



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on September 7, 2020

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## The Goodness of America

### Unlikely First Responders

When Gwinnet County, Georgia, prison guard Walter Hobbs fell dangerously ill while on the job, the unlikely happened: Three prison inmates went to his rescue.

U.K.'s *Independent* reported Mitchell Smalls, Terry Loveless, and Walter Whitehead acted quickly when they noticed Hobbs lose consciousness near his desk, then fall to the concrete floor and suffer serious head injury in the process.

It was Smalls who first noticed Hobbs collapse. He immediately alerted other inmates to the incident, according to a statement from the Gwinnet County Sheriff's Office.

Hobbs "kinda was like laying back in his chair and just started (making noises)," inmate Mitchell Smalls told Fox News. "I started hollering and screaming and banging on the door to try to alert everybody to wake up."

The inmates did the only thing they could do while locked inside of their cells, the *New York Post* reported. They made a "ruck-us," banging loudly on their cells, which prompted Hobbs to gain consciousness. Hobbs, assuming the noise was prompted by an inmate who needed help, sprang up and pressed the button on the control panel that released all of the cell doors.

The *Post* reported that Smalls, Whitehead, and Lovelace ran straight to Hobbs to offer their help. Whitehead grabbed the phone and called for help.

"It scared me," Whitehead later told Fox News. "I don't care if it's a police officer or whoever it was. I will do whatever I can to save a man. I don't want anyone to die."

Hobbs later told colleagues he did not even realize he had lost consciousness, but recalled hearing the inmates calling his name and making a lot of noise. He was rushed to a local hospital, where it was discovered he'd had a heart attack.

Video footage of the incident captured the entire dramatic scene. The men were later honored by the Gwinnet County Sheriff's Office.

The office tweeted a photo of the men and noted that just because someone is a prisoner doesn't mean he is uncaring:

Kudos to these inmates for coming to the aid of our deputy when he suffered a cardiac emergency in a jail housing unit.

We thank them for their timely assistance and the lesson their actions provide. It's not the uniform that makes a hero. It's the person wearing it.

The department added that the inmates went to Hobbs' rescue because Hobbs was a good guard who treated the inmates with dignity and respect. "These inmates came to his aid because our deputy, like most law enforcement officers, treats people with the dignity they deserve," the sheriff's office wrote.

### Love Wins Every Time

A struggling mother was down to her last \$7 when she discovered she had won \$100 on a lottery ticket.



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Instead of keeping the money, however, she donated it to a police officer who had recently been shot in the line of duty.

PJ Media reported Shetara Sims of Kansas City, Missouri, found a dollar in a parking lot of a grocery store and used it to buy a scratch-off lottery ticket. She was happily surprised to learn she had purchased a winning ticket, but before she could celebrate her winnings, her 12-year-old daughter Rakiya suggested they give the money to a police officer who had been shot on July 2 and was still in intensive care. And that's just what she did.

Sims contacted the Kansas City Police Department on July 10 to say she wanted to donate her winnings to the officer's family for restaurant or gas station gift cards to be used while they traveled to and from the hospital.

Sims told the woman who answered the phone at the police department that her daughter was murdered in 2012, and it was the detectives on her case who helped get her through one of the darkest moments of her life. She said they contacted her daily to check on her and even visited her and her children to check in on them. She said they were like "therapists, fathers, and lifelines all in one."

"The detectives were really there for us. They were there for us more than anyone I can imagine. They did things they didn't have to do," Sims said, according to KMBC News.

Sims also shared that she had recently lost her job and was struggling to pay her bills, but was inspired by her 12-year-old to donate the winnings. The woman at the department who took Sims' call tried to convince Sims to keep the money, saying the officer was well taken care of, but Sims refused because she said she wanted the injured officer and his family know he was supported.

"To hear her call and just express thanks for no reason other than she's thankful, it's really impactful to us and it's really touching to us," police Sergeant Jake Becchina said, adding that these type deeds are what motivate police officers to keep serving.

Under any other circumstance, it would not be worth mentioning that Sims is a young black mother, but her actions are particularly touching and poignant at a time when relations between police officers and the black community have been strained by intrusive and insidious groups such as Black Lives Matter and Antifa.

The beauty of this story does not end there. The Kansas City Police Department was so touched by Sims' kindness that they shared the story on their social media, prompting followers to reach out and offer their help to the struggling single mother. Initially, Sims' donation was anonymous, so the department had no way to contact her to let her know that there were good people in the community who wanted to help her. She was eventually tracked down, however, and the department set up a GoFundMe page for her.

The page's fundraising goal was set at \$10,000, but less than one month after the page was set up, more than \$156,000 had already been raised.

Donors sent messages with the money.

"My heart aches because of the loss you suffered, but pain of the loss might be eased a bit by the fact that Rakiya is certainly the most giving 12-year-old of whom I have ever heard," wrote one donor.

Another user observed simply, "Love wins every time."



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