



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on October 21, 2019

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## The Goodness of America

### What's Mine Is Yours

Michael Todd, 15, was bullied because of his clothes during his first few weeks of high school at Martin Luther King, Jr. College Preparatory School in Memphis, Tennessee. When two students noticed what was happening, they stepped in to help.

Todd told WHBQ-TV that his family cannot afford to buy him clothes, and so he tends to wear the same clothes every day. "I really don't have clothes at home. My mom can't buy clothes for me because I'm growing too fast," he said.

Sadly, being bullied became a way of life for Michael, who told the news outlet he's been bullied his whole life.

But two students took notice of the bullying and decided to do something about it. One of the students, Kristopher Graham, admits to having first joined in on the laughter when Michael was teased over his clothes. Kristopher said he later regretted laughing at Michael and wanted to help him. "When I saw people laugh at him and bully him, I felt like I needed to do something," he said.

Kristopher contacted his friend, Antwain Garrett, and the two boys came up with an idea. They would go through their own closets and collect shirts, shorts, and shoes for Michael to wear so that he would not have to continue wearing the same outfit daily.

When the boys approached Michael in the hallway at school the following day, they could see that Michael did not know what to expect.

"He wasn't smiling, and I was like, yeah, I think this is gonna make him smile," Kristopher said. "I told him, 'We're in the same third period and I apologize for laughing at you and I want to give something to you to make it up.'"

The moment was captured on video by a fellow student.

Michael told WHBQ that the day Antwain and Kristopher approached him proved to be the "best day of my entire life."

Not only did Michael gain a new wardrobe, he also gained two new friends. And when word of Michael's predicament spread, people from across Tennessee reportedly reached out to send the teen more clothing.

But while the situation ended well for Michael, Erica Williams, spokeswoman for Michael's school district — Frayser Community Schools — noted that his situation was not unique, prompting the school district to set up a clothing closet to provide wardrobe assistance to its students, *People.com* reported.

"Antwain, Michael, and Kristopher are overwhelmed by the outpour[ing] of support from our community and people from across the country," the statement read. "Unfortunately, situations that show students in need are not unique within our school because we serve a demographic where the household income is well below the state and national average."



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## **Dope Dads Doing Dope Things**

We often hear stories of moms coming to the aid of other moms or helping young children in need of a parental figure in a moment when none is around, but this story out of Philadelphia is about dads.

When an unidentified young boy was seen crying outside of Stearne Elementary on his first day of school, a group of dads from the nonprofit group DOPE (Doing Our Part Eclectically) immediately took notice, Fox 29 reported.

The group was there to greet students on their first day of school and to give out high-fives, offer encouraging words, and hand out much-needed school supplies.

At one point, the men spotted a boy who was having a hard time adjusting to a new school. He was crying, and the dads immediately swooped in to provide words of comfort. "It was just a magnet feeling, you saw him going through something we all felt before, we all felt this, and when we saw that we just all gravitated to this kid," one of the dads, James Wells, explained.

The *Western Journal* reported that Jai Crabbe, who invited "Dope People Doing Dope Things" to be at the school on that day, captured a video of the encounter.

One of the dads, Patrick Faulkner, is seen hugging the boy. Faulkner later told Fox 29 that the urge to give the boy a hug was "innate."

"A lot of kids don't get hugs in the morning," Faulkner pointed out.

Another dad is heard on camera complimenting the boy's shoes and backpack. Others encouraged him to wipe his tears, cheer, and clap. Encouraging words can be heard on the video, as the boy is seen bravely walking into his school.

"Our goal is just to show kids that there is love outside of the family, the community loves them too, and if we rally together as a community, we are all pretty much family," dad Dave Miller said. "If we can affect just one child, our job is done."

## **Do You Need Some Help?**

Detroit Police Officer Jeremy Thomas is being praised for going beyond the call of duty to help a homeless man regain some dignity.

Stanley Nelson, 62, was struggling to shave in a rainy parking lot after a stranger handed him a bag full of toiletries. Nelson was anxious to use the products provided to him, including his razor, but without running water, he decided to use a sidewalk puddle to shave.

When Officer Thomas spotted the man, he immediately offered to help.

"He had shaving cream on his hands, his coat, his face, his eyes," Officer Thomas recalled to WXYZ. "So I walked up and said 'Excuse me, sir,' and ... he said 'I'll leave, I'll leave,' and I said 'No, do you need some help?'" The kindly officer then proceeded to help the man shave.

An onlooker was so moved by what she witnessed that she pulled out her phone to capture the moment.

Reporters later had the chance to speak with Nelson, who had nothing but kind words to say about the police officer. "That was beautiful, what he did, and God is gonna bless him for doing that for me



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because he didn't have to do that," Nelson told WXYZ. "I really appreciate [it]."

—Raven Clabough



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