



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on September 4, 2017

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## **Goodness of America**

### **Wedding-Reception-Turned-Meal-for-Homeless**

Nothing takes the sting out of a cancelled wedding better than the knowledge that the deposit is going to a good cause. Just ask Sarah Cummins of Indiana, whose cancelled dream wedding was turned into a fancy day of extravagance for the local homeless population.

Cummins was to marry her fiancé, Logan Araujo, at the Ritz Charles in Carmel, Indiana, after a two-year engagement. One week before the event was to take place, however, Cummins and Araujo decided to call off the wedding. Besides the obvious sadness surrounding the decision, Cummins could not help but note that she and Araujo, as well as some of their family members and friends, were losing a non-refundable \$30,000 deposit.

But all was not lost. Cummins and Araujo decided they would put the reception to good use. Cummins reached out to local homeless shelters and invited the residents to attend what should have been her wedding reception. "For me, it was an opportunity to let these people know they deserved to be at a place like this just as much as everyone else does," Cummins told Indystar.

When locals heard about what Cummins was doing, they reached out to offer their services as well. Matt Guanzon, for example, donated suits from his own closet so that guests could dress up. His good deed inspired others to do the same, and also prompted his tailor to donate several suits. The Gifted Gown, upon hearing of the event, contributed dresses and accessories as well. Guanzon borrowed his friend's cargo vehicle so that he could pick up the formal wear and drop it off at area shelters.

Guests were very happy to have something appropriate to wear for such a fancy occasion.

One attendee, Charlie Allen, who has been at the Wheeler Mission homeless shelter for three months, said, "I didn't have a sport coat. I think I look pretty nice in it."

And Guanzon was thrilled to have been able to do something nice for others and help Cummins make the reception even more special for the attendees. "We mark our lives with the good times and sometimes the bad, so if we can help out in the good times, that's what we're doing here today," Guanzon said. "I'm just trying to show that even a little bit can help."

On July 15, school buses arrived at the Ritz Charles with dozens of homeless residents, many of them veterans. Amazingly, Cummins was there to greet them before they dined on bourbon-glazed meatballs, goat cheese, and roasted garlic bruschetta hors d'oeuvres.

Cummins told Indystar that it was a difficult decision for her to choose to attend the reception, but felt she had to so that she could take some solace in seeing others enjoy the reception.

The guests danced and ate decadent foods, and overall had a wonderful time.

One guest told Indystar, "For a lot of us, this is a good time to show us what we can have," he said. "Or to remind us what we had."

### **Lunch Is on Her**

An anonymous woman at a Denny's restaurant in La Loma Hills, California, surprised 25 firefighters by treating them all to dinner.



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According to SunnySkyz.com, the firefighters had been fighting the La Cadena fire in La Loma Hills for six hours on July 8 before the fire was 100-percent contained and they were finally able to break for a meal.

Unbeknownst to them, an anonymous woman told their waitress that she would like to pay their tab. The total came to \$355 for food, plus a \$50 tip. She also purchased a \$100 gift card to be used to buy dessert for the next round of firefighters.

The woman left the restaurant before the firefighters even learned of her good deed. One Denny's employee said that the woman indicated she did not want to be recognized for her actions.

The Colton Fire Department was so touched by the woman's kindness that they posted a photo of the receipt on their Facebook page with an explanation of what took place.

The post ended, "We are all honored to serve the citizens of our communities."

## **Spaghetti Dinner Raises Funds for Local Hero**

Police Officer Mike McQuillen of Akron, Ohio, is known to be an intimidating presence to wrongdoers, but a gentle and kind officer to the local community. So when he began struggling with medical issues in August 2016, local residents knew that they wanted to help.

McQuillen's family has been struggling to pay off the numerous medical bills that have piled up as a result of his ongoing medical issues. It began in August 2016, when McQuillen suffered an aneurysm while at work. Since then, he has lost both of his legs due to medical complications. Doctors are hopeful that McQuillen will one day walk again with the help of prosthetics, but for the McQuillen family, the expense is overwhelming.

The local community decided that it wanted to do something to assist the beloved officer and Army veteran. Local residents and fellow police officers hosted a June spaghetti dinner to raise money for the family, and it proved to be very successful.

TheSuburbanite.com reported that many donated their time and talents to the event. Police officers at the precinct donated raffle baskets, while members of the community donated the materials needed to prepare the food. Local businesses, such as Marshallville Packing, donated hamburger to create the meat sauce, while Giant Eagle donated 25 pounds of spaghetti. Springfield High School provided the kitchen and the cafeteria for the event. Four volunteers — Cindi Estes, Alice Weiland, Julie Angerstein, and Lisa Zachocki — assisted with the meal's preparation.

In all, the dinner raised \$4,600, all of which will go toward McQuillen's medical bills. Besides the incredibly important financial contribution the event has made to the family's expenses, the event also showed the McQuillen family that it has the support and love of the local community, and sometimes, that is even more valuable.

— Raven Clabough



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