



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on March 5, 2021

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## **The Goodness of America**

### **The Gift of a Normal Childhood**

Kayleigh Kulage of Pacific, Missouri, may finally have a chance at a normal life, thanks to her pre-kindergarten teacher, who donated a kidney to the five-year-old.

Born premature at just 26 weeks, Kayleigh has needed a new kidney since her birth and has required nightly peritoneal dialysis, Fox 2 Now reported.

According to Kayleigh's mother, Desiree, the little girl has taken everything in stride. "If she didn't have like these tubes on her or anything you wouldn't really know anything's wrong with her," Desiree said. "She never cries. She never complains about pain. She's a happy kid. I couldn't have been any luckier to have her."

But there is so much that Kayleigh has not been able to experience as a result of her condition, including baths and swimming. That is, until now.

Kayleigh's pre-K teacher, Robin Mach, volunteered to donate a kidney. "She was a student at our school. And then she had to receive some home services so I got to do that. So, I've been working with Kayleigh for about a year and a half," Mach said. "She needed it. I wanted her to have a normal life and go to school. And this is how we can help her get there."

Both surgeries took place in February and went very well, with Kayleigh's body adapting to her new kidney very well.

Kayleigh's parents are grateful to Mach, not just for the kidney but also for the incredible kindness she has shown Kayleigh and continues to show her and her family. "She's incredible. She was offering to do our laundry. And take me back and forth. And I'm like, 'you just had major surgery. You need to go home and rest,'" said Desiree. "I don't know how to thank her. So, all I keep on saying is thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

### **Gorilla Glue Girl**

Tessica Brown of St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana — known as the Gorilla Glue Girl — has turned a rather embarrassing and terrifying ordeal into an opportunity for incredible generosity.

Brown went viral in February after she posted a video on social media revealing her hair had been stuck solid for more than a month because she foolishly opted to use Gorilla Glue in place of hairspray.

"Bad, bad, bad idea," she said in the video, which was seen more than 30 million times.

Brown desperately tried getting the glue out of her hair and even visited the emergency room, to no avail.

"It went from scary to terrifying to pretty much being tortured," Brown told the *New York Times*.

Brown's video garnered so much public attention that LA-based surgeon Dr. Michael Obeng reached out and offered to remove the Gorilla Glue from Brown's hair for free, with TMZ posting video footage of the actual February 10 operation — a \$12,000 procedure.

"When I found out this was a reality, you can only feel compassion and sympathy for Tessica," he



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told CBS Los Angeles.

Brown set up a GoFundMe page to raise \$1,500 to help her pay for the expenses related to her ordeal, namely her travel from Louisiana to Los Angeles for her surgery and an emergency room visit she had to make back home. Surprisingly, the page raised more than \$23,000 by February 17, far more than she needed to cover her costs.

As a thank-you to Dr. Obeng for his kindness, Brown decided to donate the remaining funds, approximately \$20,000, to the Restore Foundation, a reconstructive surgery nonprofit run by Dr. Obeng. "I can show my appreciation for his foundation and also I can help the next person," Brown said.

Because Brown intends to use the funds for something different than she originally stated on her page, her fundraising account is being investigated by GoFundMe. A spokesperson from GoFundMe told the *New York Post* they were "in touch" with Brown and "working with her on the withdrawal of funds."

In the meantime, Brown continues to express her gratitude to the doctor who saved her hair. "Words cannot even explain how I feel about @drmichaelkobeng," she posted on her Instagram. "You really gave me my life back and I am forever grateful."

## Heroes Helping a Hero

Local veterans groups came together to provide much-needed repairs to the home of nonagenarian World War II veteran Alfred Guerra, in response to a desperate social-media post by Guerra's daughter.

Guerra's son was working to make extensive repairs to Guerra's home in San Antonio, Texas, before he suddenly passed away from cancer. On top of the obvious pain of losing his son unexpectedly, Guerra also found himself desperate, as his home was uninhabitable, with most of the interior torn out during the remodel.

Guerra's daughter Maria reached out for help on social media. Her post reached a variety of veterans groups who jumped at the chance to help a veteran who had earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for acts of bravery. "As combat warriors, we leave nobody behind. And as veterans, we leave no veteran behind," Tony Roman, of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, told KSAT-News.

Veteran volunteers reportedly turned out to raise funds and work on the home's interior while Guerra stayed with his daughter.

WTSP reported the home now has a new roof, air conditioning unit, and insulation, but it still needs electrical, plumbing, and siding working done before the home becomes habitable. The family had set up a GoFundMe page with a goal of \$5,000, which was met, but remodeling efforts have revealed the house will more likely need close to \$14,000 worth of repairs.

In the meantime, Guerra is happy staying with his daughter, but his ultimate goal is to go back to his house that he shared with his beloved wife before she passed away from cancer. "He yearns to be home; he wants to be at home, but there's no way he can be at home right now because the house is in total disarray," Maria said.

Still, Maria notes her father is "overwhelmed" by the generosity he has experienced through this effort.



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