



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on August 24, 2020

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The Goodness of America

The Gift of Transportation

An anonymous donor surprised a Taco Casa restaurant employee in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with a car so that he no longer has to walk to work, the *Tuscaloosa News* reported.

A generous donor who wished to remain anonymous is a frequent customer of the restaurant and became aware that the unidentified employee was walking a long distance to get to his job because he did not have a vehicle.

On June 30, he gifted the employee a fully paid Acura. In an effort to remain anonymous, the customer left the vehicle with Rod Wilkin, Jr., the restaurant's vice president of operations, to present to the employee.

In a video that was uploaded to Taco Casa's social-media sites, Wilkin walked the employee out of the restaurant and explained to him and the other employees who came outside what he was doing.

"Ok, so there is a gentleman here in town that wants to remain anonymous but wants to surprise you and he has just give[n] me keys to a car for you and it's right there," Wilkin said before pointing to the gifted Acura sedan.

"For me?" the employee responds, smiling.

"For you," Wilkin affirmed.

Of the anonymous donor, Wilkin added, "He just said it's a God thing and he wants you to enjoy it."

The employee's co-workers can be heard in the video teasing him about not having to be hot on the way into work. Others joked the vehicle means he has "no excuse to be late." He responded, "I'm never late. I'm gonna be super early now."

According to Wilkin, the gift to his employee was one of the kindest acts of generosity he had ever been lucky enough to witness, Breitbart News reported.

What's more amazing, the customer had only briefly met the employee before he decided he wanted to do this wonderful deed. According to the company's Facebook post, the anonymous customer was inspired by the fact that the employee maintained his work ethic despite having lost his means of transportation.

"It's just amazing to think that a customer has met another person for 15 minutes and feels like God has told him that hey I need to buy him a car. I need to take care of this man, I need to show him and I need to show the love of Jesus to this individual," he commented.

Wilkin says the kindness could not have been shown to a better person. "He is a great employee here for us," he said of his employee, who has been with the restaurant for several years, according to CBS 42. "He's just a great guy."

Fire Rescue

Quick action by Tre Jones, 25, and Marcus Harvey, 24, likely saved the life of 56-year-old Guy Tarlton,



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whose home in Marion, Indiana, caught fire after Tarlton fell asleep while cooking on June 21.

Jones recalled telling Harvey he smelled smoke before he noticed the house ablaze. Jones said there were people in the front yard of the house recording it on their phones.

It was then that Jones began hearing screams from inside the house. "I'm like, 'So why are you all just standing there?'" he recalled.

Quickly, he and Harvey ran toward the fiery home.

Jones described the experience to the *Chronicle-Tribune*. "I kicked the door in and fire, smoke and all types of stuff blew out the house because the fire was so bad," Jones recalled. "It pushed me because there was so much pressure inside the house when I kicked the door in. It like forced me away from the door. I took my shirt off. Now I've got the door open, so I could hear him moaning and groaning a little more louder. I told him, 'Hold on. Here I come. Keep talking, keep talking, keep talking.'"

Jones couldn't see anything, but found Tarlton on the ground after accidentally stepping on him. It was then he attempted to pick Tarlton up and "scoot" him towards the exit, but he was heavy and kept slipping out of his hands. Thankfully, Harvey, who initially hesitated to enter the house because of poor visibility, found Jones inside the house and helped get Tarlton to safety. The men each grabbed him by an arm and his belt to pull him out of the house. It was then that firefighters arrived.

While the men were scared, Harvey said he believes wholeheartedly that God was with them that day.

"As we're coming out of the house, we can't see anything but only thing I can sit there and tell you if you believe in God, mysterious things will happen," he said. "He was there the whole entire time showing us the way out."

Both Jones and Harvey said they would never have been able to live with themselves if they didn't get Tarlton out. "We really didn't know. We were really just thinking about getting that man out of the house and getting us out of there. We've got kids, so we were trying to make sure we were all going to be safe," Harvey said. "We never leave a man behind."

"I wasn't even thinking how bad it was," Jones said. "I just knew I had to get him out."

Jones is hopeful the incident will serve as a teachable moment, particularly since he and Harvey are young black men and Tarlton is white, and the incident took place at a time when race relations are being strained by the mainstream media's divisive narrative.

"I want to say, all lives matter. Don't judge a book by its cover," he said.

Tarlton was flown to Lutheran Hospital with first- and third-degree burns over 30 percent of his body and was put into a medically induced coma. Had Jones and Harvey not gotten to him when they did, the outcome could have been entirely different. WTHR 13 reported that both Jones and Harvey have remained in touch with Tarlton's family to check on his condition. They could not visit him in the hospital due to COVID-19 restrictions.

According to Brandon Eckstein, a fire marshal for the Marion Fire Department (MFD), Tarlton did not have a working smoke detector in his home at the time of the fire.

Both Jones and Harvey will be honored by the MFD for their heroics.



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