



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 24, 2018

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Goodness of America

Donuts for Time

When John Chhan's wife, Stella, was laid up in a hospital recovering from a brain aneurysm, he wanted more than anything to be by her side day and night, but couldn't because he also needed to run his donut shop. Luckily for him, the people of Seal Beach, California, came through and saw to it that he could be by his wife's bedside and still keep his business afloat.

CBS 2 reported on November 2 that customers had grown accustomed to seeing both John and Stella behind the counter of Donut City and took note of Stella's absence. When they learned that she suffered an aneurysm and was recovering in rehab and that John could only be by her side when the shop sold out of doughnuts each day, they decided that they would help get him there quicker. They simply bought out his donuts early each day so he could rush off to the rehabilitation center.

"Chhan declined customers' offer to set up a GoFundMe account for the couple, saying he simply wants more time with his wife," CBS 2 explained.

"Instead, customers have endeavored to help Donut City sell out early every day so he can return to the rehabilitation center where she is recovering."

Customers made a campaign of it through newsletters and word of mouth. They asked individuals to purchase a dozen doughnuts at a time so that Chhan could close his shop early each day.

"Hey come and support this guy's donuts," one customer said, flashing a thumbs up sign. "He's a great man, great cause." Thanks to the efforts of the local community, John is able to be by his wife through this difficult recovery.

Helping a Pregnant Woman

Teresa Steele of Church Hill, Virginia, was a pregnant woman living without air conditioning or heat after someone broke open her house's HVAC unit to steal the copper tubing inside. And while insurance would not cover it, the local community stepped up to help.

"I called insurance and they wouldn't cover it," Steele said. "It feels bad because this is how we live.... They did it to take the copper and sell it for a few dollars. I don't have \$6,000 to get a new system."

Steele became desperate as she feared bringing her newborn baby to her cold house, so she reached out to CBS 6 Problem Solvers for help. After her story was aired, Steele states her phone began ringing nonstop with people calling to offer their help and services.

"My phone's going crazy. People were sending me messages and saying stuff like, 'We're willing to help,'" Steele said. "And it was just bringing tears to my eyes."

One such caller was River City Heating owner Bobby Robinson, who arrived at Steele's house on October 25 with his crew to fix her unit for free.

Robinson explained that he wanted to help because he hopes that if ever he needed assistance, someone would volunteer. He also gave credit to his customers, who were very understanding when he explained why he had to reschedule their appointments to service Steele's equipment.

Dominion Energy also stepped forward to help by entering her into the Energy's Energy Share



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program, which will help to offset the cost of her energy bill.

Steele is beyond grateful for the outpouring of support she has received.

“You never know who’s out there listening to you,” Steele said. “You have to have faith ... and have to believe that the more you spread your love, someone will have love to spread back to you.”

Waiter Surprise

Drew Lewis is a bartender and waiter at the Olive Garden restaurant in Akron, Ohio, but on October 22, he proved to be so much more than that.

Lewis was serving a family of six at the restaurant on a Friday night in October, the first night he had worked in a long time. The two-parent family had four hyperactive children dining with them, and to Lewis, the adults seemed a bit overwhelmed. He focused his attention on the children in an attempt to entertain them and calm them down.

The parents were extremely grateful for Lewis and the way he treated their children. Mom Krista Gallagher posted on Facebook about their experience with Lewis as their server. “We had an AH-MA-ZING server who played well with our children when we warned him this would most likely be the craziest table of the night! But no he said he loves kiddos!” she wrote.

One of the children stood out to Lewis. Eight-year-old Tommy Gallagher was wearing a shirt that said “#TommyStrong” on it, and Lewis felt compelled to hear the story behind the shirt. “I was curious who Tommy was and [he] said [that] the T-shirt was for him. So later in the dinner I asked him what the shirt was for and he told me that he was getting brain surgery on Monday,” Lewis explained in a Facebook post.

Lewis got to know Tommy over the course of that meal, and learned that he wanted to be a police officer and a chef when he grew up. It just so happened that Lewis is a student at the University of Akron’s police academy. It was serendipity.

The two of them bonded that night, so when Tommy asked Lewis if he would come visit him in the hospital when he had his surgery, Lewis answered yes.

On October 22, following Tommy’s seven-and-a-half hour surgery, Lewis arrived at the hospital with a T-shirt from the University of Akron’s police academy and a card signed by the students in Lewis’ class, Fox 8 reported.

Krista wrote in her Facebook post, “He stood in that ICU waiting for Tommy to open his eyes so he could fulfill his promise to an 8 year old boy he did not know.”

Tommy came out of his surgery successfully and is expected to make a full recovery. And Lewis visited him a second time during his hospital stay, even cancelling other plans to do so.

As for Lewis, he believes his chance encounter with Tommy was fate. “This kid showed me how to be strong and handle the [adversity] life throws at you,” Lewis wrote on his Facebook page.

And Lewis taught the Gallaghers that there are truly wonderful people in this world. “There are still amazing people in this world and Drew is one of the few!” Krista posted. “God sent Tommy an angel to be with him and we are so thankful!!!”

— Raven Clabough



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