**Giving Back**

**The insurance company Allstate has cut car insurance premiums for April and May by 15 percent, because cars are being driven less. Allstate says it will return more than $600 million in premiums to policyholders. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 24, 2020)***

**In 1997, wildlife artist Terry Redlin opened a $10 million art center and museum in Watertown, South Dakota (population 20,237) and donated it to the state as a thank-you for a $1,500 scholarship he received to attend art school. *(American Profile Magazine)***

**After many years of wanting an automatic-teller card, I finally got one. The first time that I used it was at a bank machine in a nearby college town. A student was there when I arrived, and I asked him if he'd like to help me figure out the proper procedure. "Sure," he replied. I explained that I wanted to make a deposit. He cut me off and said "I don't think that I can help you. I've never made a deposit." *(Shirley Sowle, in Reader's Digest()***

**Andrew Carnegie arrived from Scotland penniless, got a job in a Pittsburgh steel mill for $4.80 a month, and fifty years later retired with a guaranteed income of one million dollars per month. He gave away 90 percent of his fortune before he died in 1911, to good causes of course . . . such as public libraries, among many others. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 40)***

**Children are the purpose of life. We were once children and someone took care of us. Now it is our turn to care. *(Cree Elder)***

**When Orlando Morel was 6 years old, he and his mother left Haiti on a tiny wooden boat bound for the U.S. The crowded vessel lost its way and food ran out, but the U.S. Coast Guard finally showed up to rescue the desperate refugees. Now, 18 years later, Morel is a newly graduated member of the service that saved his life. Adopted by a Haitian woman in the U.S. after his rescue, Morel attended the U.S. Coast Guard Academy after high school. “I don’t think that anything I can do will be enough as payback,” he said. *(The Week magazine, May 25, 2012)***

**In the spring of 1912 two young brothers were about to graduate from the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska. But Neil Criss, the younger of the two (who was working part time as an insurance salesman) didn’t have the $125 that remained to pay on his tuition. However, a school regent, Father W. P. Whelan, S.J., trusted the student for the money. And so both brothers graduated. But they didn’t practice medicine for long. After one year, the older brother, Dr. C. C. Criss, devoted full time to his health and accident insurance company. In 1914, Dr. Neil joined his brother in Mutual Benefit Health and Accident Company, now Mutual of Omaha. In 1952, at the age of 73, Dr. C. C. Criss, who now headed both Mutual and United of Omaha, died. His wife, to whom he had talked of helping Creighton, gave the university 4,000 shares of stock in United of Omaha. The valuation at the time was more than $4 million. In April of 1966, at 79, Dr. Neil, who had become treasurer of Mutual and a vice president and medical director of both companies, died. After certain cash bequests, his gift to his Alma Mater came to more than $1 million. A young graduate over half a century earlier was trusted for a little more than $100. The school that placed its trust in that student was remembered with gifts of more than $5 million. *(Maureen Miller, in Catholic Digest)***

**Many times a day I realize how my outer and inner life is built upon the labors of my fellow men, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in return to give as much as I have received. *(Albert Einstein)***

**Last May, a patron of Washington, D.C.’s Everyday Sundae watched as owner Charles Foreman gave a scoop of ice cream to a child who didn’t have money – a gift that Foreman extends to anyone who’s unable to pay. Moved by the act of kindness, Nicole, a mom of two, donated $100 so that Foreman could give more cones away for free. When Foreman thanked Nicole online, he set off a chain of giving: Soon, the shop had raised enough money to pay for hundreds of cones for both children and adults who might be going through a difficult time. “You start to see the best in people,” Foreman said. “It was really touching.” (The Week magazine, February 10, 2023)**

**In November 1963, firefighters rescued 6-year-old Rick Vega and his family from a blaze that consumed their apartment on the North Side of Chicago. Vega decided that day he wanted to become a fireman, and today, he serves as a lieutenant in the Chicago Fire Department. Recently, he was assigned to Battalion 5 -- the very outfit that saved him and his family 44 years ago. "Here I am," back in my neighborhood, protecting the neighborhood I grew up in," he said. "It's like you're giving back." *(The Week magazine, December 21, 2007)***

**In 1784 Benjamin Franklin wrote the following letter to a man named Benjamin Webb: “Dear Sir: Your situation grieves me and I send you herewith a banknote for ten louis d’or. I do not pretend to give such a sum; I only lend it to you. When you shall return to your country, you cannot fail of getting into some business that will in time enable you to pay all your debts. In that case, when you meet with another honest man in similar distress, you must pay me by lending the sum to him, enjoining him to discharge the debt by a like operation when he shall be able and shall meet with such another opportunity. I hope it may thus go through many hands before it meets with a knave that will stop its progress. This is a trick of mine for doing a deal of good with a little money. I am not rich enough to afford much in good works, and so am obliged to be cunning and make the most of a little. With best wishes for your future prosperity, I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant. B. Franklin.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**What we are is God’s gift to us. What we become is our gift to God. *(Quoted by Eleanor Powell)***

**Audrey Hepburn worked harder as a good-will ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund than she ever did studying for a film role. "I auditioned for this job 45 years ago and I finally got it," she told UNICEP volunteers last spring. Hepburn was referring to the help she received from a U.N. relief agency in the aftermath of World War II. She was living in Holland and by 1945 had endured five years of war and German occupation. "That last winter, we had no food whatsoever," the actress said. "I was anemic and malnourished." The relief agency that came to the aid of the starving Hepburn was the forerunner of UNICEP -- the start of her promise to herself to repay. *(Al Cohn, in Newsday)***

**A recent college graduate paid tribute to her roots with a cap-and-gown photo shoot at the farmer's field where her Mexican-immigrant parents worked. Jennifer Rocha, who graduated from University of California, San Diego, worked in the fields alongside her parents in high school, at times until 2 or 3 a.m. That pushed her to want a better life as she studied at the university full-time and picked up late-night shifts in the school's police department to pay for tuition. "I wanted to go back to the field because that's what molded me as a person," she said. Rocha plans to pursue a career in law enforcement. *(The Week magazine, June 25, 2021)***

**Best-selling thriller writer James Patterson has pledged to give $1 million to struggling independent bookstores. The novelist, whose Alex Cross detective series and other books have sold 280 million copies worldwide, says he will hand out money to "viable" bookstores, with the proviso that they contain a children's section . The rise of e-books has led to closures of independent bookstores where many children learn the joy of reading , he said, adding, "This is not a good thing." Patterson said he would pay some of the money directly to worthy booksellers "who haven't had a bonus in seven years." *(The Week magazine, September 27, 2113)***

**In 1943, an American pilot named Fred Hargensheimer was shot down over New Guinea. Local natives rescued him from the Japanese and cared for him. After the war Hargensheimer remembered his debt. He personally raised money to finance a school on the island. Finally in 1970, he and his wife left their home in St. Paul, Minnesota, for New Guinea. They planned to donate fourteen months of their lives toward the development of a cacao plantation at the school. *(Gospel Herald, as it appeared in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, by Paul Lee Tan, on p. 1456)***

**I have walked this earth for thirty years, and, out of gratitude, want to leave some souvenir. (Vincent van Gogh)**

**Wall-Mart will give $428 million in bonuses to workers next month for working through the pandemic, part of $1.1 billion in hazardous pay it has given out . The company said it will be closed for Thanksgiving this year, for the first time in 30 years. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 31, 2020)***

**Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, received a gift of $1 million from a former student who had to borrow $200 in order to stay in school and receive his diploma 34 years ago. The donation was made by Dr. Stanley Hanley, president of the Power Equipment Company of Galion and Columbus. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 1456)***

**The words two strangers spoke to Paige Hunter as she contemplated jumping off a bridge saved her life three years ago. "You are worth so much more than this," they said. Now she returns the favor by posting encouraging messages all over Wearmouth Bridge in England, covering the landmark with more than 1,000 notes since 2018. Dozens of people have reached out to her to thank her for saving their life, including Callum Doggrell. "It reminded me that I have a purpose," he said. "Sometimes that's all people need to hear." *(The Week magazine, June 18, 2021)***

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