



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on September 3, 2018

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## **The Goodness of America**

### **Thanks for Saving My Son**

Virginia Stanley was waitressing at the Waffle House in Antioch, Tennessee, on April 22 when a crazed gunman opened fire on the unsuspecting customers and staff, killing four people. A simple request from Stanley moments before the shooting is being credited with possibly saving the lives of two men, and the mother of one of those men has found a way to repay her: She got Stanley a wedding dress for her upcoming nuptials.

Fox News reported that just before the shooting tragedy unfolded at the Waffle House that fateful day, Stanley asked customer Michael Garth and his friend, Tre Sneed, to change seats so that they wouldn't be splashed with water while she washed the dishes. The two had intended to sit in the bar area, but Stanley's request compelled them to take seats elsewhere. The two men believe that if they remained at the bar, they would have been among the victims of that shooting.

Upon hearing this story, Garth's mother, Vickie Davis, wanted to thank Stanley, and visited the Waffle House to do so, only to learn that Stanley no longer worked there. But Stanley had left her contact information with the manager, who was able to put Davis in touch with her.

Davis, a 34-year veteran of the Army Reserves and National Guard, knew that she wanted to thank Stanley, but didn't know how. Then, she learned that Stanley happened to be a bride in need of a dress and that Glitz, a bridal store in Nashville that partners with Brides Across America, a non-profit that gifts weddings and wedding gowns to military and first responders, might be willing to aid Stanley.

According to Fox News, Glitz typically only donates to military and first responders, but made an exception once they heard Stanley's story.

Stanley and Davis met for the first time on July 11, when Davis helped Stanley pick a wedding dress. Davis told *Insider* it was an "emotional moment" that involved a lot of crying.

In addition to helping find Stanley a dress, Davis also thanked James Shaw, Jr., the man who disarmed the Waffle House gunman. She invited him over for dinner, *Insider* reports. Shaw has since raised more than \$100,000 for victims of the attack.

According to Garth's friend, Sneed, Davis' actions are not out of the ordinary for her.

"This is just normal Miss Vickie Davis," said Sneed, who has been friends with Garth for 20 years. "Her work doesn't stop."

### **Walk a Mile, or 20, in His Shoes**

Alabama college student Walter Carr made a great first impression on a lot of people on his first day at a new job, and it paid off significantly.

Just before his first day at the Bellhops moving company, Carr's 2003 Nissan Altima broke down. He did not want to be late, so he left his home around midnight to walk from Homewood, Alabama, to Pelham, a 20-mile commute. He calculated that it would take him approximately seven hours to reach his destination. Fortunately, Carr was spotted by police officers around 4 a.m., who took him to breakfast before dropping him off at his job.



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"We all decided, hey, you know, let's go get him some breakfast and get him somewhere safe," Officer Mark Knighten told WBMA. The Pelham police department later tweeted, "Proud to have encountered this young man. He certainly made an impact on us."

His first moving client, Jenny Lamey, heard the story and offered to let Carr rest before he began work, but instead Carr went straight to moving. Throughout the day, Lamey learned that Carr and his mother were Hurricane Katrina refugees who had been transplanted to Alabama after losing their house in Louisiana, Fox News reported.

Lamey was impressed by Carr's dedication and work ethic and decided to start a GoFundMe page to raise money for a new vehicle for Carr. The goal was set for \$2,000, but before long, the page had raised \$32,000.

"I just can't tell you how touched I was by Walter and his journey. He is humble and kind and cheerful and he had big dreams! He is hardworking and tough," Lamey wrote on Facebook.

When word of Carr's ordeal and Lamey's kind deed reached Bellhops CEO Luke Marklin, Marklin drove his own 2014 Ford Escape to Carr's house to give to him.

Marklin told AL.com, "I am honestly blown away by him. Everything he did that day is exactly who we are — heart and grit."

Carr is hopeful that his experience will inspire others to go the extra mile.

## **Finders ... Returners!**

Three children in Aurora, Colorado, have been praised for returning a wallet containing \$700 in cash to its rightful owner, the U.K.'s *Daily Mail* reported.

On July 18, Haylie Wenke, 13; her six-year-old brother, Reagan; and their friend Ashley Dayton were on their way to a water park on their bikes when they spotted a wallet laying on the ground near a vehicle. Instead of keeping the money, they brought it to the address inside.

Video surveillance shows the three children approaching the home of the wallet's owner and leaving a message stating that they had found the wallet and wanted to return it before someone else found it.

"We found your wallet outside of your car and we just thought we would give it back to you," Wenke said before placing the wallet in a hidden space by the door. "I'm going to put it over here so no one takes any money. You're welcome. Thank you."

The residents of the house state that the wallet belonged to their son, Nigel Drake. They were so grateful and impressed by the children's good deed that they posted the video footage of them returning the wallet on Facebook in an effort to find the children and thank them. Within days, the video was shared more than 4,000 times.

Facebook users responded immediately with words of praise. One such user, Dee Ann Parsons Tidwell, said that a story such as this one "restores my faith in people."

But the children didn't seem to believe they did anything extraordinary. Haylie told KDVR-TV that they did it simply because "it would be a good thing to do."

— Raven Clabough



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