



The Goodness of America

Coffee Caravan

A coffee shop in Ohio says its purpose is to give jobs to people with special needs.

The Coffee Caravan, located in Lebanon, Ohio, began as a food truck launched by Residential Community Care, an organization that “advocates for the empowerment, employment, and dignity of individuals with developmental disabilities,” Breitbart News reported. Residential Community Care also runs programs such as Skidz Re-imagined, a vocational habilitation program that focuses on woodworking.

Tony Mitchell, president of Residential Community Care, teamed up with Mark and Jodi Titmas to open Coffee Caravan as an opportunity for Residential Community Care folks to have “a job that is more customer-based.”

“Their ability to communicate effectively with a coworker, a customer, a supervisor, is where they struggle,” Mitchell told the *Dayton Daily News* in 2019. “We utilize programs like Coffee Caravan and Skidz, our day program, to be able to teach them those social communication skills needed so they can not only get a job in the community, but they can maintain that job.”

“For example, watching our employee, Alex, push limits, like our individuals are going to do, and then figuring out where we need to bring him back to use that as a teaching moment, is the fun part of the job,” added Mitchell.

Jodi Titmas is a teacher and works with the employees to teach them the skills they need to be successful, according to the *Dayton Daily News*. “Our mission is to provide employment for these adults with special needs. Our employees are capable, giving and successful adults in our community. We just want to provide them with employability skills and give them the opportunity to share their skills with everyone,” she said.

Coffee Caravan proved to be such a success that the owners transitioned the food truck business into a brick-and-mortar store. According to the shop’s Facebook page, the employees put their woodworking skills to use as they worked on getting the building ready. On March 8, Coffee Caravan hosted its grand opening as the first coffee shop in Warren County to focus on employing individuals with special needs. The business employs eight people, but says it has room to expand its staff.

“Everybody has ability, it’s just a question of what it is. That’s why one of the things we have on our shirts is ‘What’s Your Ability?’” co-owner and manager Mark Titmas told WLWT.

Haircut Hero

When middle-school student Anthony Moore of Indianapolis got a bad haircut, which he tried to cover with a hat to avoid embarrassment, his principal responded with kindness and understanding.

Stonybrook Intermediate and Middle School principal Jason Smith knew immediately that something was wrong when Moore showed up to school on February 26 wearing a hat in violation of the school’s dress code and refused to remove it, despite being asked numerous times.

“I sat across from him and asked, ‘What’s wrong? Why are you being defiant, why are you refusing to



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on April 2, 2021

Published in the April 19, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 08

take your hat off? It's a pretty simple request," Smith recalled. "And he explained that his parents took him to get a haircut and he didn't like the results."

Smith said he thought Moore's hair looked fine, but he also understood that boys his age care more about "social -acceptance."

"He didn't say straight out, but I feel like he didn't want to be laughed at," Smith told CNN. "The barbershop and haircuts as Black males is very important in the community and looking your best and being sharp, it's just a cultural aspect."

Fortunately for Moore, Smith has been cutting hair since he was a teen. Instead of taking disciplinary action against Moore for wearing a hat in school, Smith offered his services and fixed the student's haircut himself, after obtaining parental permission.

Smith has been applauded for going above and beyond, but he contends he did exactly what he should do, according to Fox 19.

"We're not disciplining with a hard fist. You could call and have the parent pick the kid up for defiance, or you can sit and get to the root of the problem and see what can I do to help you? What do you need right now?" Smith said.

Tempura Broccoli

When Brandon Jones' mother-in-law was in the final stages of lung cancer, he reached out to chefs from her favorite restaurant in the hopes of getting the recipe for her favorite meal. To his surprise, the chefs instead offered to make the six-hour drive to her home to make the meal themselves.

Jones' mother-in-law (whose name is not published to respect her privacy at the end of her life, the *Washington Post* writes) lives in Vermont but fell in love with a tempura broccoli dish from Ekiben, an Asian fusion restaurant in Baltimore, Maryland. Each time she would visit her daughter, Rina Jones, and her son-in-law in Maryland, they would go to the restaurant for her favorite plate.

"Whenever she'd fly to see us or take the train, that's the first place she wanted to go to eat," Rina said. "She's probably been to the restaurant with us at least 20 times."

"She had always told us, 'When I'm on my deathbed, I want to have that broccoli,'" Rina told the *Washington Post*. "In fact, when I was packing on Friday to drive up to Vermont, I called my mom to see if she wanted us to bring anything special and she jokingly said, 'tempura broccoli!'"

Brandon thought he would surprise his mother-in-law by e-mailing one of the restaurant owners, Steve Chu, for the recipe so that he could make it himself when they arrived at her home in Vermont. Instead, Chu's response provided an even more incredible surprise. Chu offered to drive to the woman's home in Vermont and make it fresh.

On March 12, Chu, along with his business partner, Ephrem Abebe, and employee Joe Anonuevo, loaded up his food truck and made the six-hour drive to Vermont. In addition to making the highly requested broccoli tempura, the trio made a tofu dish with peanut sauce and steamed rice.

Rina recalled her mother's response: "She was so happy and touched to have that broccoli. She couldn't believe it."



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on April 2, 2021

Published in the April 19, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 08

Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.