



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on June 3, 2022

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The Goodness of America

Gifts for Local Heroes

An anonymous Milledgeville, Georgia, resident decided to show his thanks to the 48 deputies at the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office by giving each of them \$200, totaling nearly \$10,000.

The anonymous donor sought assistance from Tori Kala, assistant vice president of Century Bank and Trust, to help with the gift by putting together the envelopes with the cash and special notes and hand-delivering them to the agency.

"He said, 'You know what? Law enforcement needs it for what they do. They protect us.' He wanted to thank them for their service and protecting us," Kala told WMAZ.

On April 27, the sheriff's office posted on their Facebook page a photo of officials with the stack of envelopes, noting, "The donor wanted to show his appreciation for the sacrifices our deputies do for the citizens of Baldwin County."

The social-media post garnered loads of praise.

"A tough and often underappreciated job; that's an awesome gesture," wrote one user.

Another remarked, "So deserved. Thanks for all y'all do for our community."

WMAZ reported that the deputies were shocked by the generous gift.

"Usually, we get Chick-fil-A gift cards, you know — just something small — but when I saw it, I was surprised. I wasn't expecting something like that," said deputy Ernesto Lopez, who said the \$200 will help with bills and other expenses.

Pennies for Patients

High-school students at Oak Forest High School in Oak Forest, Illinois, raised more than \$1,000 for a six-year-old battling brain cancer. The donation was just one of many ways the local community has come out in support of Maggie DeVries and her family.

According to [Patch.com](#), Maggie suffers from a rare condition called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, DIPG, an inoperable tumor on her brain stem for which there is no cure.

Students in the Key Club at Oak Forest High School learned of DeVries' story and decided that they would make her the beneficiary of their "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser. The students set out donation boxes outside of classrooms where their classmates could donate.

"The students did all of the work," said Key Club Adviser Gary Andruch in a press release. "Some days the students turned in so much change in a plastic bag that I thought it would rip the bottom of it out!"

Maggie's parents told ABC Chicago that they do not want her life to be about nothing but cancer, and they are grateful that the donation will enable her to be able to enjoy more kid-friendly activities such as horseback riding, dance class, etc. Maggie will also be getting a shopping spree at her favorite store, Target, thanks to the gift, WFLD reported.

"So my hope is that we get as many good days as possible with Maggie, and that they're good days for Maggie; whatever can get us good days for Maggie, where she's having fun, is all I can hope for,"



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Maggie's mother, Erin, said, according to ABC Chicago.

Maggie's story has captured the attention of many members of her community, Patch reported earlier this year, when Maggie was first diagnosed. A GoFundMe account called "Love for Maggie" was created to offset the cost of lost income, and has raised more than \$200,000. A Facebook page, also called "Love for Maggie," is selling apparel, decals, and yard signs to raise money for the DeVries family.

Simply Slices, a pizzeria in Mokena, has a standing order that allows Maggie and her family to order as many slices of her favorite pizza and grape shaved ice as she wants, free of charge. A local grocery store, Mariano's, gave Maggie cookies, flowers, balloons, and strawberries at no charge. And United Gymnastics Academy, where Maggie takes gymnastics, has hosted fundraisers for Maggie and her family.

Restaurant Owner Offers Free Baby Formula

Amid the unprecedented national shortage of baby formula, Texas restaurant owner Benji Arslanovski has been giving away the product to local families who have been struggling to find it, KDFW reported.

Arslanovski, owner of Our Place Restaurant in Mansfield, Texas, told *Fox & Friends* that he has given away more than 300 cans of formula thus far. His generosity has drawn the attention of Texas Health of Mansfield, which has offered to pitch in by donating another 105 cans.

It began when Arslanovski ordered six cases of Gerber Good Start baby formula from the foodservice distributor US Foods, with the initial intent to sell the product at cost. When the product arrived, he posted on social media to alert local families that he had the product in stock for anyone in need.

"I said you don't need to eat here or be a customer — if you need some, come and get it because no baby should go without."

After his first encounter with a desperate mother who needed the formula, he quickly decided that he would give the away the formula for free.

"The first lady that came in and was so happy to have a can — I just couldn't charge her, and that just did a spiral effect, I just couldn't see myself charging anybody," he said. "Just trying to help feed some babies."

Tranda Franklin, a grandparent who had been searching far and wide for formula for her infant grandson, told *The Dallas Morning News* that the free can of formula from Arslanovski was "such a blessing."

"It's been very stressful," she told the outlet. "With gas prices like they are and having to go from place to place looking for formula only to be unsuccessful, it's very difficult. We were on our last can of formula for my grandson and we only had enough to make about three to four more bottles."

In fact, within hours, the first six cases of formula Arslanovski ordered were all gone, prompting him to order another 20 cases. He told *The Dallas Morning News* that he would continue to order formula as long as there was a need and as long as US Foods has it in stock.



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