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The Goodness of America

A New Family Member

Ginger Jones Sprouse noticed someone in need of help and jumped in headfirst. In doing so, she and her family have changed the life of Victor Hubbard, a 38-year-old mentally ill homeless man who had been waiting on the same street corner for his mother to return for the last three years.

Today.com reported that Sprouse first noticed Hubbard on his regular street corner in Webster, Texas, three years ago on her way to work. She continued to take note of him multiple times in a day as she drove by the corner during her regular commute and finally, last June, decided that she wanted to reach out to him and learn his story.

"He stands and looks, taps the pole, squints, dances, waves and sometimes just stares," wrote Sprouse in December. "He is a sweet, gentle man that happens to be mentally ill. If you have ever heard the term 'falling through the cracks' he is the definition."

Sprouse learned that Hubbard had been on and off the streets for 10 years and that the local social services had been unable to locate his mother.

Sprouse and Hubbard became friends, and as the cold weather began to approach, she became concerned about his well-being. She began inviting Hubbard to stay over at her place when the weather was bad.

Sprouse decided to create a Facebook page entitled "This is Victor," to document Hubbard's story. On it, she explained how she came to know Victor and indicated that she wanted to help him by organizing a crowdfunding page for him.

"I would drive by, especially when it was getting close to Christmas, and he had piles of pillows and blankets and shoes and bags of clothes and all this and food like you wouldn't believe, and I was like, 'OK, so what is he going to do with all of this?'" she said.

"The man doesn't need another sandwich. What he needs is someone to help him do something with all of this."

Sprouse began arranging doctors' visits and appointments at several mental health clinics, and even offered him a job at her restaurant. And since the end of February, Hubbard has been living in her family's home.

"If we help him, we cannot just clean him up and give him a shower and throw him out there and say, 'OK, little bird, fly,'" she said. "It's a lifetime commitment."

"We kind of had to make that decision. Is he really a part of our family? Do we really mean it when we say that he's going to be in our lives for the rest of it if that's where he wants to be? And we said, 'Yes, he is.'"

The Facebook page garnered enough attention that Hubbard's mother even reached out. As it turns out, she lives just two miles away from Hubbard's corner. Today.com reported that she was not happy with the attention the story received, however, and that she does not have the ability to care for Hubbard.

Thankfully, Hubbard has found another family in the Sprouses, and it seems he is finally getting the love and attention he needs.





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Birthday Party for All

When Armani Crews was approaching her sixth birthday on March 5, she surprised her parents with her birthday wish. Instead of asking for a traditional birthday party, Armani wanted to feed the homeless.

"Every time we asked her what she wanted to do for her birthday, she said she wanted to feed the homeless," Crews' mother, Artesha, told the online Huffington Post.

Crews' parents initially did not take her request seriously, but soon learned that she was committed to helping others in need. Her parents even explained that she would not be able to get a birthday present if they were to go ahead with her request, but Armani was adamant.

Her parents suggested that they make sandwiches to hand out to the homeless, but that quickly progressed to making a large-scale feast for the homeless, per Armani's request to prepare the same foods she would have had at her birthday party.

The family spent approximately \$300 to cook chicken, spaghetti, vegetables, potatoes, fish, and cake.

When members of the Crews' church learned what they were doing, they also donated materials such as toiletries and snacks to be handed out along with the food, ABC reported. They decided to make care packages, which consisted of a toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, hand sanitizer, and a snack.

The Crews family then delivered the food and care packages to homeless people in Chicago's East Garfield Park neighborhood. According to ABC News, approximately 125 people gathered at the park for the party.

Her proud parents said that Armani has always had a big heart: "She is very happy to help people. In her words, it's 'nice to be nice.' And as her parents, we are here to support her in any way that we can."

A Daring Rescue

Were it not for the intervention of Danny Mitchell, two young women might have died in a fiery car crash, KABC-TV reported.

On March 19, Mitchell was on his way home at approximately 4:00 a.m. when he spotted a blazing crash on Carmenita Road in Cerritos, California. Mitchell immediately jumped out of the vehicle, approached the car, and found two women inside. He managed to pull them out of the vehicle before they were seriously injured.

"I just pulled over and snatched the girls out of the car before (the car) exploded because it was on fire," he explained. "It was hot, but I wasn't thinking about that, I didn't care."

According to NBC Southern California, the vehicle was swallowed up by flames almost immediately after the women were pulled to safety.

Police later learned that the driver had lost control of the car, causing it to drive up an embankment before flipping over. The vehicle quickly caught fire.

Thankfully, the women suffered only minor injuries. The California Highway Patrol indicated that they could have been severely hurt or even killed if Mitchell had not been there.

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