodness of America

Blessing Box

After being inundated with negativity from recent news stories, Jeanetta Presley of Muncie, Indiana, decided she wanted to be a source of positivity in her community. *USA Today* reported that in August, Presley put out a “Blessing Box” — in which strangers can take items they need and donate items for others in need — at the end of her front yard.

The sign on the box reads, “Take what you need, bring what you can.” The box includes items such as dry pasta, baby formula, and other non-perishables. She stocks the box as often as she can and checks the inventory daily, but indicated that she will not be able to afford to keep the box stocked and is hoping that others will donate as needed.

Presley reportedly conceived the idea after she saw a church in Georgia had done something similar. She hopes that the idea takes off and spreads to other communities.

“It’s not a lot; it’s a little,” Presley said. “But you can take a box of macaroni and cheese, a can of tuna and a can of peas, and you can make a casserole. And it’s out there.”

“I would like to see (all) neighborhoods do it,” she said. “I think it would benefit each and every neighborhood if just one person in that neighborhood started a box, and the rest of the neighborhood kept it going.”

Protect, Serve, and Beyond

Police officers in Houston did something noble for a homeless man known only as Quintus.

Sergeant Stephen Wick and Officer Colin Mansfield are with the Houston Police Department’s Homeless Outreach program and, through the program, had met Quintus, a blind, elderly, homeless man.

Sergeant Wick told *Inside Edition* that he’s known Quintus for about a year through his department and that he took a special interest in him.

On July 19, the officers purchased new clothes and shoes for Quintus, and approached him to help dress him. It was then they discovered that his hygiene was particularly unhealthy. He had soiled himself, and his feet were filthy. What’s more, his toenails were so overgrown that they were cutting into his own feet. As a result, Quintus could barely walk.

Sergeant Wick did something pretty incredible. He washed Quintus’ feet and gave him a pedicure.

Sergeant Wick explained, “We tried to get his feet in shape so he could put shoes on. His vision deteriorated to a point where he couldn’t function as well anymore.”

Quintus has glaucoma, which has rendered him about 95 percent blind.

After Wick attended to Quintus’ feet, the two officers gave him a place to shower, KHOU.com reported.

Unbeknownst to the officers, a photo of Sergeant Wick tending to Quintus’ feet was snapped by the Homeless Outreach Team, which takes pictures to document people’s progress. The photo has gone viral. The Houston Police Officer’s Union posted the photo on its Facebook page with this message:



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“Folks don’t be fooled by what some in the media and politicians make us out to be. We are men and women of service, we took an oath to protect you and we will lay down our lives for you. This is who we are, this is what we stand for!”

For Sergeant Wick, his actions were nothing extraordinary. “It didn’t have some deep meaning, but it made me feel good to be able to help Quintus,” he told *Inside Edition*. “Help your neighbor if you can. Get out there and help folks.”

But for Quintus, the act of kindness is likely one he won’t soon forget. And for those who have seen the photo, it is truly an inspiration and a reminder that there are many more good people in this world than bad.

Bike Ride to a Great Future

When people learned that a 19-year-old homeless Georgia resident biked six hours to register for college classes and would remain homeless until the dorms opened, they responded with abundant generosity.

On July 9, Fred Barley, 19, rode a little boy’s 20” bicycle with two duffel bags, two gallons of water, and a box of cereal for six hours from Conyers, Georgia, to Barnesville, Georgia, to register for classes at Gordon State College, and then he set up in a tent on campus grounds while he waited for the opening of the school’s dorms on July 18.

After responding to a trespassing call about a suspicious person in a tent, campus police encountered Barley and learned his story.

The officers told Barley that he could not remain in his tent, but brought him to a local motel and paid for him to stay for two nights, an act that meant a lot to Barley. “The stuff that’s happening with police officers, I am black and he didn’t care what color I was. He just helped me and that meant a lot,” Barley recalled.

One of the officer’s wives posted Barley’s story on Facebook, and other Facebook users reached out to offer their assistance. One user, Casey Blaney, contacted the hotel where Barley was staying and offered to pay for the remainder of his stay until the dorms opened on July 18.

Additionally, local pizzeria owner Debbie Adamson offered Barley a job so that he could earn money off-campus while at school. “I didn’t know his name. I didn’t know the color of his skin. I didn’t care,” Adamson told WSB. “I’ve been there, so I guess I had a soft spot for anyone who is that determined to succeed.”

Clothes, school supplies, shoes, and a new bike have been donated to Barley from people across the country. Others have offered to take care of Barley’s health and dental needs, WSB TV reported.

On July 12, Blaney also set up a GoFundMe page for Barley. The page received \$183,896 in donations, far surpassing the \$150,000 goal.

Barley’s friend Shaina Boyd posted a video message on Facebook that allowed Barley to thank everyone for their kindness. He promised to repay them all by maintaining good grades so that their efforts were not for naught. “I love you all, and I want to make all of you guys proud,” he said.

— Raven Clabough



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