

You deserve
Good things!

*You have
a wish list
that's
destined to
come true!*

Some of your
dreams, desires,
passions and
plans will unfold
even faster than
you think, while
a few of those
go-for-it goals
may take just a
little more time.
But you'll see:
They will
happen! The
future is on its
way, and it's
bringing amazing
things!



Everyday Hero

Proof that it only takes one person to make a difference

“The best gift of all is spreading joy to others!”

Jack Majewski was thrilled when fate reunited him with the teacher who'd given his struggling family a merry Christmas when he was a boy. And after the teacher retired, Jack took up his mantle to help families at women's shelters find that same joy!

The Christmas season was in full swing, but there was no tree in the Warminster, Pennsylvania, apartment where 10-year-old Jack Majewski lived with his mother, Carol, and two brothers. And there'd be no gifts on Christmas morning either.

Jack's mom was struggling just to put food on the table after recently fleeing an abusive relationship. And it broke her heart that she had nothing left to give.

But then, a few days before Christmas, there was a knock on their door...

“Ho, ho, ho!” a jolly Santa bellowed as he and a merry band of elves hauled in a tree, a turkey and a card stuffed with cash for all the fixings. They then doled out gifts to the whole family.

Seeing her boys' joy, Carol smiled, tears filling her eyes.

Life soon improved for Jack's family, but that Christmas remained special in their hearts. His mom even saved the card, hanging it up each year, as a reminder of the holiday miracle.

So when Jack was 16 and his high school history teacher, Robert Ayton, announced he was collecting to give needy families a happy Christmas,

Jack immediately dipped into his paycheck from his after-school mall job to contribute.

Mr. Ayton really is a great guy, Jack mused. And, suddenly, something clicked in his brain. *Is it possible?* he wondered, and once home, he dug out that card from so many years ago. A shiver raced up his spine as he read the signature: *Mr. Ayton and the gang.*

The next day, he showed Mr. Ayton the card and asked, “Was this you?” His teacher nodded.

“You have no idea how much that Christmas still means to us,” Jack told him.

“That's why I do it,” Mr. Ayton said with a smile.

Jack began donating to Mr. Ayton's Christmas drive every year, even after graduating. But in 2001, when Jack returned to drop off his donation, Mr. Ayton wasn't there.

“He retired,” the school secretary informed him. Wanting to offer his best wishes, Jack tracked down his old teacher. He told Mr. Ayton how happy he was for him, then asked, “Who will be taking over the Christmas drive?”

“Well...” Mr. Ayton sighed, his voice trailing off.



Jack (right of Santa) with his group of merry volunteers

Jack's heart twinged. He knew how much the Christmas drive had meant to Mr. Ayton and all the families he had helped over the years.

Someone has to keep the tradition going, Jack thought. And in that moment, Jack decided, *I will do it!*

When Jack told his brothers, they signed on to help. And over the past 17 years, thanks to generous donations, they have helped dozens of moms at a women's crisis center in Reading, Pennsylvania, give their children a merry Christmas, delivering a tree, gifts and a holiday meal. There are always smiles and tears—including Jack's.

“It just brings back those surprised and happy feelings I had years ago,” Jack, now 48, says. “To be able to help other kids enjoy Christmas, and for that one day, to forget the sadness in their lives...I feel so blessed. The best gift of all is spreading joy to others!”

—Bill Holton

Has someone come to your rescue? Share your own story with us, and we'll pay you \$250 if we publish it! Know of a hero? Send it to us! If you're the first to share it and we publish it, we'll pay you \$100! Email your story with your name and phone number to: WWFeatures@WomansWorldMag.com. Or mail to: Everyday Hero, *Woman's World*, 270 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

We pay
\$250!

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