



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 23, 2019

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## **The Goodness of America**

### **Sisters Partner to Deliver Thanksgiving for Families in Need**

Two young North Carolina sisters made Thanksgiving possible for more than 100 families in need this holiday.

Alex Fischer, 9, and her sister Caroline, 6, began raising money to purchase Thanksgiving meals for families in need two years ago.

“We started this as a service project in 2017 for the family to do in the holidays,” the girls’ mom, Lisa Fischer, told CNN. “When I initially suggested we donate one box of food, Alex said that wasn’t enough and that we should do 10 boxes.”

The boxes consist of Thanksgiving meal staples and typically include all the items needed for a Thanksgiving meal, except for the turkey.

Lisa explained to her girls that their family could not afford to pay for multiple Thanksgiving meals for families in need without help. That is when the girls decided to raise funds themselves, courtesy of a lemonade and baked goods stand. The girls were able to raise enough money for 100 boxes of food in their first year.

“The girls are always excited when they see their friends, teachers and neighbors show up to their lemonade stand, but they are too young to understand how much attention they’re actually getting,” Fischer said. “They just know this means a lot of people will be able to have Thanksgiving dinner,” she added.

There was such an outpouring of support for the girls’ cause, the Fischers decided to set up a GoFundMe page to help collect funds as well, MSN reported.

In 2018, they raised enough for 130 boxes of food and 50 turkeys.

But this year was their best year yet. The girls raised \$2,896, allowing them to purchase 108 boxes and 108 turkeys.

According to CNN, the Fischers typically begin raising money for the meals in September. Once they have raised enough, they shop at their local grocery store for the food. They deliver the supplies to the Charlotte Rescue Mission, which holds an annual Thanksgiving food drive.

And with the help of friends and family, the girls were able to pack the boxes, rent a truck, and deliver the meals the weekend before Thanksgiving.

## **United Front**

A veteran in Jenison, Michigan, with special-needs children has been gifted by the Home Depot Foundation thousands of dollars in home repairs, all of which were completed by dozens of community volunteers.

Breitbart News reported that Brandi Secrist served as a military police officer between 2006 and 2010. Secrist is a mother of four, with two special-needs children — a four-year-old son with high-functioning autism and a three-year-old son who is blind and has cerebral palsy. Secrist also has two older daughters, Krishtian, 11, and Ella, 9.



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Last year, a local restaurant, The Win Tavern 33, “adopted” Secrist’s family and provided the children Christmas presents. This put Secrist’s family on the radar of the Home Depot Foundation, which provides veterans home repairs free of charge.

The foundation surprised Secrist with home repairs that she described as “life changing.” Seventy-five volunteers from Home Depot and from the local community, which included veterans, painted a wheelchair ramp, performed extensive work on her yard — including constructing hammock swings, a shed, garden beds, a patio, a clothesline, and a fire pit — installed a storm door and a sliding barn door, and placed a flagpole in her front yard. Secrist was also gifted a snowblower and a grill. The repairs/gifts were estimated at more than \$10,000.

Mlive.com reports the project at Secrist’s house was done in partnership with Heart of West Michigan United Way, but was funded entirely by grants from the Home Depot Foundation.

For Secrist, the work done by the volunteers will not only improve her home’s functionality, but will provide much-needed sensory and emotional support for her sons.

“I have to grow vegetables for my youngest son because he can’t eat food normally,” she explained. “The [hammock] swings and stuff that they’re donating, I’ll be able to sit with him in that swing and get that vestibular therapy that he needs, so he can get out and enjoy his day, too, and his environment.”

The work was completed on November 8.

## **Her Father’s Place**

When the daughter of a fallen police officer realized her wedding could not be perfect without her father, her father’s colleagues stepped in.

Denver Police Detective Donnie Young was killed in the line of duty in 2005. Nearly 15 years later, Young’s daughter Kourtney prepared for her October wedding and was devastated by the fact that she would not have her beloved father at her wedding to walk her down the aisle and participate in the traditional father-daughter dance. She was just 13 years old when his life was taken.

Kourtney’s mother offered to dance with her daughter in place of her father, and her aunt suggested Kourtney reach out to her father’s former colleagues to ask them to escort her down the aisle, The Denver Channel reported.

On the day of her wedding, Kourtney and her mother danced for the father-daughter dance as planned, but when the music changed to a song she recognized from an important moment in her childhood, Kourtney knew she was in for a surprise. The song was Paul Simon’s “Father and Daughter.”

“When I was super young, my dad got me a small replica of his badge with his badge number on it and he played that song when he gave it to me,” she said.

One of Young’s colleagues took Kourtney’s mother’s spot and danced with Kourtney. Then, one by one, Young’s colleagues each took turns doing the same.

Fox News reported that during Kourtney’s dance with her father’s colleagues, they all talked about her father and how special he was, and how proud they were of the woman she’d become.

— Raven Clabough



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