



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on June 22, 2020

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The Goodness of America

Debts Cleared Through Anonymous Donation

Multiple anonymous donors have made dreams come true for more than 400 California college students, who learned their student debts had been paid off.

A collective donation of \$8 million to Students Rising Above (SRA), a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization for low-income college students, has cleared the debts of hundreds of students, with debts ranging from several thousand dollars to \$300,000, KPIX reported.

According to SRA, approximately 62 percent of SRA students are living below the federal poverty line, and the average SRA graduate leaves school with \$8,000 in debt, MSN reports.

“With student loans increasingly becoming a financial burden, SRA is grateful for the opportunity to facilitate relief to our hardworking alumni who have become highly productive members of the workforce nationwide,” said SRA CEO Elizabeth Devaney, who informed the grads of their relieved debts in a May Zoom call.

Students can be seen on the call crying, laughing, and dancing in response to the incredible announcement.

SRA’s head of programs, Lorna Contreras-Townsend, said some of the students had been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, either having lost their jobs or being unable to find work as a result of the pandemic.

Kimberly Armstrong is one of the students who benefited from the donation. She owed \$300,000 in law-school debts and said of the surprise, “It’s a shock; it’s amazing; it’s a relief, though.... Literally, it’s a weight lifted.”

Dr. Zachary Tabb was ecstatic to learn his \$160,000 in medical school debt had been cleared.

“It’s life-changing. I’ve had debt ... really my entire adult life. And so it’s just something that — everywhere you go — it follows you,” he told reporters. “It’s really a generational impact. To completely un-burden myself and all of them ... has a real multiplicative effect ... not only on [my fellow SRA scholars’] lives, but on the contributions they can make to society.”

And while the donors wish to remain anonymous, the students want to express their gratitude. “God bless you,” said Armstrong.

“Thank you to the donors,” adds software developer Alsidneio Bell, who had \$55,000 in student loans paid off.

Burglary Inspires Kindness

According to WFAA, thieves hit several local businesses in Texas, but were largely unsuccessful. Surveillance from security cameras revealed the burglars were clearly amateurs.

After Marco’s Pizza shop in The Colony, Texas, was burglarized on April 19, the restaurant’s owner responded in the most unexpected way.

Chamal Kahanawita owns the Marco’s pizza location there. He viewed the robbery attempt as an



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indication that times continue to be hard for some people, and responded with compassion rather than anger.

“The people who came and robbed me could have asked for food and would have got more value than what they were able to steal,” he said.

Kahanawita took to Facebook with a message for the burglars and others who may find themselves in difficult financial positions:

In the coming months, if you find yourself in situation unable to put food on the table, please stop by our store. There is no need to be shy or embarrassed. Just speak with the manager and quietly let us know you’ve seen this post.

We will make sure your family gets a meal. We are here because of our community and these are very challenging times for all of us. We will do our best to help for as long as we can.

Gift of Art

Ten-year-old Chelsea Phaire of Danbury, Connecticut, has managed to provide art supplies to more than 1,500 children in foster care and homeless shelters during the coronavirus shutdowns through her organization, Chelsea’s Charity — a non-profit created in August 2019 to donate art kits to high-risk youth.

“Since she was seven, she was begging me and her dad to start a charity,” Chelsea’s mom, Candace Phaire, told CNN. “She was so persistent, every couple of months she would ask, ‘Are we starting Chelsea’s Charity yet?’ When she was turning 10, she asked us again, and we decided it was time to go for it.”

Chelsea’s Charity donates art kits to children in need. The kits include items such as crayons, markers, paper, coloring books, etc., and are sent to schools and shelters across the country.

The first art supplies she donated through her charity were collected in lieu of birthday presents on her 10th birthday, at her request. After that, Chelsea began collecting supplies through her charity’s Amazon wishlist.

Before the start of the coronavirus crisis, Chelsea had managed to donate nearly 1,000 kits to women’s shelters, schools, homeless shelters, and foster homes.

But during this public health crisis, when children have virtually been forced indoors, unable to socialize or travel, kids without families or homes are unlikely to have many toys and art supplies to help pass the time and keep them mentally and emotionally healthy.

Thanks to Chelsea, 1,500 vulnerable children in 12 states have received art kits since the start of the quarantine.

Stacy DeWitt, executive director at James Storehouse — a nonprofit organization in California that serves children in foster care — said the kits have proven to be wonderful for children who are going through traumatic situations. “When a child or youth enters foster care, they usually have no belongings of their own,” DeWitt told CNN. “It’s been a great addition to be able to offer the art kits, so the children and youth have a creative outlet to process their emotions during this traumatic time in their lives.”



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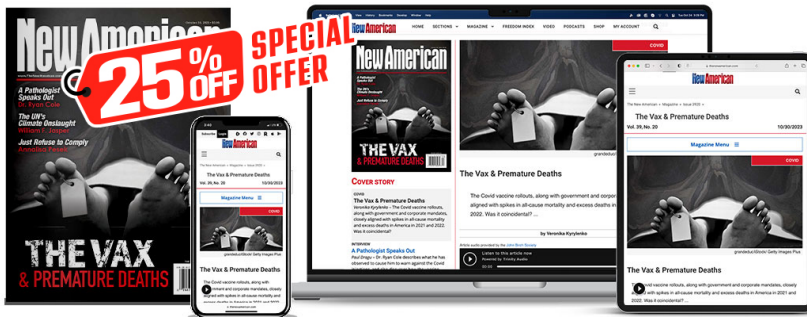
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