



The Goodness of America

Young Father of Five Adopted Children

A single man in Hamilton County, Ohio, adopted five siblings out of the foster care system on October 30 to ensure that they are not separated, as he was from his siblings as a child in the system.

Robert Carter, 29, was in the foster care system at age 12 and was not reunited with his own siblings until years later, when he was emancipated and was able to gain guardianship of his younger brother and custody of his younger sister. He was all too familiar with the heartache of separation.

Carter was already fostering three of the five siblings — brothers Robert, Giovanni, and Kiontae — but had made arrangements with the families fostering the two sisters — Marionna and Makayla — to get the children together for a visit. It was the first time the five children had seen each other in six months. At the end of the visit, the children became very distressed at having to separate, and Carter was moved to act.

“I understand how they feel,” Carter said. “I understand what they went through, so it really touched me. I was already thinking about adopting all of the kids but when I saw them crying, I was like, ‘Ok, I’m going to take all five to keep them together.’”

Caseworker Stacey Barton told WCVB-5 TV that Carter was the only foster parent who was willing to take in all five of the children. “His childhood background has made him aware of the importance of keeping siblings together,” she explained.

Carter acknowledges it will take a while for the children to fully trust him and think of him as a father figure, but he is working hard to make them feel safe and loved.

“[I’m] making memories to replace a lot of the bad ones,” Carter said. “Every night, I talk to them and let them know, ‘I’m your dad forever. I know what it’s like, and I’m always here for you.’”

Carter said he is already seeing progress.

One of the girls, Marionna, took some time to warm up to him, he said. But she recently told him, “I just want to say thanks for taking us in and taking care of us when our real mom couldn’t.”

Carter has made it a point to serve as a positive role model to children in his community. In addition to his wonderful deed of adopting the five siblings, he also mentors and volunteers at South Avondale Elementary.

Politics Aside

A Trump supporter in Wisconsin showed his neighbor that politics do not have to be ugly, even during one of the most contentious elections in recent history.

Tim Place of Washington County is a rare Biden supporter in a largely Republican stronghold, Fox 9 News reported. “You look around the neighborhood, I think there’s one other Biden sign,” he joked.

Still, Place was surprised when his sign went missing.

Enter Josh Schoemann, a fervent Trump supporter. Schoemann was upset when he learned what happened to his neighbor and wanted to show him that despite their political differences, humanity



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continues to be the great unifier. “Although we are Trump supporters,” Josh told Fox, “we love our neighbors and want them to be able to exercise their freedom of speech just like everybody else.”

Though Schoemann and Place had not formally met, Schoemann decided to replace Place’s sign himself. He took his son with him so that he could learn from his positive example.

When Schoemann introduced himself and handed Place the replacement sign, Place was moved by Schoemann’s kindness: “I was very appreciative and said thank you, and said it’s amazing, in these times, you could do something like that.”

Toys Galore

An anonymous California donor teamed up with a local toy store to purchase \$60,000 worth of toys for children in need.

The *San Diego Union-Tribune* reported the man purchased more than 2,300 gifts at Geppetto’s toy store in Del Mar on November 5 to donate to the U.S. Marine Toys for Tots campaign. And if that wasn’t enough, Geppetto’s gave a 10-percent discount and donated an additional 500 gifts, Breitbart News reported. The total retail value of the entire lot came out to more than \$70,000. It took two U-Haul trucks and a van to carry the toys to their location. Geppetto’s shared on its Facebook page a photo of the 25-foot-long receipt from the purchase.

Facebook users also acknowledged the donor’s decision to shop locally rather than at a big-box chain.

“How wonderful that the toys were bought from an independent toy store that is so special to our city! Good done twice!” one Facebook user commented.

The donor sent an assistant to make the purchases to protect his anonymity. The assistant reportedly sent photos and videos of the items to his boss so that he could make his selections, MSN reported. This year’s items included art kits, Barbies, Legos, puzzles, Hot Wheels, electric train sets, scooters, and more.

“He wants things kids can have fun with — active toys — things they can move, games that help kids learn skills and bring smiles to their faces,” said Brian Miller, who is president of Geppetto’s Inc.

This is not the first year this donor has done this, either. According to Breitbart News, the same man bought \$50,000 worth of toys in 2018 and 2019.

The donation is incredibly special this year, according to Marine Sergeant Federico Sanchez, given the difficulties created by the pandemic.

For that reason, Miller is especially grateful that the donor has selected his store for the third year in a row.

Unfortunately, the donor’s anonymity has made it so that Miller cannot thank him personally. But he found a work-around. “I write a thank-you note to a P.O. Box in San Diego County every year,” he said.

And while the donor wants to remain anonymous, he was happy for his story to be publicized in the hopes of inspiring others to be generous.

It appears the donor intends to maintain this tradition. When the assistant left the store on November 5, he told Miller, “See you next year.”



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