



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on April 6, 2020

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The Goodness of America

Care to Dance?

Eight-year-old Avery Cox of Van Buren, Arkansas, had hoped to attend the school's February 10 daddy-daughter dance with her father. His passing in December not only broke her heart, but also dashed her hopes of going to the dance — that is, until her school's resource officer stepped in.

Van Buren Middle School resource officer Corporal Nick Harvey came up with the idea of asking his fellow officers to volunteer to escort students without fathers to the dance.

Harvey reached out to Avery's mother to request permission to escort Avery to the dance. He then asked Avery himself. "The last thing I wanted was to get rejected by a second-grader," Harvey joked to KFSM-TV.

Avery excitedly agreed, and the two even wore color-coordinated outfits for the dance — they both wore red. They even rode in a limo and grabbed pizza before the event.

Harvey contends he may have embarrassed Avery with his inexperienced dance moves, but for Avery, that was her favorite part of the evening. After the dance, the fathers/daughters went out for ice cream. Harvey then escorted Avery home in a police car.

For Avery, it was a night she would never forget. "It meant a lot because I got to go and see all my friends there and then I got to go with them and have a lot of fun," she said.

Harvey says he intends to take Avery to the dance every year, if she lets him.

Stranger Saves Baby's Life

Josh Railey was at the right place at the right time in Peoria, Illinois, and because of that, the life of a baby girl was saved.

Railey was leaving a birthday dinner on February 28 when he noticed a vehicle was on fire, prompting two men to jump out of the car and a woman to kick open a back door. "Just happened to see a car on fire, and it was dripping gasoline and filled with smoke," Railey recalled to CNN affiliate WMBD.

The woman then began to scream about her baby in the car. Hearing this, Railey jumped out of his car to help. "You can't really see in the car because there's so much smoke," Railey said, but he was able to determine the airbags had been deployed. Once he sliced them, he was able to find the baby girl wedged between the driver's and passenger's seat.

Railey grabbed the baby and ran. Within seconds, the entire car was engulfed in flames.

Peoria Fire Battalion Chief Nate Rice later said the baby would have died were it not for Railey's intervention. "We certainly don't want anybody to get hurt, but that might be their nature to make that choice to possibly save a life or help another person," Rice said. "Had it not been for the individuals that stopped and helped these patients, it could have been a much worse situation."

Tennessee Strong

At least 25 people died when a tornado ripped through Putnam County, Tennessee, on March 3, but locals and Americans across the country are doing their best to help the people ravaged by the



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devastation.

Bobby and Leanne Kidd knew what the families were going through in the wake of the tornado and wanted to offer their assistance, according to AL.com. They, too, had lost someone when a tornado ripped through their hometown of Beauregard, Alabama, a year prior, on March 3, 2019. Their six-year-old grandson was one of 23 people killed.

“I don’t think there’s any other way we could honor our grandson’s name. A.J. would have wanted us to do this,” Leanne Kidd said. The couple packed up a trailer full of supplies and headed to Middle Nashville to offer their services.

NFL.com reported that several professional sports teams also did their part by collecting items to be delivered to those in need. Players from the Tennessee Titans football team and their coaches volunteered to load and unload trucks of supplies just days after the tornado struck. The *Tennessean* reported they assisted in cleanup efforts and distributed lunch and supplies at Lee Chapel. Pastor Harold Love said the people were moved by the players’ show of support.

“It’s a blessing because the Titans mean so much to Nashville and Tennessee,” he told the *Tennessean*. “To see them here says to the residents that they’re concerned about them, and that they’re willing to come down and lend a hand like everybody else and help them get their lives back together. You cannot put a measure on how significant that was today.”

The Titans’ AFC South division rivals stepped up to help, too. The Houston Texans, Indianapolis Colts, and Jacksonville Jaguars teamed up to donate \$100,000 to the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee to help with recovery efforts.

The Atlanta Braves also set up a collection station at Truist Park for people to donate necessities such as baby food and formula, clothing, hygienic items, batteries, trash bags, etc., MSN reported.

The Cookeville Regional Medical Center, where victims of the tornado were treated for injuries, has announced it will waive all individual payments for the hospital treatments, ABC News reported.

“We will not bill patients for the remaining portion after insurance,” hospital spokeswoman Melahn Finley said in a statement. “If they don’t have insurance, they will not be charged.”

Singer and songwriter Taylor Swift has pledged to donate \$1 million to help the victims in her hometown of Nashville.

On Instagram in March, Swift wrote, “Nashville is my home. The fact that so many people have lost their homes and so much more in Middle Tennessee is devastating to me.”

Gary LeBlanc, the founder and president of Mercy Chefs, a Virginia, faith-based disaster-relief and humanitarian aid organization whose volunteers serve professionally prepared meals to first responders and victims of natural disasters, told MSN the group sent crews from Virginia and Oklahoma to the devastated region in Tennessee and brought a mobile kitchen to feed as many people as they could.

These are just a handful of the uplifting stories coming out of an otherwise horrible situation.

— Raven Clabough



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