



Goodness of America

Stopping Eviction

Eighty-five-year-old Gertrude Eaton believed she was going to have to leave her home on Applecrest Farm Orchards, where she had lived for 60 years, because the property owners said they were being forced by their bank to sell the land. Thankfully, an anonymous donor saw to it that that wouldn't happen in this incredible story out of Hampton Falls, New Hampshire.

Gertrude Eaton was born in the cottage in which she resides because her family had been employees at Applecrest, SeaCoastOnline.com reported. She eventually moved back into the house with her husband after they were married, and continued to work for the orchard until several years ago. She had been assured that she would be able to stay in the house for the rest of her life, but the orchard came upon tough times financially and was compelled to sell the land.

Gertrude was given very short notice of Applecrest's plan to sell the property. When the Eaton family learned that Applecrest Farm Orchards was going to close on a sale of the land on October 24, they became desperate and set up a GoFundMe page in the hopes of raising \$275,000 within a two-week period so that they could purchase the parcel of land and house where Gertrude stayed to allow her to live out her remaining years there.

"Gert worked many long hours at the farm during her life along with her husband and children, being paid a minimum wage so that she could live in the little yellow house on a piece of the orchard belonging to Applecrest," the GoFundMe page read.

"The short notice of Applecrest's plan to sell the property, the threat of eviction, and the stress of losing her family home at age 85 have taken a great emotional toll on an elderly woman who had expected to live out her years in peace," the page added.

Nearly \$5,000 had been raised through the fundraising page when an anonymous donor reached out to the family directly and offered to cover the entire cost.

"Thanks to an anonymous party that has purchased the property, Gert will be allowed to stay in her family home for the rest of her life," the page announced on October 27. "This is truly a miracle and proof that there are amazing and generous people in the world!!"

The identity of the donor will be made public once the sale is documented in town records, but the donor requested to remain anonymous for as long as possible.

The family has asked the donors of the \$5,000 if they would like to have their donations refunded if they would prefer to have the funds used to cover Gert's expenses.

From 0 to 100

When a 12-year-old's classmates rejected his invitation to attend his birthday party, a local community in Spokane, Washington, came through to make sure the young man had a birthday he'd never forget.

It all started when the boy's mother struck up a friendship with a man named Mike Ellis on World Homeless Day two years ago, Yahoo Lifestyle reported. Her story was a sad one, as she had escaped domestic violence and was forced to take her two young sons into shelters in Spokane before she was



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able to finally secure a job and an apartment. (The mother and her children are unnamed in this story.)

Fast forward to September 29, 2018, when Ellis posted on his Facebook page that the 12-year-old invited his new classmates to his October birthday party and that they had all declined. Feeling dejected, the boy gave up on the notion of a party.

Ellis and his wife, Dianah, decided that they would plan a special birthday party for the young man. They took to Facebook to appeal to the local community, family, and friends:

We know a special boy. He has been in a new school for a couple of weeks. He invited classmates to his birthday party and they have all said they are NOT coming. How many [of] our Facebook friends would come to a birthday party for this young man? Due to the response from classmates, he has given up on having a party. We are hoping to change his mind.

The Ellis family decided to host a birthday party for the boy on October 28 at a local restaurant. They even rented a party bus to get the boy and his family to his party, which was attended by approximately 100 people.

“The majority of the people there had never met the mom, had never met the boy, had never seen them or knew who they were until [Sunday]. And they were just touched by the story,” Ellis says. “The reason why so many people responded was because they either were that boy, or knew somebody like that boy.”

According to Yahoo, people reached out to offer their services and goodies, including a venue, cupcakes, and new sneakers, as requested on the boy’s birthday wish list.

The boy and his family were astounded by the show of support from people whom they had never met. “They were overwhelmed, overjoyed, they were absolutely blown away by it,” Ellis said. “I really believe that yesterday changed the lives of the mom and those two boys.”

The story proves that generosity begets generosity. On October 29, the boy’s mother sent Ellis a text message that read, “This is how kindness is contagious Mike...My kiddo...is taking the left over cupcakes to school tomorrow to share with his classmates. See the ripple starting? Kindness breeds kindness.”

Though the young man’s classmates rejected him, he intends to continue to show them kindness and good will.

Simple, but Unforgettable

Simple acts of kindness go a long way.

Summerville, South Carolina, police officer T. Bilancione was driving in his patrol vehicle at the end of October when he noticed a young boy throwing a football to himself in his front yard. The officer stopped the car and offered to toss the football with the boy for a few moments, a scene captured on a surveillance camera, MSN reported.

When the boy’s parents saw the video, they immediately reached out to the police department to praise the officer. “My son was throwing the football up to himself in the yard and your officer noticed and stopped to play for a couple minutes,” they wrote. “This made my sons day and I wanted this officer to know.... he rocks!!!”



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