



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

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The Goodness of America

“Epic” Kindness Leads to More Epic Kindness

When a Concord, New Hampshire, mother was on the receiving end of community kindness, she decided to pay it forward.

Brandy Bisson’s son, Thomas, was afraid he would not be able to celebrate his seventh birthday because of the pandemic, prompting Bisson to think of outside-the-box ways to throw him a celebration. She took to Facebook and asked members of her community if they would help her throw a drive-by parade for her son.

Not only did the community participate, but many even mailed gifts to her house for Thomas, who later described his seventh birthday as “epic!”

The outpouring of support from Bisson’s community inspired her to pay forward the kindness that was shown to her family. “With the pandemic and everything and all the election stuff, I just wanted to bring smiles to people’s faces,” Bisson said.

Bisson began showing up at the grocery store and paying for customers’ groceries. In the month of November, she spent more than \$600 in groceries. “I paid for that person and then I said, ‘Ok, one more, one more.’ And I ended up paying for like eight people’s groceries,” said Bisson.

Bisson said her family is not rich but is also not struggling right now and is happy to help those who are. “We’ve been on both ends of the spectrum so to speak,” Bisson said. “It’s not a good feeling when you don’t know where you’re going to get food for your kids.”

According to Bisson, the response from those she has helped has been moving. She recalls one customer who was brought to tears when Bisson paid for her groceries. Bisson told WMUR 9, “She said, ‘Thank you so much, you don’t understand what this means to me, it’s so hard to reach out and ask for help.’”

Bisson also provided Thanksgiving meals for two families in need.

Bisson did not intend for her good deeds to gain public attention, but a store employee recorded her in action and later posted videos of the encounters to social media.

The Love of Family Knows No Bounds

Despite having seven of her own biological children to care for, single mother Francesca McCall of Birmingham, Alabama, thought nothing of taking in her sister’s five children after her sister and her brother-in-law died within one month of each other.

Francesca’s sister, Chantale McCall, died from complications involving COVID-19 in September. Her husband, Francesca’s brother-in-law, died one month later, on what would have been Chantale’s 35th birthday, *Good Morning America (GMA)* reported.

Now caring for 12 children ranging in age from two to 17, Francesca contends she wouldn’t have it any other way. McCall described her relationship with her sister as “close” and said that they had always assured each other that they would step in for their children if something tragic were to happen.

“We always used to have discussions like, ‘if anything happened to any of us,’ we knew that we wouldn’t



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want our children to be separated. When [University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital] called us up there, I told her that she wouldn't have to worry. I would raise her kids and take care of them like my own," *Essence Magazine* reported.

McCall's insurance job has allowed her to work from home to help the kids with virtual school, WSFA 12 News reported. McCall said her house has gotten louder and more chaotic since she took in the children, but adds "it doesn't bother" her.

She recognizes the children are learning to live together under tragic circumstances. "I'm taking it day by day," McCall said. "I'm trying to make my sister proud."

And while the family is struggling with their grief, a local church has stepped in to offer the family support. "My daughter and I wanted to do something special for the holidays for the children who lost their parents to COVID-19," Carla McDonald of West End Purity Holiness Church of God said. "Even with the emotions that she has gone through raising 12 children, [Francesca McCall] needs everlasting, everyday help, and she's not the type of person to ask for anything."

McDonald sponsored the children for Christmas and helped the family launch a GoFundMe page, which raised more than \$335,000. According to the page, the donations will support their everyday needs. McDonald's daughter, Raven, is also mentoring McCall's niece, Zariah, and helping her to apply for college, McCall said.

"There's love in that home," McDonald told *GMA*. "Francesca has never complained."

Free Car

When Cory Schneider of St. Petersburg, Florida, decided to let go of his late grandmother's 1997 Ford Crown Victoria, he knew he wanted to turn it into a blessing for someone who needed it. With the help of another St. Petersburg resident, local entrepreneur Marcel Gruber, that is exactly what he did.

Schneider's grandmother had given him the vehicle years ago after Schneider had been in a wreck. Despite the car's age, it was still in great condition. The car had just gotten new tires, a new battery, and suspension work.

"1997 Ford Crown Victoria — white — around 100k miles, almost all driven by grandma," he posted to Reddit. "Damn good physical appearance for a 24-year-old car. I want to help someone who needs it with a free vehicle."

As expected, he received loads of responses. He read through the requests before selecting substitute teacher Mark Selby, who had recently totaled his car and was living with his mother while he recuperated from his injuries.

Selby was overwhelmed with joy when he got the call from Schneider, the *Tampa Bay Times* reported.

But the story did not end there. When local entrepreneur Marcel Gruber saw the Reddit post, he reached out to Schneider. He asked if he could put \$400 in the glove compartment of the vehicle to cover the associated costs of title ownership.

Selby said the generosity of those two men took him out of a dark place.



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