



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on January 29, 2021

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The Goodness of America

Gifts for Tony

A heartbreaking story in Hinckley, Ohio, became a beautiful example of generosity this past Christmas.

A three-year-old boy, known only as Tony, was abandoned by his mother on December 23 at Hope Memorial Gardens Cemetery. A witness told police the boy, who was followed by a dog later confirmed to be his, was seen running after a car that sped off. The witness immediately contacted the police and remained with the child until they arrived.

Tony was able to tell police his name and the name of his parents.

According to police, the boy's father was "in no way involved with" the incident and was extremely "cooperative" with the investigation. Tony was in his mother's custody at the time of the incident.

"The mother is the focus of our investigation and is currently in the care of a local medical facility," said Hinckley Police Department Chief David Centner, who has withheld the mother's name until charges are officially filed against her. "We are working with the Municipal Law Director as to charges upon her release."

Tony was initially placed with a foster family, but has since been reunited with his father and dog, and he is reportedly doing well.

The boy's story deeply touched everyone involved and inspired incredible kindness from the local community. The Hinckley Police Department encouraged Facebook followers to do what they could to make Tony's Christmas a little more special, and the response was huge.

A Christmas Eve post on the police department's Facebook page showed mounds of wrapped presents that were left in the lobby for Tony.

In fact, the response was so overwhelming that the department eventually had to ask residents to consider using their generosity for others in need.

"If you feel the blessing to help, please check with your local communities as there are always needs to be filled. We are truly humbled by the response not only locally but from across our great country," the department posted on December 31.

Helping Hand

When Officer Matt Lima of the Somerset Police Department was dispatched to a local Stop & Shop grocery store for a reported theft, it didn't play out as expected.

"The allegation was the two females were scanning some items at self-checkout but bypassing other items and bagging those items," Lima told NBC 10 News. "Dispatch indicated it was two females and two young small children and they were detained by Loss and Prevention over there."

When Lima arrived, he was struck by the fact that the two young children were girls close in age to his two girls. He noted that they were being distracted by store employees, so, thankfully, they were unaware of what was happening at the time.

Lima said he pulled aside one of the two women. She explained she had a job, but the other woman she



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was with — the mother of the two girls — did not, and said she was trying to get Christmas dinner for the three of them with what little she had.

Lima reviewed the receipt and spoke with the store's asset-protection associate to confirm that the items were all indeed food. "There was nothing else on there like health and beauty items, shampoo, anything like that. It was all food," he said. "I asked an employee where the other items were that they had planned to take and was informed they were put back on the shelves."

Working with the store, Lima decided to issue a "No Trespass" order against the two women, but decided against pressing charges.

"Obviously, this family was in need and I can't imagine having to make the decision to go to Stop & Shop and just only pay for what I can afford — or do I go there and try to take things for Christmas dinner for the kids?" said Lima.

Instead, he purchased a \$250 gift card to the store so that the women could obtain the needed food the proper way. Lima said the women were both shocked and grateful by the outcome. "I bought the gift card close in value to what would've been taken," said Lima. "I just did what I felt was right. It's not about me, I just tried to put myself in that family's shoes and show a little bit of empathy."

The Somerset Police Department applauded Officer Lima's kindness and discretion during a difficult situation. "I would like to personally commend Officer Lima for his actions," Chief George McNeil said. "His actions exemplify what it means to protect and serve the members of our community."

The Gift of Debt Forgiveness

An Arkansas oncologist forgave the medical debt of nearly 200 of his patients in a holiday greeting card to patients, ABC News reported.

Dr. Omar Atiq, who founded the Arkansas Cancer Institute in 1991, announced in a holiday greeting card to his patients that he would be closing his practice and would be canceling the remaining medical debt of all of his patients:

I hope this note finds you well. The Arkansas Cancer Clinic was proud to serve you as a patient. Although various health insurances pay most of the bills for majority of patients, even the deductibles and co-pays can be burdensome. Unfortunately, that is the way our health care system currently works.

Arkansas Cancer Clinic is closing its practice after over 29 years of dedicated service to the community. The clinic has decided to forego [sic] all balances owed to the clinic by its patients. Happy Holidays.

Dr. Atiq notes the remaining debt was approximately \$650,000, but for him the decision was an easy one.

"Being sick is hard, having cancer is harder, and having cancer in this pandemic is devastating," he said. "I am glad I was able to do a little bit at this point for them."

After having discussed it with his wife, Dr. Atiq decided the couple did not need the money as much as his patients did. "We didn't, luckily, need the money, somebody else did. So it was done," he said.



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