



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on July 8, 2019

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## **The Goodness of America**

### **Police Officers by Day, Repairmen by Night**

When police in Sunnydale, California, were called to the home of an elderly couple in May for a medical emergency, they went above and beyond the call of duty to help two people in need.

According to K985.com, after police addressed the medical emergency, they noticed that the couple's wheelchair ramp was in desperate need of repair, and found out that the pair did not have the physical or financial ability to do it.

The officers left the house to purchase some supplies, and returned to fix the ramp. Officers returned to the house with new wood to support the pieces of the foundation that were still salvageable and another piece of wood to extend from the couple's door to the sidewalk.

A video was captured of the officers' good deed and posted to Facebook.

"Although these officers believe they do not need any special recognition for doing this, we wanted to share this story to show you the often unseen kindness that our officers spread throughout our communities," reads the video caption. "This story wouldn't have been shared had Captain Anderson not been there to record these scenes and these officers wouldn't have told anyone about their act of kindness."

"Everyday officers from across our nation impact the lives of others in ways unnoticed. To all who go above and beyond, thank you."

The video has garnered significant praise for the officers' good deed.

## **The Gift of Graduation**

Owners of a barbershop in Charlotte, North Carolina, were inspired by a stranger's kindness to a group of graduating college students and decided they wanted to do something wonderful for high-school students in their own community, CBS News reported in late May.

Season Bennett and her husband, owners of Headlines Barbershop, were moved when they learned that during a commencement speech he gave, billionaire investor and philanthropist Robert F. Smith surprised the students with an announcement that he would be paying off the student debt of all 396 graduating seniors.

"I thought, 'Wow, that is just such a powerful thing for anybody,'" Bennett told WBTV. "So many students go into so much debt just trying to get an education."

Bennett and her husband were not in a position to pay off the student debt of their local college seniors, but they knew they wanted to do something. Bennett contacted the nearby East Mecklenburg High School and inquired whether there were any students in dire financial straits.

Bennett was surprised to learn that 14 high-school seniors had approximately \$4,500 worth of total debt, resulting from simple things such as outstanding lunch debts and band equipment replacements. Those students were going to be denied the ability to graduate, participate in the commencement ceremony, and receive their diplomas as a result.

Bennett knew exactly what she wanted to do. She immediately created a GoFundMe page in the hopes



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of raising the money for the students. She shared her page on social media and asked friends and family to help. "We don't know these students and may never have a chance to meet them but we know that everyone should be entitled to the high school diploma that they earned," the GoFundMe page reads. "We know that having a high school diploma is an important milestone in our society and can change the course of your life forever."

Surprisingly, NFL player Thomas Davis learned of Bennett's post, and he offered to pay off the debt entirely.

According to Bennett, the announcement was met with extreme gratitude from the students. "One girl dropped to her knees and she just said 'I have to call my mom,'" recalled Bennett, who added that the girl's mother had hoped to get a loan to pay off the debt so her daughter could get her diploma.

And Davis' generous donation gave Bennett the opportunity to help another group in need. She donated the \$3,200 of previously received GoFundMe contributions to the school's anti-suicide program.

## **Teacher Turned Dad**

Math teacher Finn Lanning is proof that some individuals are called to teaching.

Lanning teaches at the AXL Academy in Aurora, Colorado, where he met 13-year-old Damien, who has been struggling with kidney failure since he was eight years old. Damien has also been in and out of a number of foster homes since he was a child, as his medical issues often become too much for his foster families to handle. Sadly, each time a foster family relinquishes Damien's care, Damien is forced to return to the hospital, where he stays until he can be transferred to a new foster home.

Unfortunately, because Damien did not have a stable home, he continually had to be removed from the transplant list, as he is considered to be too high a risk for organ failure to obtain the surgery.

When Lanning learned of Damien's situation, he wanted to be there for the boy. "As I learned more about his story and what he was facing and what his needs were and why they weren't being met, it just became really hard for me to look the other way," he told KDVR in May.

Lanning opened up his home to the boy and started the process to adopt him so that Damien could be guaranteed a place on the transplant list. Lanning does not have children of his own.

Lanning admits that it's been a challenge for him, but the outpouring of support he has received from friends and colleagues has been astounding. Teachers have donated sick days so that Lanning can stay home with Damien, receive training on his home care, and take him to his appointments.

Damien's restrictive diet has also caused Lanning's grocery bills to increase dramatically, and the initial costs of home preparation for a special-needs child have overwhelmed Lanning's finances, but a GoFundMe page has raised \$70,000 since February.

As for Damien, the transition has been wonderful. He told Fox31 that things were going well for him, and that he was especially happy because "I got my own room now."

— Raven Clabough



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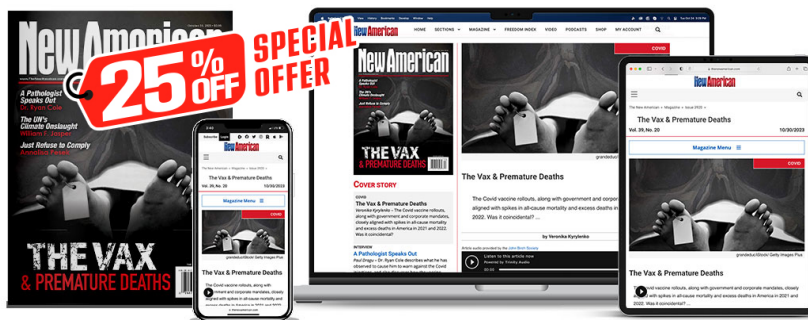
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