



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on March 5, 2018

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## Goodness of America

### Warmer Classrooms

Baltimore resident Samierra Jones was so saddened to see Baltimore City students forced to learn in cold classrooms that she decided to do something about it. Jones is a graduate of the Baltimore City Public School system and recalled what it was like to sit in the chilly city classrooms. She also knows that not all city students have the proper attire to help keep them warm in harsh weather conditions.

The heating issues plaguing the city's public schools are apparently caused by outdated infrastructure. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, the Baltimore Teachers Union sent a letter January 3 to the school system's CEO, Sonja Santelises, urging the city to close all schools until officials could fix the problem. The Baltimore schools suffer aging and bursting pipes and boilers, poor insulation, and drafty windows. This has led to temperatures near freezing in classrooms, making school unsafe for both students and faculty.

On January 3, not wanting to wait for the school system to take action, Jones launched a GoFundMe page in the hopes of raising enough money to purchase 600 space heaters and extra winter clothing for school children. She set a goal of \$20,000.

The campaign went viral, with strangers from all over the world donating, and the page raised more than \$80,000. According to the *Charleston Chronicle*, much of the campaign's success is being attributed to Baltimore Ravens linebacker Aaron Maybin, who encouraged his social media followers to donate after posting a video of a dozen students sitting together in a Maryland classroom.

In addition to raising money, the campaign prompted dozens of locals to donate coats and winter accessories, as well as water bottles, hand sanitizers, cups, and tissues to the school.

Jones is beyond happy: "This campaign has brought the right amount of attention to this issue to the point where there is pressure on those who are held accountable for funding and project management," she said.

According to [simplemost.com](#), "Less than a week after Jones' campaign went live, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan announced \$2.5 million in emergency funding to help with the intolerable heating issues in over 100 Baltimore schools. After a week in which over 60 school buildings reported heating issues, many schools throughout the Baltimore area were forced to close temporarily for repairs."

### Good Will at Goodwill

Nineteen-year-old Frederick White had no idea he had been caught in the act of doing a good deed. When White visited his local Goodwill on December 29 to purchase a couple of jackets, he struck up a conversation with a stranger named Jim Glasgow. Glasgow asked White about all of the jackets he was purchasing and learned that White intended to donate them to homeless members of his community.

Glasgow was moved by the teen's good deed and, unbeknownst to White, snapped a photo of the young man to be posted online. According to the post, White spent \$65 on coats that day.

When White later saw that the photo of him had gone viral on social media, he was shocked. "I was at work and I was like, 'Oh my God, they snapped a picture of me,'" he told WKYC. White said that he had originally become inspired to buy the coats after reading an online story about people hanging free



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jackets for the homeless on poles and fences.

White recalls that his family struggled when he was younger, and he wanted to give to others who may find themselves in a similar situation. “Basically when I was younger, we really didn’t have that much money so it wasn’t like every year we could get a new coat,” White said.

## **More Than a Foot Ahead**

Maurice Anderson was riding the subway in Chicago on January 12 when he saw a homeless man with swollen feet, wearing flimsy running shoes ill-equipped to protect anyone’s feet from the harsh Chicago winter. Anderson decided to take off his own \$260 boots and give them to the man.

Anderson lives in Cincinnati but happened to be in Chicago to visit his daughter. He had luggage with him on the train that day, so he reached into his suitcase and offered the man a pair of socks as well.

The entire scene was witnessed by Jessica Bell, a Chicago attorney who also noticed the homeless man’s feet. She was so touched by what she saw that she posted about it on Facebook. Bell described the condition of the man’s feet: “I don’t know how many pairs of socks he’s wearing in an attempt to keep his feet warm but there is blood seeping through.” She speculated that they appeared to be frostbitten.

She noted that Anderson pulled a pair of spare shoes from his suitcase to replace the ones he was wearing, and while they were nice, they were not of the same quality as the boots he had given away.

## **Selfless Decision**

The lives of Albuquerque police officer Ryan Holets and his wife, Rebecca, were forever changed after Holets responded to a September call about a possible theft in progress at a gas station. It turned out to be a false alarm, but when Holets was leaving the gas station, he noticed two people on the grassy bank alongside the gas station engaged in drug use. As he got closer, he realized that it was a male and a pregnant female.

“My first reaction was a little bit of anger and it came out in what I told her,” said Ryan, a married father of four. “I told her that she was going to kill her baby and that really upset her quite a bit.”

According to Today.com, the pregnant woman, Crystal, is addicted to opioids and had been desperate to find a family to adopt her baby. Coincidentally, Holets and his wife had talked about expanding their family of six through adoption. Instantly, Holets knew what he wanted to do. “The realization I was going to make the offer was kind of overwhelming so I had to go sit in my car and think about it for a few seconds and think about how I was going to say it to her,” he says.

It took a little more than week, but Crystal agreed to the adoption. On October 12, Hope Holets came into the world. The baby went through drug withdrawal, but after a week and a half in the hospital, was able to go home with her new family.

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