



“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

—Coretta Scott King

COMMUNITY, COMPASSION, AND EMPATHY

are words that sustain as we enter the sixth week of living in quarantine. We are learning a lot about our local and national leadership in government, business, healthcare and beyond. Our stillness provides an opportunity to pay even more attention to the extraordinary moments of kindness and beauty around us. While we will eventually embark into our new version of society, these exceptional moments of positivity have brought smiles to our faces during uncertain times. They have made a profound impact and will stick with us in the months and years ahead.

1. GIRL EMPOWERED

The founder and CEO of Spanx Sara Blakely is making a contribution to support women business owners who have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. She is donating \$5 million to female entrepreneurs who need assistance amid the COVID-19 crisis. The donation will provide 1,000 female small business owners with \$5,000 grants. "My hope is that this gift will help alleviate some of the pressures caused by this horrible pandemic," Blakely said. "I know firsthand what it's like to be a small business owner. As a woman it can be lonely and scary, especially during a time like this. Small business is the backbone of our culture and I want to help."



TUNE IN FOR AN EARTH DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER

EARTH DAY 50

ON APRIL 22, EARTH DAY GOES DIGITAL
TUNE IN FOR MESSAGES, PERFORMANCES, AND CALLS TO ACTION FROM

ZAC EFRON	DR. SYLVIA EARLE	JOHN KERRY
VAN JONES	CHRISTIANA FIGUERES	AL GORE
LICYPRIYA KANGUJAM	ZDENO CHARA	
PAUL NICKLEN	NAHKO	ARIZONA MUSE

WED. APRIL 22-2020 | WATCH LIVE AT EARTHDAY.ORG

2. EARTH DAY'S BIG MOMENT

Today is Earth Day's 50th anniversary, and this milestone offers a silver lining moment during this dark time in history. Although the pandemic has left a devastating shock to the world's health and economy, Mother Nature has been rejuvenated. The waterways surrounding Venice, Italy are clearer and brighter, while in India, the usual dense pollution that covers the towering Himalayas are now visible for the first time in nearly 30 years. Learn more about how you can get involved with an Earth Day activity at this [site](#).



3. A SMILE-WORTHY DELIVERY

Meet Mike: Mike is a dad in Massachusetts to three young sons, and his father (“Papa” to the boys) lives just a few blocks away. Papa has sent things by drone before, and of course the boys have loved it. Like many of us, the family had been experiencing extreme cabin fever over the last several weeks due to the quarantine. Recently the young boys received a special call from their Papa that gave them directions to go to their deck. Mike’s oldest child, four-year-old Oren, ran out and anxiously waited for the special delivery. In came a drone carrying a Dunkin’ Munchkins box and delivered the treats right into Oren’s hands. The special delivery brightened the spirits of the family. We could all use a surprise treat these days! Visit this [site](#) to learn how Dunkin’ and the Dunkin’ Joy in Childhood Foundation are bringing joy to others during these difficult times and how you can help as well.

4. 2 MILLION REASONS TO SMILE

Toys for Tots, a non-profit operated by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, provides toys for needy families in the U.S. around Christmas every year. Due to these extraordinary times, they have decided their organization simply can’t wait until December to fulfill this need due to the coronavirus pandemic. With families under stay-at-home orders, the program will distribute two million toys, games, and books to kids across the country. “While Marine Toys for Toys Foundation is known as a Christmas time charity, we don’t want to wait until next holiday season to lessen the fear and anxiety of children,” said Lt. Gen Jim Laster, President and CEO of the Foundation.



5. LEADING BY EXAMPLE, EVEN IN HARD TIMES

Shake Shack, one of several large restaurant chains that received federal loans through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the coronavirus stimulus law intended to provide relief to small businesses, announced they are giving the \$10 million back in support of independent restaurants in need. The burger chain is among more than a dozen companies with annual revenues in the hundreds of millions that are reported to have received funds from the program. While Shake Shack qualified due to the 'under 500 employees per location' threshold, the company had a significant change of heart and made this announcement Sunday about returning the loan after further understanding the state of the industry and the number of independent restaurants who did not receive the relief, as the current allotted funds have all been distributed.



GOOD NEWS
BOOST

DROP US A LINE.

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