



The Goodness of America

As the Pandemic Continues, So Does the Goodness

As COVID-19 continues to impact the lives of people across the United States, Americans continue to showcase their kindness and extraordinary generosity.

New Friends

College student Lillian Kogan has been using her forced lockdown to make friends with her elderly neighbors.

Stuck in her Manhattan apartment under New York's stay-at-home order, Kogan was lonely and wanted to reach out to her neighbors in the hope of getting a response. Not wanting to violate social-distancing guidelines, Kogan turned to Post-it notes to communicate with her neighbors.

Using a bunch of Post-it notes to spell out the word "Hi!" on her window, Kogan made fast friends with a couple who lives across the street from her. The couple responded to Kogan's note with messages of their own written on construction paper and taped to their windows.

"I was very excited because I had no idea who was responding to me," Kogan told *Inside Edition*.

For several days, Kogan and her neighbors exchanged messages this way, without either knowing what the other looked like, how old they were, etc. It wasn't until Kogan spotted her new "pen pals" sunbathing on their front porch that she noticed the couple was elderly. Immediately, she reached out to ask if they needed anything, to which they politely declined.

But Kogan wanted to do something special for the people who have helped her pass the time. Sporting a face mask and rubber gloves, she baked homemade cookies and sent them to her neighbors with a note that included her name and phone number and instructed them to call her if they needed anything.

The next message to appear on the couple's window was a simple one: "Yum!"

Toni Sonet, 84, later told *Inside Edition* that the cookies Kogan sent them were delicious, and that it was fun to make friends with Kogan in such an unexpected way.

Anonymous Donation

An anonymous donor gifted \$1 million to staffers at a California hospital, with just one caveat: the money be evenly divided among each and every hospital staffer who has worked at the facility for at least one year.

A \$1 million donation arrived at Dignity Health Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, California, in May with a note that read, "Thank you for standing up (and staying up!) to care for our community. This human kindness is what makes you heroic."

The donor asked that the money be evenly distributed to all staffers, from lab technicians and janitors to mailroom workers and security guards. According to People.com, physicians are not eligible to receive money from the donation, as they are not hospital employees in the state of California.

Nursing Supervisor Amy Loudon applauded the generous donation, noting that hospital staffers are often overlooked at times like this. "There are so many people who keep the hospital running," she told



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the Associated Press. “Nurses and doctors are getting the praise but we couldn’t do it without the staff who clean the floors, deliver supplies, fix machines, everything. It’s a team, and I’m glad the whole team is getting a thank you.”

Thanks to the anonymous donation, full-time employees will receive an \$800 bonus within the next 30 days, while part-time employees will take home \$600.

Stimulus Check Turned Tip!

A regular customer at the Colonial Steakhouse in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, used his entire \$1,200 stimulus check to leave a tip last month that the restaurant employees won’t soon forget.

The Colonial Steakhouse has managed to stay afloat, despite the financial crisis created by the coronavirus shutdowns, by maintaining a team of four employees — down from 12 — to help the restaurant continue to fill curbside orders three days a week.

According to the restaurant’s owner, Dana Gately, the tip was enough for every employee, including those who are not currently working, to receive a \$100 bonus.

Allison Hall, general manager at Colonial Steakhouse, said the generous tip gave her a wonderful opportunity to call her employees with some good news.

“We just started crying and thanking God because it came at a time that most of our staff really needed it,” Hall told KARK, an NBC-affiliated TV station. “Things have been barely getting by, but we are making it, though.”

Hall added that the restaurant, like other small businesses, has struggled during the shutdown, but is ready to get back up and running as soon as possible. “We’ve been open for a very long time, nearly 50 years, so we’re stubborn and we aren’t giving up,” Hall said.

Landlord Uses Stimulus Check to Help Tenants

A California landlord, who wishes to remain anonymous, has donated his family’s stimulus check to significantly cut the rent for all 13 of his tenants, KNTV reported.

The landlord and his family received a \$3,400 federal stimulus and chose to pay it forward to his “second family” of tenants, whom he believed needed the money more than he did. He then matched the stimulus check to bring the total to \$7,000, and used it to cut \$500 off May’s rent for each of his tenants.

The landlord said he was inspired to do something after reading the wonderful stories of businesses and landlords who have gone above and beyond to help their tenants and employees during the COVID-19 crisis.

The tenants were not surprised by their landlord’s actions, noting he has been the kindest and most attentive landlord they’ve ever had.

“It was a great surprise, but I wasn’t really that surprised because that’s the type of guy he is,” tenant Cynthia Whitsitt told KNTV. “He’s a great guy.”

Whitsitt told KNTV that she was able to use the money she saved from her rent to fix her vehicle.

— Raven Clabough



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