



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on May 7, 2018

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## Goodness of America

### Fellow Mom to the Rescue

If your child has ever had a public tantrum, you likely understand the humiliation and frustration it can cause. Now imagine two young children having tantrums at the same time. Thankfully for Rebecca Paterson of Texas, whose two young children chose the exact same time to have a meltdown at a Pearland Target in March, a fellow mother came to her aid.

Paterson was doing her usual shopping when her two-month-old child and two-year-old began to cry and make scenes. She said that she was prepared to immediately leave the store and spare her fellow shoppers from the chaos. Paterson had planned to abandon her shopping trip, the *Houston Chronicle* reported, and even began putting the items back on their shelves when another shopper named Tiffany Jones-Guillory approached her and offered to help.

Jones-Guillory offered to hold the two-year-old and walk him up and down the aisles alongside Paterson to distract him from whatever sparked the outburst. Paterson gratefully accepted and used the opportunity to calm her infant.

Jones-Guillory entertained the toddler by pointing to various items in the aisles and showing him pictures of her own children. Before the women knew it, the toddler was calm and happy. They walked around the store for approximately 45 minutes, KHOU11 reported.

Paterson was so touched by Jones-Guillory's kindness that she posted about it on her Facebook page. Before long, strangers were reaching out to Jones-Guillory to compliment her on her goodness.

To her, intervening seemed like a no-brainer. "I was just trying to do something nice from mom to mom, because I've been in that situation before," she said. "I heard how frustrated she was."

Paterson said Jones-Guillory's intervention enabled her to finish her shopping. She also stated that the kindness shown by this stranger was much needed because she was already struggling from sleep deprivation and just the general exhaustion of raising two young children.

"She walked with me while I got the essentials needed for the day and kept hold of my toddler while he calmed down," Rebecca said in her Facebook post, which included a photo of Jones-Guillory holding the toddler. "She saved me today, moms!!! I am so sleep deprived and was running on empty. A little kindness and understanding goes a long way."

### Not Standing By

When a Kentucky police officer was struggling with a suspect who grabbed for his pocketknife, two passersby intervened. According to the Daily Wire, they approached the scene and rescued the officer by subduing the suspect and pinning his arms.

Stanton Police Officer Rice was on patrol on April 1 when he noticed a disturbance involving a man named Coty Sparks. While Officer Rice was trying to arrest him, Sparks fled but was quickly caught by Rice. Still, Officer Rice found himself entangled in a wrestling match with the suspect, who appeared to have ill intentions — he was seen reaching for his pocketknife.

It was then that Austin Tharpe and Oppie Anthony Garner happened upon the scene. When they saw



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that the officer was struggling, they jumped in to pin Sparks' arms, enabling Officer Rice to make the arrest.

The two men told the *Lexington Herald-Leader* that they could not idly stand by while a police officer was struggling in his efforts to keep the streets safe. "They do so much for us and to see him having trouble getting the guy to listen, it seemed like it was best to help out with the situation, especially since he had a knife," Tharpe said. "Someone could have easily gotten hurt."

"I was just trying to help out," Garner added. "It's a small town. Just about everybody knows everybody."

The Stanton Police Department took to its Facebook page to thank the two men. "The City of Stanton Police Department would like to publicly thank Austin Tharpe of Stanton and Oppie Anthony Garner of Mount Sterling for stopping to help Officer Rice," the post reads. "These 2 individuals did the right thing by stepping in to help law enforcement rather than standing around hoping to record the next viral video on their phones."

## Officers as Surrogates

Deputies with the Chatham County Sheriff's Office in North Carolina went above and beyond the call of duty when they stepped in as surrogate daddies and mommies for local kids at Bonlee Elementary School's first-ever Daddy/Daughter and Mother/Son Dance on March 23.

The event was sponsored by the Bonlee School Parent Teacher Association and coordinated by Chatham County Sheriff's Office Victim Coordinator Donna Griffith, who wanted to provide the children a fun and safe environment in which positive family memories could be created. "We wanted families to have a good time together, but we recognize that not all children live with their parents and not all parents are able to take off work to attend a school event," Griffith posted on the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

The post noted that nearly 100 K-5 students attended the dance, but not all of them were able to bring a parent. Griffith asked some of her colleagues to help, and they enthusiastically agreed.

"It is always our pleasure to support community events, especially when they benefit our youth. It also allows students to interact with deputies and understand that we are people, just like them," said Sheriff Mike Roberson. "To hear that whole families were in attendance laughing, dancing, and making memories together warms the heart. It doesn't get much better than that."

Attendees had their photos taken and were offered the opportunity to design their own keepsake photo frames. Deputy Jonathan Thomas observed that the parents and children seemed to let loose, have fun, and "show their playful side."

According to Griffith, the event successfully raised more than \$700, which will be used for future student events and programs. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and the school is hoping to make it an annual tradition.

— Raven Clabough



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