



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on October 7, 2019

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The Goodness of America

Suicide Intervention

Steven Midgley was honored on July 31 for saving a suicidal man from jumping off an overpass onto Interstate 15 in Layton, Utah.

Midgley recalled driving back from his mother-in-law's house in Layton with his family on April 13 when he spotted a man on the overpass. Midgley instinctively knew that something about the situation was not right.

When he pulled over, his wife called 911 while he approached the man as the man prepared to jump off the bridge.

According to KUTV, Midgley caught hold of the man and held him tightly until the police arrived. Midgley even tore his rotator cuff in the process, but wouldn't let go of the man.

When police arrived, they were astonished at the scene before them. The man had let go of the fence at the edge of the overpass. Midgley was the only thing keeping him from falling to the freeway below.

Officers immediately intervened, reaching through the chain-link fence to hold the man by his wrists. And when the time came to pull the man to safety, Midgley and the officers supported each other to prevent themselves from falling over the bridge.

Because the suicidal man remains anonymous, it is not known whether his mental health has improved. Hopefully this experience was just what he needed to give him a new lease on life.

Heave, Ho!

When a Ford pickup truck turned over along Interstate 88 in Chicago in July, at least a dozen witnesses immediately rushed to the driver's aid.

Orlando Hernandez lost control of his vehicle after the tread of a tire partially separated from the wheel. At the time, he thought he had a tire blowout. He told ABC News he knew what was coming next and braced for impact.

Still, he could not imagine what was to come next. In an instant, his vehicle flipped.

"I just remember flipping and I just saw the glass coming at me," he said.

The crash was like something out of a movie. The vehicle spun out of control, flipped over, and trapped Hernandez inside.

"After everything was settled and done, I just remember thinking, 'OK, OK, I'm alive, I'm conscious, I'm still breathing,'" Hernandez told the *Chicago Tribune*. "Now the only thing is, how am I going to get out of this situation?"

Thankfully, Hernandez did not have to worry for long. He heard a bystander ask him if he was conscious. Then, suddenly, his vehicle was surrounded by strangers, all of whom managed to flip his truck to its side and help him out of it by breaking the window and cutting his seatbelt.

Despite the intensity of the crash, Hernandez managed to escape with just a few scrapes and cuts, thanks in part to his seatbelt, and, of course, to the intervention of those dozen strangers.



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One of the people who rushed to Hernandez's aid is Tom Meyers, who was leaving work when he happened upon the crash. Meyers pulled up to the truck and sprang into action. He later told ABC that he simply had an "urge" to help.

Despite this being perhaps the most frightening moment in Hernandez' life, he could not help but be moved by the humanity from the good Samaritans.

"You know how there's terrible things happening and people lose faith in things, faith in the world?" Hernandez said in a local news interview. "But seeing that, that sort of restores that goodness in your heart."

Shoe Sale of a Lifetime

Thanks to the generosity of Carrie Jernigan, lawyer and mom of three in Alma, Arkansas, 1,500 people in need will have new shoes and many other valuable amenities.

Jernigan was shoe-shopping with her daughter, Harper, at a local Payless that was going out of business when Harper spotted a pair of shoes that she wanted to buy for her friend, whose shoes were too small.

"I know he likes Avengers, so I saw some Avengers shoes and I said, "Hey mom, can we get these shoes for one of my friends?" Harper told NBC affiliate KNWA in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Jernigan agreed before realizing she didn't know the boy's shoe size.

Jernigan jokingly asked the clerk what it would cost to purchase all of the remaining shoes in the store, and an idea was born. When the clerk took her request seriously, Jernigan thought it wasn't such a crazy notion. She left her number with the store, and received a phone call from the manager later that day.

The intent was originally to purchase just the remaining 300 or so shoes in the store. But Jernigan learned that a shipment of shoes had arrived, and there were closer to 1,500 pairs.

Inside Edition reported that Jernigan worked out a deal with the manager to buy all of the shoes, more than 1,000 of which were kids' shoes.

The shoes went home with Jernigan, who intended to ask others in her community to help her distribute them. She posted on Facebook to ask her friends for ideas about where the shoes could be dropped off, but members of the community had even better ideas.

Churches and local businesses instead helped plan a big back-to-school event to give away the shoes, along with other goods and services.

"Local people, business and churches have turned this into just this huge back-to-school event," she told *USA Today*. "We've already had 700 backpacks donated. All the school supplies that you can dream of on a list. I've already got more donations for more shoes. We've turned it into a huge event. We've got eye exams, dental exams, haircuts, free books."

Jernigan's daughter also set up a GoFundMe page to raise money for the event, which took place on August 10. The page raised more than \$2,000.

And still, despite the enormous success of the event, Jernigan said, "But if it continues to grow and ... it makes you do one little thing for that student fixing to go back to school then it matters to that one kid."



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