



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on January 22, 2018

Published in the January 22, 2018 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 34, No. 02

Goodness of America

Good Going Around

When Kate McClure's vehicle ran out of gas on Interstate 95 in Philadelphia in October, she did not know what to do. Thankfully, a homeless veteran, Johnny Bobbitt, Jr., was on the scene.

The *Washington Post* reported that McClure stopped her car at the nearest exit ramp and got out of her car to find a gas station. That is when she met Bobbitt, who was sitting on the side of the road near the exit ramp holding a sign.

"He saw me pull over and knew something was wrong," McClure recalled to *People*. "He told me to get back in the car and lock the doors. A few minutes later, he comes back with a red gas can. Using his last \$20 to make sure I could get home safe."

McClure was understandably touched by Bobbitt's incredible act of kindness and knew that she wanted to reciprocate somehow. She started visiting him regularly at his spot alongside the road and bringing him clothes and food. "One day I stopped to see him and had a few things in a bag to give him, one of which was a box of cereal bars so he could have something that he could carry around and eat," McClure explained. "He was very appreciative as usual and the first thing he said was, 'Do you want one?'"

Still, McClure felt she should do more. She and her boyfriend, Mark D'Amico, created a GoFundMe page on November 11 and set a goal of \$10,000.

They were astonished by the outpouring of support for the veteran who was willing to sacrifice his last bit of cash to help someone in need. In less than two weeks, the page raised more than \$350,000 from more than 10,000 people.

"He knows where he's at and he knows what he has to do to dig himself out," D'Amico said, according to the *Inquirer*. "It's almost impossible to dig himself out if he has nobody and nothing. If we can raise enough money to set him up for a few months, where he doesn't have to worry about where he's going to sleep and what he's going to eat, then he can get a job and go about his life."

Bobbitt was an ammunition technician in the Marines, according to the *Inquirer*. He was also a talented paramedic with a good heart until he began using drugs and struggled with money issues, a friend told the *Inquirer*.

McClure arranged for Bobbitt to meet with a financial planner and lawyer to help Bobbitt use the money well. "He is very interested in finding a job, and I believe that with a place to be able to clean up every night and get a good night's rest, his life can get back to being normal," McClure wrote on the GoFundMe page. "Truly believe that all Johnny needs is one little break."

In an interview with *Good Morning America*, Bobbitt stated that he feels a responsibility to use the money appropriately and even pay it forward to help others with similar struggles. "I just want to do the right thing," he said. "This money was given to help me. Why not help other people in similar situations or people that are actively helping other people in different situations?"

He added, "Everybody out there is facing some kind of struggle, so if I can touch their life, the way mine was touched, [it'd be] an amazing feeling. I want to feel the feeling on the opposite end."



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Christmas Goodness

A New Jersey man known only as Charlie K gave dozens of people an early Christmas surprise when he walked into a Toys “R” Us in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, on Black Friday and paid off all the layaway orders, totaling \$10,780.

When employees asked why he would do that, his response was simple. “Just trying to bring some happiness to people. That’s really it. Help bring back to the community that brought so much happiness to me and my family,” Charlie told CBS Philly. He chose that Toys “R” Us because it was closest to some of the most impoverished neighborhoods in his area, he explained.

Charlie’s generosity did not stop there. WRAL.com reported he also asked everyone shopping in the store at the time to choose three items for him to purchase to donate to Toys for Tots, a non-profit program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. That added another \$2,000 to his bill.

“The Marines and Toys for Tots are one of the best organizations, and I don’t want to forget them,” Charlie said.

Meanwhile, an organization called the Believe in Yourself Project made the holidays special for underprivileged girls around the country this year by providing gorgeous, stylish holiday dresses for them to wear on Christmas and New Year’s Eve.

Launched in January 2017 by Sam Sisakhti, founder of UsTrendy — the world’s largest fashion marketplace for young women and juniors — this project provides brand-new dresses to low-income girls for the holidays, as well as for upcoming school dances and other occasions. It also encourages success in girls who are interested in receiving additional dresses through a rewards system for achieving their goals.

In an interview with The New American, Sisakhti explained that low-income girls who sign up for the program receive a brand new dress to wear for a special occasion, and may continue to receive dresses for other occasions, by participating in a goals-oriented system that tracks their goals and rewards them based on their progress. The goals are typically short-term in nature and range from academic to extracurricular.

The program only recently acquired tax-exempt status, so retailers are now encouraged to donate dresses to the program. But prior to that, Sisakhti purchased most of the dresses that were given away. Some of the dresses are also samples provided to him through his business by fashion designers. The Believe in Yourself project gave away 10,000 dresses in its first year.

And there’s more to the foundation than just fashion. The project’s mission is to improve body image, reduce bullying, and inspire girls to believe in themselves and their dreams. The foundation does this by bringing in motivational speakers to mentor the girls in the program. Sisakhti told TNA that he has seen girls victimized by cyber-bullying and wanted to do something that would help them overcome it and help to build their self-esteem.

The Believe in Yourself Project may be exactly what these girls need to do just that.

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