



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on May 18, 2020

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## The Goodness of America

### Coronavirus Kindness Continues

As COVID-19 continues to impact the everyday lives of people across the United States, Americans continue to prove that they can make lemonade out of even the bitterest lemons.

#### Free Food

Uber driver Tammy Rivera of Memphis has made it her mission to feed healthcare workers fighting the coronavirus. "I'm southern, so feeding people has always been my love language," Rivera told *People* magazine.

It began on March 20 when Rivera picked up a nurse getting off her shift at Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown Hospital. The nurse told Rivera she was "starving" and asked if Rivera could stop at a fast food restaurant so that she could pick up something to eat on her way home.

Rivera recalled, "We just talked and I learned ... how she was working 12-14 hour shifts. The cafeteria isn't open 24 hours a day, and she was working overnight."

For Rivera, the encounter was eye-opening. She knew that the nurse she met was just one of many in a similar situation and she wanted to find a way to help. "I wanted to find a way to feed the people that are in the most danger right now, those in the ER and in the COVID unit," she said.

Rivera decided to start a fundraiser on the Germantown community Facebook page and within just a few hours, had enough money for the first night's meal. By the middle of April, she had raised more than \$12,000 in food funds and made 27 deliveries to hospital staff.

According to Rivera, the meals have varied from pizza to fish to roast chicken. "So many incredible local groups and restaurants are so loving and giving," Rivera said. "That's what Memphis does. Whenever you talk to somebody about this city, Memphis hospitality comes first."

It turns out that Rivera's good deed isn't just benefiting the hospital workers, but also restaurants that are struggling because of the pandemic, Fox News reported.

"It was set out to give to locally-owned restaurants that are struggling through this, I just didn't realize that there was that great a need," Rivera said. "I had one restaurant contact me that had temporarily closed their doors who couldn't make their last payroll ask me, 'Could you let us in on this?'"

And the restaurants have used the opportunity to write positive and uplifting messages to the hospital workers on the paper bags containing the food.

Rivera asserts she will continue to deliver food to the hospital workers as long as they are on the front lines of the pandemic. "I will stop when there is no need or no more money, but our community just keeps giving," she said.

For Rivera, the response from the hospital workers is the greatest reward for her efforts. "Every night, I pull away with tears," she said. "There is such appreciation for such a small act. It's amazing."

Meanwhile, the staff at the hospital have been moved by the good deeds of Rivera and the local restaurants. "Our associates have been working around the clock to provide the best possible care for the patients and the communities that we serve, so Tammy's generosity and thoughtfulness has really



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given a boost to our health care workers,” Sarah Farley, communications specialist with Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown Hospital, told Fox News. “It’s a nod of encouragement.”

## Free Coffee

And while Rivera is feeding hospital workers to help get them through the crisis, an aspiring barista in San Francisco has turned his kitchen into a coffee shop and is offering free coffee to essential workers directly from his kitchen window, CNN reported.

Ben Ramirez was taking barista classes with the intention of opening his own coffee shop when the pandemic struck. Though he has since been forced to stay inside under California’s stay-at-home orders, Ramirez has decided to put his skills to the test, while simultaneously spreading love and positivity.

With the abundance of coffee supplies he has obtained, Ramirez has been making and serving coffee to essential workers as they pass his house. He set up a sign just outside of his house to alert passersby.

“We have a lot of people in the neighborhood who either are nurses, doctors or postal workers.”

Ramirez has been making anywhere from 10 to 15 cups of coffee a day, CNN reports, and he even has “regulars” who drop by for one of his coffees.

According to WABC, Ramirez does all this while still observing social-distancing guidelines. Ramirez says his makeshift to-go café has proven to be a good opportunity to “bring the community together.”

## Free Gas

Allen Marshall of Michigan has used his savings to purchase gas for nurses fighting the coronavirus.

Starting on April 1, Marshall stood outside of a local Exxon gas station at a busy intersection near the Detroit Medical Center with a sign that read, “Free Gas for Nurses.” Using \$900 of his own money, he ended up filling the tanks of anywhere from 50 to 80 vehicles belonging to medical workers on the hospital’s front lines over the course of several days, WDTV reported.

WDTV also reported that a woman, identified only as Alana, had contributed \$200 to his cause to help purchase more gas. Alana said she wanted to do something nice for the nurses since her nephew is also a nurse.

“They’re heroes and we need to do what we can to support them,” she said.

When Marshall ran out of money, he remained at the intersection and held up a sign of support: “Thank you for all you do!”

Marshall originally intended to use the \$900 to purchase a knife-sharpening tool, but was instead inspired to do something altruistic with the money after dropping off his wife at her shift at Blue Cross Blue Shield.

“With all that is going on with the coronavirus, I wanted to thank the essential workers the best way that I can,” he told the *Detroit Free Press*. “I really don’t need that tool and thought this was a better way to spend the money.”

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