



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on July 9, 2018

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The Goodness of America

Mom's Flight Saved by Passenger

A stranger known only as Todd from Lenexa, Kansas, intervened when he saw airline passenger Jessica Rudeen struggling with an infant and toddler on her first-ever flight, and helped make the entire April 14 trip a whole lot easier.

Rudeen was unable to breastfeed her four-month-old infant before boarding a plane to Charlotte, North Carolina, which caused the hungry infant to scream in distress and prompted the three-year-old to follow suit.

Fortunately for Rudeen, Todd was seated next to her, and he immediately came to her aid. "(Todd) reached for the baby and held him while I forced a seatbelt on Caroline, got her tablet and started her movie. Once she was settled and relatively calmed, he distracted her so that I could feed Alexander," says Rudeen. "Finally, while we were taxiing, the back of the plane no longer had screams."

Todd's actions did not stop there, however. He continued to entertain Caroline throughout the flight, coloring with her, talking to her, and pointing out all of the interesting sites outside the window. Jessica recalled that by the end of the flight, Caroline considered Todd her friend and even kissed him on the shoulder.

When Jessica learned that Todd was also booked for the same connecting flight from Charlotte to Wilmington, North Carolina, she thought she just about struck gold.

Todd walked with Jessica and her children through the airport, holding Caroline's hand the entire time. Rudeen was able to snap some photos of the two as they navigated their way through the busy airport.

Todd changed his seat on the flight to Wilmington so that he could sit with Rudeen and continue to offer his assistance through the last leg of Rudeen's trip.

Todd told Rudeen why he was happy to help when he saw she needed it. He explained that his wife had been in a similar situation with their two boys when a stranger intervened and offered the same kindness.

Rudeen later took to her Facebook page to share her experience. "I am blown away by God's hand in this because we could have been placed next to anyone, but we were seated next to one of the nicest men I have ever met in my life."

Rudeen had hoped that her Facebook page would help her locate Todd so that she could thank him properly for what he did for her. The post was shared more than 8,000 times, and Rudeen was finally connected to Todd's wife. The two families reportedly made plans to meet up.

"It Was an Honor"

It seems lately the news has been dominated by negative stories involving airlines and their treatment of passengers, so it is a refreshing change to hear this story out of Alaska.

A woman named Kathryn was dealing with the death of her beloved "Nan," Concetta Immacolata Mongiardo, and wanted to prepare something beautiful for the wake and funeral. "I made a poster of my favorite picture of her," Kathryn explained, "which is when she turned 100. To me, this picture



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shows the essence of my grandmother's nature: gratitude."

KTVU reported that Kathryn wrapped the photo in cardboard and brought it to the airport to take it on board her May 10 flight, but was told by Alaska Airlines gate agent Lourdes Pedemonte that the photo would have to go in the cargo hold with the rest of the luggage.

Kathryn became teary-eyed and explained the poster's importance to her and asked if there was some other way it could travel.

Pedemonte reportedly became visibly emotional and assured Kathryn that the poster would not have to fly in the cargo hold.

"A few minutes later, she came up to me, put her hand on my shoulder and said, 'you're all set, the pilots are going to keep Nan in the cockpit,'" Kathryn recalled.

Kathryn was moved by the airline's gesture, and by the kindness shown to her by the staff. "When I boarded the plane, I was greeted by flight attendant Pam Keck who said, 'you must be the woman with some precious cargo.' I smiled at her, with tears in my eyes, and handed Nan over to her."

"The cockpit door was open, and when Ms. Keck handed Nan over to the pilots, they both made eye contact with me and told me not to worry, that they would take good care of Nan as we travelled across the country."

At the end of the flight, Kathryn thanked the pilots for their kindness, to which they replied, "It was an honor."

For Kathryn, the kindness shown by the staff of the airline was a beacon of light in an otherwise dark place.

RIP Medical Debt

Widower Danny Roberson, of Garland, Texas, turned a tragic loss into something positive that will help others.

Danny's wife, Betty, died early this year from a tumor that did not respond to months of chemotherapy. Worse, while Betty was receiving treatment for her cancer, Danny had also been diagnosed with cancer, a tumor that was in his face. Danny refused treatment at the time because he wanted to use all of their finances to fight Betty's cancer.

After Betty's passing, Danny did pursue treatment and is now recovering from surgery that successfully removed the tumor. However, he did not want other families to be confronted by the same difficult decision that he had to make in deciding whether they had the funds to treat both his and Betty's cancer. So Danny did something wonderful.

He donated \$10,000 of Betty's life insurance payout to the charity RIP Medical Debt, which buys people's medical debt for pennies on the dollar. In other words, Danny's \$10,000 donation will forgive approximately \$1 million in medical debt, NBCDFW reported.

Danny told the news outlet that there had been other treatments available that Betty could have pursued, but they simply cost too much to afford. He did not want others to experience the same disappointment.

"When they go out and see that RIP medical envelope in their mail box, I know God is blessing them and



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I know Betty may have had a little bit to do with that,” Danny told NBCDFW.

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