

Grocery Store Angel

It was Christmas Eve 2006 and I was running behind on making my annual Corn Flake Wreaths for our neighbors and friends. I usually have the wreaths finished by Christmas Eve but I had run out of corn flakes & marshmallows so I ended up having to make a last minute run to the grocery store for what I needed. Once at the grocery store, as usual, I ended up buying more than I went in for.

I couldn't believe how long the checkout lines were that night. I picked a line behind an older gentleman who appeared to be his grandkids. When the cashier finished ringing up his order the older gentleman stopped to talk to the bagger while I checked out.

As the cashier was finishing ringing up my order, all of a sudden, I realized I didn't have any checks in my checkbook! To make matters worse I only had about \$5.00 in cash. (At that time in my life I didn't even own a debit card.) I was so embarrassed!

I could tell that the cashier was very annoyed with me when I explained my dilemma to her. The store was extremely busy and the people behind me were impatient to get through the line. I couldn't help but think about everything that I still needed to get done that night but all I could think to do at that moment was to ask the cashier to put my groceries to the side so that I could run home and get my checks.

The older gentleman must have heard what was going on because before I knew what was happening he handed some cash to the cashier and paid for my groceries. I couldn't believe it! Neither could the cashier! I don't know who was more surprised her with her mouth hanging open or I!

I told the gentleman that it was "ok". I insisted that I really didn't need his money. He just looked at me and said "Merry Christmas...just do something for someone else sometime" and then he walked away.

I caught up with him outside in the parking lot and asked him for his address so I could send him a check. He replied, "I'm from out of town. Merry Christmas!"

That was so incredible to me. It really made my whole Christmas special. It made me slow down a little and pay closer attention to the true meaning of the day. That year throughout the holiday season I told everybody I knew about that story. I doubt very much if I will ever forget that man. As a result of what he did, I have always tried to do things for others.