



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

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The Goodness of America

Beer Money Turned Massive Donation

Football fan Carson King of Ames, Iowa, drew attention to himself at ESPN's College GameDay when he held up a sign jokingly asking for donations for beer money. But King could never have predicted just how many people would actually send him donations, and King realized there was a far more important way to spend the money. He donated it all to a children's hospital — all \$3 million!

King, 24, attended the College GameDay in Ames, Iowa, for the Iowa Hawkeyes-Iowa State University Cyclones rivalry game in September, along with two friends. The men brought a sign with them, which read, "Busch Light supply needs replenished." It included King's Venmo address so people could send money.

King's sign drew attention from the cameras at the game, and he was astonished to learn that he and his sign actually appeared on television. As it turned out, King and his friends were in the perfect position to be seen on camera — they were right behind commentator Kirk Herbstreit.

When King checked his phone during the game, he realized he had received \$400 of donations through Venmo in just one hour.

His initial thought, he told Today.com, was, "That's so much beer! This is great!"

But when he checked his phone again and realized donations swelled to \$600, he realized it would be absurd to use the money for beer. "I thought, 'I think I should do something better with this money than just buy Busch Light with it,'" King said. "As great as Busch Light is, I think I want to donate this money to charity."

King discussed his considerations with his family and decided that after using some of the funds to purchase just one case of beer, he would donate the rest to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

Amazingly, King's generosity inspired others. When Busch Beer heard about King and his donation, the beer company joined in the fun with a tweet directly to King on September 17: "This is the best thing we have read all year, we're inspired. We're going to match your donation to University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, and we'll throw in some of that Busch Light you were looking for."

And when Venmo heard the story and saw the tweets, it also announced its interest in matching King's donation. "We see a lot of great stories, but this is one of our faves @ CarsonKing2. Count us in for matching the donation to the hospital, too," Venmo tweeted to King.

The generosity did not end there. All across the country, people sent money to King's Venmo account to put toward the hospital donation. By the end of September, donations topped \$3 million.

CNN reports Stead Family Children's Hospital said they were overwhelmed by the donation and the generosity of the donors. "We can't think — our minds are blown by all of this!" the hospital said in a tweet. "Thank you to everyone who helped reach this milestone! We're so grateful!"

King told Today.com that he himself only has \$400 in his checking account, but has a full-time job and is happy to donate all of the money he has received.



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“I make my own money,” he laughed. “I just bought my first house. I pay my bills and I can adult pretty well, so I am happy to do this for the children’s hospital.”

“The University of Iowa’s Stead Family Children’s Hospital does amazing work for kids and families all over the country,” King said. “I just wanted to help them out in anyway I could.”

Chick-fil-A Employee to the Rescue

Yet another Chick-fil-A employee is showcasing the goodness of America in this story out of Stafford, Virginia.

On October 1, Shauna Hall entered a Chick-fil-A restaurant in Stafford in a panic after she dropped her phone into the storm drain just outside. She made several attempts to retrieve it, but fell short each time.

Chick-fil-A employee Seth Ratliff, who handles the franchise’s digital marketing and events, felt terrible for Hall, who was “nearly in tears,” he told Today.com.

Hall had reportedly “just paid off” the phone, Fox News reported.

“Compassion just took over and I just wanted to help,” Ratliff said.

Ratliff used a grab-stick mirror to locate the phone in the drain, and discovered it went through the drainage gate entirely out of reach. The two contacted the county for help, but learned quickly they weren’t going to get it. Hall claims the county hung up on the phone call.

Hall was ready to give up, and took her son into the restaurant to eat, but Ratliff did not want it to end like that.

“I wasn’t going to stop until I got her phone back. She was so upset seeing as her whole life was on that phone,” Ratliff told Today.com. “I’m a follower of Christ and I just wanted to do the right thing.”

Not only did Ratliff reimburse Hall for the food she purchased at the restaurant, but he managed to retrieve the phone.

Hall recalled, “After trying to reach it with his grab-stick, then dropping his stick, he tells me it’s a manhole for a reason and he is going down.” And so he did. Ratliff noticed the manhole cover was not bolted down, so he lifted it up and made his way into the storm drain.

When Ratliff retrieved the phone, Hall was overwhelmed with gratitude and hugged him.

Ratliff, of course, tried to downplay the wonderfully kind deed by asserting there was no “perceived danger.”

“The [manhole] wasn’t even six feet deep.... The hole to the side was so small, not even my Yorkie Poo would have fit through. There was no perceived danger. It all just happened in the moment,” Ratliff told Today.com.

But Hall recognized Ratliff’s efforts as going above and beyond customer service — or above and beyond what most others would likely do in the same situation.

“Not only did he slice his finger and was filthy from laying on the ground and climbing in the hole, I find out he had actually just gotten off shift and was still willing to help me,” Hall posted on her Facebook page.



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Hall's post included a photo of Ratliff in the manhole, and closed with the following: "Service with a smile. Just another day at Chick-fil-A."

—Raven Clabough



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