



## Goodness of America

### ICU Grandpa

On September 29, *People* magazine honored a man for his incredible devotion to the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta hospital over the last 12 years.

David Deutchman, 82, has been dubbed the "ICU Grandpa" by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta because he has been visiting babies in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for more than a decade. During his visits, which take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, he holds and talks to the babies whose parents are unable to be with them.

"It is very gratifying, not just because the babies are crying and you help them to stop crying," Deutchman, from Atlanta, told *People*. "There are a lot of benefits to that warm connection of being held — when a baby puts their face against your heartbeat, there's a benefit there. I came to love it, but not just because of the connection with the babies, but the whole atmosphere of the hospital."

Deutchman is a retired international business marketer who was in search of volunteer opportunities. He first began serving in the hospital's pediatric unit before being asked to assist in the NICU.

Beyond simply cuddling with fussy babies, Deutchman also offers a source of comfort to concerned parents who find themselves in the NICU. "I talk with mothers and sometimes I hold their hand, because holding a mom's hand is just as important as holding a baby," he said. "There's a lot of stress for these parents. Having somebody tell them they can go get breakfast and assure them I'll be there with their baby, it means something to them. It's important."

For the parents of the NICU babies, it is a major source of comfort to know that Deutchman is there to hold and cuddle their children when they cannot be there.

That's what Mary Beth Brulotte of LaGrange, Georgia, told *Today*. "Every mom pictures their baby in their crib all alone crying," Brulotte said. She explained that she has to leave her infant son, Logan, alone at the hospital at times to go home, which is two hours from the facility, so that she can also care for her eight-year-old daughter. But according to Brulotte, those concerns were assuaged the first time she met Deutchman. "I was heading in and was filled with anxiety. It was just wiped away when I saw him there holding Logan fast asleep," she said.

### Lemonade 4 Lunch

Six-year-old Amiah Van Hill of Hayden, Idaho, set up her own lemonade stand last summer, not to raise money for anything on her own wish list, but to help her fellow students.

KREM 2 reported that Hill set up a "Lemonade 4 Lunch" stand to help raise money for students' lunch debts at the Coeur d'Alene Public School district.

Hill was reportedly inspired to start the fundraising efforts after hearing a story about a Seattle man named John Lew who helped raise more than \$50,000 for his state's lunch debt. She decided to set a goal of \$23,000. She realized it would take a long time to reach such a lofty goal with just a weekend lemonade stand, so she also took to GoFundMe to help raise the money.

"I wanted to help forgive the outstanding school lunch balance of other families at my school," Hill's



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GoFundMe page explains. "I would like to help more families and more schools in the Coeur d'Alene Public School district. I will continue my weekend lemonade stands to reach my \$23,000 goal in order to completely pay off the entire debt of the district but wanted to reach more people with GoFundMe."

In just one month, she raised \$14,000, and the campaign will continue until her goal is reached.

## **Fillings on Freedom Day**

A dental office in Rapid City, Michigan, came up with a unique way to give back to local veterans. The Orchard Meadows Family Dental office dedicated October 13 to providing free dental service for our nation's veterans.

Orchard Meadows Family Dental marketing director Daniela Stetser said, "We have the capability to give back to them. We realize the sacrifices they've made about not being around their children, and missing holidays, and being overseas, and coming back, and not necessarily feeling comfortable."

Among the services provided by the office were teeth cleanings, fillings, extractions, and oral cancer screenings. More than 50 veterans took advantage of the facility's free offerings, BlackHills Fox reported.

## **Burnt Barbecue**

Sometimes when the going gets tough, the tough get cooking. On October 12, television celebrity chef Guy Fieri was among the thousands of Californians to be evacuated from his house as a result of the deadly wildfires that burned through Northern California. In an effort to lift the spirits of his displaced comrades, Fieri decided to host a barbecue at the evacuation center in Santa Rosa, California. According to KQED, Fieri, a Santa Rosa resident, served barbecued meats and macaroni and cheese to thousands of evacuees.

Fieri told KQED that he had been evacuated very early that morning. "The smoke was really bad," he said. "We had to evacuate at two in the morning, and we grabbed what we could, taking pictures off the wall as fast as we could. Jumped in the truck, loaded in the dogs, and away we went."

But rather than spend his time fearing the worst, he decided that he would help distract all of the evacuated residents who were likely experiencing the same fears. "So I called the Salvation Army in Santa Rosa and I said, 'I'm ready, I've got an army, I'm ready to help,'" Fieri explained. "And they said, 'Bring it.'"

Fieri showed up at the evacuation center with a trailer and his crew, as well as a wood-fired oven and a barbecue smoker.

Some cynics have claimed that Fieri's decision to use a smoker was insensitive to the wildfire victims and accused him of engaging in a publicity stunt, but Fieri was unscathed. "If that's what you think and you're that shallow at a time like this with what we're facing, then there's no changing your mind about that," he said. "This isn't a PR stunt. You don't see my banners up. I'm not promoting anything. I'm just here cooking. This is feeding people. People need help, and I'm here to help. That's it."

— Raven Clabough



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