

Written by <u>Raven Clabough</u> on February 5, 2018 Published in the February 5, 2018 issue of <u>the New American</u> magazine. Vol. 34, No. 03

#### **Goodness of America**

# **Chick-fil-A Open on Sunday?**

Chick-fil-A is well-known for being closed on Sundays, but one of the local Atlanta restaurants was willing to make an exception during a time of crisis.

At Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport on December 17, a power outage grounded more than 1,000 flights and left thousands of passengers stranded. Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed reached out to Chick-fil-A for assistance, and the restaurant responded by delivering free sandwiches to the emergency operations center to be distributed to stranded passengers.

"It has been a very difficult day for thousands of travelers," Chick-fil-A spokeswoman Amanda Hannah said. "And while Chick-fil-A is always closed on Sunday, our restaurants open occasionally to serve communities in need."

More than 5,000 sandwiches were distributed to the grounded passengers that Sunday. Chick-fil-A meals were also provided to passengers staying at the Georgia International Convention Center, which welcomed stranded passengers.

Even Chick-fil-A's CEO, Dan Cathy, arrived at the airport to distribute sandwiches alongside airport and city officials, Fox News reported.

What the company did was significant, as it has been strict about remaining closed on Sundays. Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy — father of CEO Dan Cathy — believed it was important to enable employees to "set aside one day to rest and worship if they so choose."

This meant that even when Chick-fil-A announced in August that it would be opening a location at the Atlanta Falcons' Mercedes-Benz Stadium, they would not be open on Sundays, despite Sundays being when the Falcons play most of their games.

Chick-fil-A is often targeted by the Left for its pro-Christian, pro-traditional marriage stances. Last April, students at Pittsburgh's Duquesne University attempted to get Chick-fil-A banned from the campus because of the company's support for traditional marriage.

However, despite the restaurant's critics, Chick-fil-A remains the highest-earning fast food chain in the country by revenue per store and is among the top 10 most-charitable franchise chains.

### Car for Christmas

Attorney Edward Pollard of Houston, Texas, gave his favorite waiter more than just a generous tip in this incredible story.

Pollard frequents Willie G's Seafood & Steaks for lunch regularly and always requests a particular waiter, James Booker, because of his outstanding customer service and good nature.

Pollard wrote on Facebook that Booker is "the kind of person who instantly can put a smile on your face" and is an all-around hard worker. Pollard recalls seeing Booker waiting at the nearby bus stop in harsh weather conditions after leaving work day in and day out and was inspired by his positive attitude.

"I have seen him walking in the blazing summer heat and I have seen him walking in the harsh cold





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winter," Pollard wrote. "No matter his circumstances, when I see him at work, he is always upbeat and a joy to be around."

This past Christmas, Pollard decided he would surprise Booker with a 2000 Oldsmobile Alero. It was a vehicle that Pollard had owned for years but barely used. Pollard made sure it was in perfect running condition before giving it to Booker, according to KHOU.com. He got the oil changed and got the vehicle inspected and the registration up to date before handing Booker the keys.

Video footage captured the moment when Pollard surprised Booker outside of Willie G's the day after Christmas.

"Sometimes when I leave work ... I see you going to the bus stop," Pollard told Booker in the video. "So I said, 'You know, I got an extra car, and I think James would be the perfect person for this extra car."

"Thank you," Booker said after giving Pollard a hug. "You're going to make me..." He stopped before he finished his sentence.

"You deserve it, man," Pollard told him. "You always treat us so well when we come in here and I really appreciate that."

Pollard is hopeful his deed will inspire others.

"As we embark on 2018, be mindful of others, and when possible, do something to encourage and lift them up," Pollard wrote. "Let's pledge to do every day simple things in 2018 to be the change we want to see."

# **Home for the Holidays**

Virginia Finch of Greeley, Colorado, not only saved Christmas for a family in need but saved that family from homelessness.

Virginia Finch and her daughter had prepared Thanksgiving meals for the local homeless population and learned of a family living behind a nearby gas station. She visited the family with the intention of delivering a meal to them, but was shocked to find the family contained three young children — four weeks old, 14 months old, and five years old — living in a partially converted school bus that they owned.

According to the mother, Olivia, the family had been traveling across the country in search of jobs and a home when their bus broke down and they feared the oncoming winter weather.

"We didn't think we were going to have a Christmas at all," Olivia explained to thedenverchannel.com. "We would have been lucky if we had enough food, or if we got jobs at that point."

Virginia provided the family with a meal, but knew that she wanted to do more to help. "There's no way I'm going to leave a baby with no crib for a bed on Christmas," she decided. "This family needed a home — and fast."

As it happens, Virginia had just finished renovating a home with the intention of selling it or renting it out. Instead, she handed the homeless family the keys and welcomed them to their new home.

Virginia's good deed was so overwhelming that Olivia first perceived it as a "cruel joke."

Fortunately, the heartwarming gesture was anything but a cruel joke. Virginia even collected items to





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fully furnish the home for the family.

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