

Written by <u>Raven Clabough</u> on February 6, 2017 Published in the February 6, 2017 issue of <u>the New American</u> magazine. Vol. 33, No. 03

## **Goodness of America**

### **Proud Dad Moment**

Daniel Medina, a father of two in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, felt affirmed as a father on December 11 when his children performed a selfless act for an individual in need.

Medina and his two boys were driving home from the mall on December 11 when they spotted a man in a wheelchair shoveling snow, today.com reported. Without being prompted, Medina's two sons, ages 10 and six, asked their father to pull over so that they could help the man in the wheelchair.

"I didn't even see the guy because I was concentrating on driving in the snow," Medina said. "My oldest, Daniel, said, 'Pull over, let's go help him.' So I said, 'OK, let's go.' We pulled up next to him, and Daniel asked if he had any extra shovels."

The man did have extra shovels, and the boys and their father stayed and helped the man shovel the corner lot for 45 minutes.

Medina called the experience a "proud dad moment" in a Facebook post.

"It just made me happy," he said. "They know to hold doors for people and all their manners."

#### **Homeward Bound**

Eighty-nine-year-old Angie Tyma and all of her possessions were thrown out of the house in Hudson, Florida, she had been renting for 35 years when it fell into foreclosure, forcing her to take up residence in a Days Inn. Unbeknownst to her, the landlord from whom she had been renting the property had stopped making mortgage payments on the building.

The entire neighborhood was appalled to see all of Tyma's possessions out on the street and acted quickly. One in particular did something amazing.

Neighbor Danielle Calder came to Tyma's assistance in a beautiful way, by purchasing the property and becoming Tyma's landlord. The cost of the house was \$167,500.

"Quite honestly, I didn't need another house," Calder, 65, told today.com. "But I needed her. I couldn't see her living in a motel room.... She's been here so long. Everyone looks out for her."

Calder primarily lives in Massachusetts, just outside Boston, but owns a home in Tyma's neighborhood as well. "I did this out of the goodness of my heart, not to make money or for any other reason except that I love Angie," Danielle Calder said.

Calder welcomed Tyma back into her house on December 6, Tyma's 89th birthday.

In addition to Calder's wonderful deed, the other neighbors had collected Tyma's property from off the street and stored it for her, as she could not bring all of it with her to the Days Inn.

Before Tyma's homecoming, neighbors had moved her belongings back into the house and also repainted the building.

The *Tampa Bay Times* reported that Tyma attributes her good fortune to the help of the "Holy Mother."





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# **Kind Students**

Students at Somerset High School in Somerset, Texas, all chipped in to buy sophomore J.R. Gilbert, a special-needs student, two pairs of name-brand shoes after they learned that he had been squeezing his size 13 feet into size 10 shoes.

The students all gathered together on December 15 to present the gifts to Gilbert, and used their phones to capture footage of the moment in which Gilbert opened the surprise.

"It's from all of us," junior Roger Villegas told Gilbert in the video. "Everybody here gave them to you."

Gilbert's reaction was priceless, as he exclaimed, "What!? And they're my favorite kind, too!"

The students on the video were pleased by Gilbert's response, and can be heard cheering him on.

As it turns out, Gilbert, in fact, did have other shoes that fit him, but he insisted on wearing his size 10 shoes. The school's Facebook page explained, "We found out from JR's family that he does have shoes that fit him, but he refuses to stop wearing the boots of his beloved grandfather, since his grandfather can no longer wear them."

The students misunderstood when Gilbert said he needed bigger shoes, as he was referring to the boots in particular.

But whether or not Gilbert actually needed the new shoes is irrelevant. His fellow students believed he needed them and therefore made it happen. It was a beautiful gesture that still warrants applause.

# **CEO Donates Salary**

At the end of December, a CEO at the Boys & Girls Club of Monroe County, Tennessee, gave up drawing his annual salary in order to help underprivileged children attend the club and provide bonuses for the staff, Sunny Skyz reported.

"It's not that I don't need the money; believe me, I need it," said CEO Dr. Anthony Tricoli. "But there are others right now who I know need it more than I do. This is my way of helping those in our club who are in need of some assistance just like my family was when I was a kid. Plus, I want [to] assure that our staff members are properly thanked for their work."

In a letter to the Boys & Girls Club board, Tricoli explained the inspiration behind his incredible deed. "This organization means a lot to me, especially because of the very similar opportunity I had when I was a child," he wrote.

According to Tricoli, the Boys & Girls Club was a saving grace to him as a young boy: "As a young boy, every day after school and on the weekends I hopped on my stingray bicycle and rode to the Boy's Club in Fullerton (California). That was for about six years when I was growing up. Then my father fell ill and things changed for my family and me. Nonetheless, I have never forgotten the opportunities the Boys Club provided to me in the way of teaching me how to swim, how to safely use power tools in the workshop, and how to improve my study habits (I also got knocked out twice in the boxing ring — that's probably why I set my sights on a desk job). For me, the Club was a safe haven, the place where all of the worries I had went away, it was the place where I could just be a kid."

Tricoli simply wanted to ensure that other children had a safe haven in the club.





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