



Goodness of America

Birthday Party Saved

It looked as though Graham Day's eighth birthday party was going to be a disappointment until the local police and firefighters in Hurst, Texas, came through to make it a memorable one.

Graham's mother, Jennifer, told the *Dallas Morning News* that she had baked cakes and bought enough pizza to feed all of Graham's invited guests from school, but no one showed up to the May 28 party. This was apparently not the first time this had happened to Graham, Day recalls, noting that the exact same thing happened two years earlier.

But Jennifer was determined not to let her son be disappointed a second time and took to a local neighborhood website to plead with people to come to the party.

"I think I'm posting this out of utter emotional distress ... but I need to ask if anyone wants to come to an 8 yr old boys birthday party to show him that he's loved and valued as a person," she wrote on the Nextdoor neighborhood website. "NO gifts are required other than the gift of friendship."

However, she had not received any responses right away and she became anxious to do what she could to salvage the day. Out of desperation and with the knowledge that her son aspires to be a police officer when he grows up, she went to the Hurst Police Department and asked whether any officers could attend.

The Days got even more than they hoped for that day. The station's entire shift showed up along with several firefighters. They lined the street with police cars and fire trucks, enjoyed cake and pizza, and sang "Happy Birthday" to Graham.

"There's no way I can repay what they did for his little broken heart," Day told the *Dallas Morning News*.

But the pleasure was the officers', who took to Facebook to say that they were "honored to attend" Graham's party.

And as if the day could not get any better, families that eventually spotted Day's online plea also showed up to celebrate with Graham.

Day states that Graham was so happy by the show of support he received from local families and the police and firefighters that he seemed to have forgotten that his school friends did not show up.

Family of 93

On June 19, CBN News did a special story on Michael and Camille Geraldi, two incredible people whose unending love enabled them to adopt 88 special-needs children in their 40 years of marriage.

The couple met in 1973 at the Miami Children's Hospital and knew it was a perfect match, as they both had a deep-seated desire to serve as caregivers, particularly to children. Camille is a nurse and Michael is a pediatrician, and the two had a passion for watching over young special-needs patients, many of whom had been abandoned by their parents. Michael reportedly offered his services to struggling families free of charge, while Camille would often stay late at the hospital to read to disabled children.

In 1975, they married and began adopting disabled orphans from the hospital. These children were



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afflicted with conditions ranging from autism to Down syndrome, but whatever the case, the Geraldis took them into their home and loved them like they were their own.

In fact, once the couple had adopted 18 children and given birth to three of their own, they decided to start the Possible Dream Foundation, a nonprofit to help finance their children's future expenses, including rehabilitation, medical bills, education, and job training.

According to the organization's website, people would drop their children on the Geraldis' doorstep with just a note, and so the family continued to grow and grow.

In total, the couple adopted 88 children in four decades. According to CBN News, most of the children have grown up, graduated, and gotten jobs, with many becoming certified dog trainers and others now assisting in the care of the younger children. And despite Michael's death from cancer last year, Camille, now 68, says she will continue to do the work that she and Michael began.

And while most would regard Camille and Michael as angels, she attributes all the glory to God. "I think sometimes you're just cut out to do it or you're not," she said. "I do know that I'm doing God's work — he plans the day and I just carry it out. He motivates me along the way."

A Hero's Journey

A soldier from Granite City, Illinois, was able to catch a flight home on Memorial Day weekend thanks to the kindness of a stranger. Keaton Tilson, a 19-year-old U.S. Army mechanic stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, was granted last-minute permission to return home for Memorial Day weekend, Fox 2 Now reported. Tilson had not been home since Christmas and looked forward to the visit. At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, Tilson purchased a standby ticket in the hopes of grabbing a last-minute seat on a flight, but after waiting at the airport for two days, it appeared that he would not make it home.

Tilson called his mother from the airport to tell her the disappointing news, unaware that a nearby stranger, Josh Rainey of Glendale, Missouri, was listening and willing to help. Rainey offered to give up his ticket, but an airline agent informed him that was not permissible. Rainey became even more determined to help and contacted his wife for advice. Together, they decided that they wanted to buy Tilson a plane ticket to St. Louis so that he could see his family after all. The ticket cost \$341, but according to Rainey, it was worth every penny.

"He walked away and came back and asked if he could hug me, and I think we both had to fight back the tears after that," said Rainey. "It was pennies, pennies on the dollar compared to what I got back from that hug."

The moment had a profound emotional impact on both Rainey and Tilson. Tilson told Fox 2 Now that it made him realize that military servicemen were still appreciated, and Rainey explained that he was moved to act because his father was a former armed services member and police officer.

Tilson acknowledges that were it not for Rainey's good deed, he may not have made it home, since Memorial Day weekend is very busy for traveling. "I'm very appreciative," Tilson said.

— Raven Clabough



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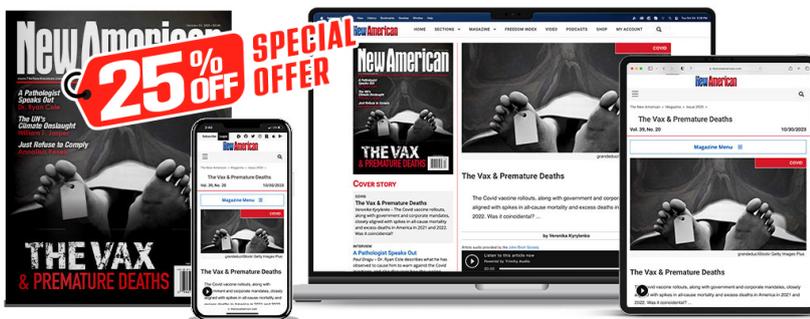
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