



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on August 5, 2019

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The Goodness of America

Michael's Desserts

At the age of 11, Michael Platt, now 13, of Bowie, Maryland, opened a bakery to serve the homeless people of Washington, D.C.

Michael's Desserts runs on a business model similar to that of TOMS Shoes, the *Washington Post* reported on June 25. For every pastry purchased by a customer, another pastry is donated to the hungry. Twice a month, Michael visits D.C. to hand out baked goods to individuals and families in domestic violence and homeless shelters.

"I know that a cupcake won't end hunger but a tasty treat, when times are tough, can make life sweeter," Michael's website reads.

Michael is an avid baker and wanted to use his favorite hobby as a means to help others. "I always wanted to have a purpose for what I do," Michael told the *Washington Post*. "It's all about helping people — not just having a purpose for yourself, but thinking about, 'How does this touch other things?'"

The *Post* reported Michael is able to keep up with his baking because he is homeschooled by his mother, who was compelled to quit her job after Michael was diagnosed with epilepsy.

"It was a very, very difficult time," she said of the period after the diagnosis, during which Michael had to restrict his physical activity. "He had to stop everything he loved: gymnastics, climbing trees, diving."

"So that's when he kind of threw himself into baking," she added.

Michael also bakes to raise money for hunger-fighting nonprofit groups, according to the *Post* and taught a morning baking class in June at Williams-Sonoma in Annapolis, Maryland, to raise money for No Kid Hungry.

Collective Compassion

When a Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, woman called 911 at 2 a.m. on June 18 to complain of severe pain in her feet, medical responders were shocked to find the woman was homeless.

The dispatch crew arrived at the woman's location to find her outside of the Broward Center for Independent Living surrounded by boxes and a puppy. She explained that after her mother had died, she had been evicted from the residence where she had been caring for her mother. Her feet were hurting, she told the workers, from standing so long.

"We contacted Broward Sheriff's Office about a homeless outreach program we have, but that's only 9AM to 5PM, so the service was unavailable," said emergency responder Daniel Rodriguez. "We couldn't go to a shelter because she had a dog with her. We were left with our hands tied."

Yahoo Lifestyle reported that the workers did not want to leave the woman in the street, so they pooled together their money and paid for her to stay at a nearby hotel and brought her there on a stretcher.

Before leaving, they gave the woman several contact numbers for shelters and resources, in the hope



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that she would utilize them.

“We’ve never felt like this — all 3 of us unanimously felt compassion for this lady,” says Rodriguez. “She was very appreciative, she cried with us, she talked with us about personal things. It wasn’t just assistance, she also needed someone to talk to.”

Perfect Person to Get This Gift

Matthew Kenyon is a veteran in Colorado who received a special gift from his local community on June 29.

Kenyon, who served in Kuwait from 1990 to 1992 and earned several commendations, hit upon hard times last year after being diagnosed with gangrene, which developed into a spinal infection, Fox News reported. He eventually lost his job, and he and his wife became homeless.

In order for Kenyon to make all of his doctors’ appointments, he had to rely on mass transit, which can be difficult for a man in his condition.

But thanks to the efforts of the Geico, Caliber Collision, and Colorado Veterans Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that hosts special events in order to raise awareness and funds for local veterans, Kenyon was gifted a vehicle at the Freedom 4 Miler Walk/Run in Lone Tree, Colorado.

“[He’s] the perfect person to give it to,” Todd Youngblood of the Colorado Veterans Project told Fox 31. “They didn’t feel like they deserved it, they didn’t ask for it.... But they have reliable transportation now.”

Meanwhile, Kenyon says he is “so grateful” for the generosity.

It is unclear if there are provisions to insure the vehicle and fill it with gas.

Community Policing

Thanks to the intervention of three men in Lewisville, Texas, Police Officer Jeff Carey was able to safely arrest an armed suspect on June 22, Fox News reported.

The Lewisville Police Department posted the story on its Facebook page. Officer Carey had spotted a man rummaging through what turned out to be a stolen vehicle. When Carey approached the man, he ran away.

Carey happened to spot the suspect again two hours later, this time outside of a restaurant, but when he jumped out of his vehicle to detain him, the suspect once again ran.

It was at that point that Michael Barrera intervened. He saw the entire incident as he was leaving the restaurant, where he had had breakfast with his family.

Officer Carey recalled seeing a “blur” on his left side as he chased the suspect. That “blur” turned out to be Barrera, who managed to tackle the suspect long enough for Officer Carey to complete the arrest.

Barrera attributes his ability to capture the suspect to his former rugby days. “I played a lot of rugby in my days, you know, I’m a little older now, I still got little wheels,” he told FOX4. “It’s like a rugby ball, go after it. You know, the game ain’t over ‘til it’s over.”



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Meanwhile, Barrera's uncle, who had been at breakfast with Barrera, remained with Officer Carey's vehicle to ensure that it was not stolen.

"I wouldn't want nobody to steal something out of my vehicle if I leave the door open, you know, so that was my instinct to stay behind," he told FOX4.

According to the department's Facebook post, a third unidentified man also helped chase the suspect.

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