



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on November 6, 2020

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The Goodness of America

Reap What You Sow

A farming community in North Dakota has rallied around a farmer who suffered a massive heart attack in September, helping to save his crops and his livelihood.

USA Today reported Lane Unhjem of Crosby, North Dakota, went into cardiac arrest on September 9 after his combine harvester caught on fire.

"He tried to get the fire out," said Don Anderson, a friend of Unhjem's. "As he fought the fire, he started feeling bad."

Unhjem had to be lifted by a medical helicopter to a hospital approximately 150 miles away. Unhjem's condition was critical, and he flat-lined numerous times, Anderson told KSAT News.

In addition to the obvious health concerns related to Unhjem's predicament, his lengthy absence from his farm could have resulted in his financial ruin.

Anderson told KSAT 12 that Unhjem had about a month's worth of work ahead of him when he had the heart attack. "When harvest is ready, it's ready," he explained. "Every day it sits in the sun or gets rained on, the quality drops and the price drops."

According to KYFR TV, letting Unhjem's crops go unharvested would have been "a big loss for the family."

But Unhjem's neighbors were not going to let that happen. Family friend Jenna Binde told KFYZ, "I talked to a couple of farmers, got their equipment, and then other people just started calling and we had equipment offered from all over the place in the county, and their workers to go with it."

Just three days after the heart attack, approximately 50 farmers showed up at Unhjem's farm with 11 combines, as well as six grain carts and 15 semis, to finish harvesting Unhjem's durum wheat and canola.

With so much assistance, it took just seven hours to harvest Unhjem's 1,000 acres of crops. Anderson told KSAT 12 that the products needed to bag the wheat were also donated. The bags cost approximately \$900 each and five were required for the harvest.

But the kindness did not just end there.

Unhjem's condition remains serious, and he is still undergoing treatment. In the meantime, the hay on his land needed to be brought in for the winter, Anderson said. Nineteen ranchers arrived on Unhjem's farm to haul 714 hay bales.

And the farmers' wives wanted to do something to help. Anderson told KSAT 12 they prepared and froze meals for Lane to eat when he arrives home from the hospital.

Anderson said their community has a reputation for coming together to help one another. Anderson himself experienced such generosity when he was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. His friends and neighbors raised \$35,000 in just two hours, he recalled.

Anderson chalks up the kindness to this simple premise: "We're a pretty faith-based community."



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Kindness Begets Kindness

Brittany Reed was so grateful for the kindness shown to her family by McDonald's teenage employee Wyatt Jones on September 22 that she paid it forward in a big way, the *Daily Mail* reported.

Reed arrived at the McDonald's drive-thru in Waynesville, Ohio, after a long day of soccer practice ready to purchase a quick-and-easy meal for her three crying children before calling it a day. She placed her order and arrived at the window to pay and receive her food when she discovered she did not have her wallet.

Reed recalled that the moment nearly brought her to tears, as she realized she was going to have to run home for her wallet and return to place another order and further upset her already tired, inconsolable children.

But before she could drive off, Wyatt, 16, said her family's meal was on him. He took out his own card from his wallet and swiped.

Grateful, Reed vowed to return later to pay Wyatt back for the food. But when she returned just a few hours later to do just that, Wyatt continued to insist the meal was on him.

Reed was moved by the teen's kindness and took to Facebook to share her experience in the hopes her post would somehow reach the boy's parents:

"I just want his parents to know how KIND & COMPASSIONATE your son was tonight! He made this stressed out momma pause for a moment and realize this is exactly what we parents are trying to do, raise great humans," she wrote. Her post received more than half a million shares and more than 700,000 likes.

The viral story eventually did reach Wyatt's parents, who were surprised and proud of their son's actions.

Wyatt's mother, Lisa, said she had no idea her son did that because he never even mentioned it to her. He later told her he didn't say anything about it because he didn't think it was a big deal. That alone was a proud moment for her.

"It makes me even probably more proud of him because he's not seeking the limelight. He's not like, 'Hey, look at me, you know, I did this great big good deed.' He's still like ... 'It's just something I would do anytime,'" his mom said.

But for Reed the post simply wasn't enough. She decided to create a GoFundMe campaign on his behalf to help him raise \$5,000 to buy a car. As of October 19, the page raised a whopping \$48,920.

And when McDonald's learned it had such a kind young man working for its establishment, it held a ceremony in his honor on October 7, declaring it "Wyatt Jones Day," WCPO ABC Cincinnati reported.

Jones admits to being overwhelmed by the attention he has received for what he has dubbed "a small act of kindness."

"It's amazing to think that something like that can get you this far," he said.

But Reed reminded Jones that even the smallest acts can have the most incredible impacts. "You totally turned a horrible day into an amazing day," she said. "It had just been, to be honest with you, a very



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bad week or two leading up to it. So it was just kind of one of those moments that stops you in your tracks.”

Even better, Reed says the interaction has been inspiring for her oldest son, who has been more generous in an effort to be “more like the boy from McDonald’s.”



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