



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on March 18, 2019

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THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Signs

An entire neighborhood in Newton, Massachusetts, has taken up sign language to communicate with two-year-old neighbor Samantha Savitz.

Savitz was born deaf, CBS News reported, and can only communicate through sign language. She has become increasingly sociable, but was unable to engage with her neighbors because they did not understand her language. “She’s super engaging. She wants to chat-up with anybody,” said her father, Raphael.

The neighbors decided that they wanted to be able to communicate with Samantha. Without telling Samantha’s parents, they began taking sign-language classes at night. Before long, the class became large enough that the members hired the instructor to teach them privately in the living room of one of the members.

[BabyGaga.com](#) reported that the neighbors are now able to sign certain phrases to the toddler, such as telling her that she “has a nice shirt” and that they are “proud of her for making a basket in her basketball hoop.”

According to Samantha’s parents, the toddler gets very excited when she encounters individuals who can communicate through sign language. “Yea, her whole personality changes when it’s someone who can communicate with her,” said her mother, Glenda.

The neighbors told CBS News that they wanted to make Samantha feel like “she is part of the neighborhood.”

The sign teacher, Rhys McGovern, said it’s incredibly moving to see an entire community motivated to learn sign language because there are times when even the parents of deaf children do not bother to learn it. Samantha and her parents will often attend the classes, and the first thing Samantha says when she enters is “friend,” one of the neighbors told CBS News.

Airport Pals

Traveling with young children is never easy, but a man from Oklahoma, later identified as Joseph Pat Wright, made it a much more pleasant experience for former U.S. Marine Kevin Armentrout, who was waiting to catch a plane from Las Vegas to San Diego with his 16-month-old daughter, Carter.

“[Carter] was being her usual inquisitive self, wanting to meet and say ‘hi’ to everyone she could, until she walked up on this man,” Armentrout wrote in a February 2 Facebook post about the encounter that took place the day before. The post was accompanied by a photo of Joseph and Carter. “He reached out and asked if she wanted to sit with him.”

The stranger could have simply exchanged brief pleasantries with the small child and returned to his own airport activities. Instead, he engaged with the little girl for nearly an hour. He watched cartoons with her, taught her how to use his tablet, and engaged in conversation with her over a shared snack.

Armentrout was moved by the man’s kindness. “Watching them in that moment, I couldn’t help but think, different genders, different races, different generations, and the best of friends. This is the world



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I want for her,” wrote Armentrout.

“In a country that is continuously fed that it’s so deeply divided by beliefs, I want her life to be filled with moments like this ... not liberal or conservative republican or democrat, socialist or capitalist, just HUMAN.”

The Facebook post has more than 500,000 likes, 17,000 comments, and 200,000 shares. In many of the comments, Facebook users shared tales of similar encounters.

It’s Raining — Money?

Terry Brubaker was driving through Gloversville, New York, on January 14 when she witnessed a “shower” of money raining upon her car, in bills ranging from \$20 to \$100. While this might be a dream come true for some, Brubaker knew that the money did not belong to her.

According to the *Leader Herald*, Brubaker pulled over and began collecting the money, which amounted to approximately \$8,000, along with an envelope marked “Dad,” from which the money had come. She immediately took the items to the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office, where she happened to run into the owner, who was there filing a report.

As it turns out, the money belonged to Kim Steenburg, who had just taken it out of the bank and accidentally placed the envelope on top of her car while she was placing her niece in her car seat. She then drove off, forgetting that the money was resting in an envelope on top of her vehicle. The money flew everywhere and landed where it could be found by Brubaker.

How Much Can You Lift?

Michigan powerlifter Ryan Belcher of Ypsilanti was at the right place at the right time on February 14 to save a man’s life.

Belcher was finishing up at work when he heard a crash outside and saw that a Jeep Cherokee was flipped over. He rushed toward the scene of the accident and found a man trapped underneath the vehicle. Other people were already on the scene trying to help.

“When I first approached the vehicle, there was a good four men there, and they were all trying to move this vehicle and I seen it wasn’t happening and I figured what a better time than now to use what I know I can actually do,” Belcher told *Fox & Friends*.

The man’s lower body remained inside the vehicle, and his upper body was jammed against a speed limit sign. The vehicle needed to be moved in order to save the driver.

Belcher was just the man for the job. At 350 pounds, he can squat 950 pounds, Fox News reported.

“I just jumped right in,” he said. “I seen a window that was broken out of the back of the vehicle and I knew if I can swing the vehicle in a certain direction I can free him from that pole. So, I just stuck my arms in and I don’t know I just grabbed it, lifted it up and started pushing and all I heard was that’s enough we can get him.”

Belcher was able to move the vehicle approximately three feet, just enough to free the man so others could pull him to safety.

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