



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 10, 2018

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## **Goodness of America**

### **Mrs. Delicious**

Stacey Achterhoff of Duluth, Minnesota, is a teacher for homeless children at Duluth Public Schools, but she also has a very special alter ego that she assumes in her spare time: Mrs. Delicious, owner of a bicycle ice cream cart. According to KARE 11, Mrs. Delicious' business has morphed into a "pay-it-forward" one that gives away ice cream that was paid for by someone else.

Achterhoff has given away hundreds of ice cream cones and Popsicles over the course of the last three summers, which were purchased by community members who wanted to pay it forward by having them distributed to their neighbors.

"People want to know that goodness is prevailing over evil, and they want to be a part of that," Achterhoff told KARE 11.

Achterhoff's business model is different than what she envisioned when she first purchased her ice cream bike cart, but it fulfills her in exactly the way she'd hoped when she first went into the ice cream business. In 2009, Achterhoff's great aunt was murdered by an intruder, and Achterhoff wanted to do something to fill the void and create joy where she felt pain.

"I'm a person of faith, and what do you do when terrible things happen? You have to figure out where the light is," Stacey said.

It wasn't until three summers ago, however, that the notion of a pay-it-forward ice cream business was born. It began when a man named Steve Peterson purchased multiple ice cream cones from Mrs. Delicious and asked her to distribute them to others.

He told Stacey, "When you find somebody that may not be able to afford a piece of ice cream or something, why don't you go ahead and give them one on me."

She wrote about the encounter on her Facebook page, and upon seeing how many people were inspired by the compassionate gesture, she began the pay-it-forward model that she has been executing ever since. Customers can purchase credits for ice cream that are then used to distribute ice cream to random strangers.

In Achterhoff's experience, customers who receive the free ice cream tend to immediately reach into their own pockets to pay for more ice cream to be given away to others.

One customer, Binner Rahn, received a free ice cream bar, and then prepaid for \$20 worth of ice cream to be given away. When KARE 11 asked her why she would spend \$20 despite receiving nothing in return but an ice cream bar, her response was simple: "It doesn't matter. It's a great deal. It makes me feel I can be a part of it."

Achterhoff and those who participate in her business model are helping to make Duluth sweeter, one treat at a time.

### **Pizza for the Homeless**

And speaking of giving away treats, Mike and Jennifer Stevens own a Little Caesars pizzeria in Fargo, North Dakota, that has given away more than 140,000 slices of pizza to the homeless.



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When the couple first opened their business in 2015, they spotted a homeless man sitting outside of a gas station near their restaurant. He had been there for several hours, and the couple and their daughters felt inspired to do something.

“My daughters and I were looking out of the window and saying should we get him something,” Jenny told *Today Food*. “We brought him a pizza. He was so thankful and so gracious. Then we ended up doing it again for a different person. And again for a different person. And again for another person.”

A year later, the owners realized that people were going through their dumpster in search of food and decided that they wanted to give people a more dignified way to obtain a free meal.

Mike Stevens posted a sign on the pizzeria’s window that read, “To the person going through our trash for their next meal, you’re a human being and worth more than a meal from a dumpster. Please come in during operating hours for a couple of slices of hot pizza and a cup of water at no charge. No questions asked.”

The family began giving away whole pies instead of individual slices, and decided that they would go even further in their mission by partnering with an area homeless shelter. Eventually, that grew to three homeless shelters. As of October 1, they had given away more than 142,000 slices of pizza, which amounts to \$70,000 worth of food.

Sadly, Mike Stevens passed away in December 2017 after battling leukemia, but the family has continued the mission of giving away pizza. They began to raise funds to pay for their mission through GoFundMe.

Jennifer Stevens recalls of Mike, “He said we have more than we need and these people are struggling to find their next meal, so why not help?”

## **Here, Take My Wedding**

Bride-to-be Kolbie Sanders of Tyler, Texas, broke off her engagement one week before her wedding date and decided that she would use her heartbreak to help another couple in need. She posted on Facebook about her cancellation, and she offered to give away her \$3,500 wedding package to any couple willing to be married within the week, NBC News reported.

“With my engagement ending, I’ve come to find tremendous peace in knowing that I did the right thing for the both of us,” Sanders wrote on Facebook. “With that being said, now I want to do the right thing by others and let some good come out of this decision.”

She asked for Facebook users to nominate deserving couples, and her post immediately went viral. It was shared thousands of times, and drew the attention of local businesses and community members who volunteered their services to make the wedding package more complete. Fox News reported that before long, the giveaway included a makeup artist, hair stylist, photographer, bakers, and chefs, as well as florists and an event-planning company.

Meanwhile, Sanders sifted through the nominations until she settled on the most deserving — 45 in all — and then placed their names into a bowl. *The Washington Post* reported that the winner was Halie Hipsher, who wanted to be married in time for her grandfather to be at the wedding — he had recently been diagnosed with stage-four cancer.

Hipsher’s wedding took place on October 20, and Sanders stopped by to visit with the happy couple.



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She even posed for a photo with Hipsher and her grandfather, ABC News reported.

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