

A Smile At the Mailbox

Several years ago, when my kids were young, we were struggling for everything. All of our meat during the winter was wild game because we couldn't afford anything else at the time. Eating wild game wasn't a bad thing, it's just that we had no other choice in the matter; it was what we had to do to survive.

That year, bills piled up and propane was like gold to us. It was so hard to make ends meet. We were drowning financially and I was never sure where we would get the money to keep our heads afloat. As bad as it got though, something would always happen that would enable us to get through to the next week. These "somethings", often tended to take place during my daily trip to the mailbox.

Many times during that difficult year, when I went to the mailbox to pull out the mail, I would find amongst the bills and overdue notices, a check of some sort. The check would either be in the form of a rebate of some sort or maybe a refund for something that I had overpaid. Every check that I found in the mailbox that year was something that was unexpected, but very, very welcome!

The feelings that I had when I would find those unexpected "surprises" in my mailbox still sticks in my mind even to this day. Those memories still give me a little "lift" in my step when I think back on those "mailbox surprises".

Today, no matter what life throws at me, or how much I am struggling or challenged in my life, when I think of all the ways that my family was "taken care of" that year, it still puts a smile on my face. I continue to be thankful to whomever it was that "messed up" a bill in my favor back then!

As a result of my own experience, I recently "Paid It Forward" by putting my own "Make A Person Smile At The Mailbox Money" into someone else's mailbox the other day. It may not have been a lot of money in most people's eyes, but I think it was priceless to the person that went to the mailbox that day...I can imagine the smile that it probably put on their face....and here it comes again, that wonderful "mailbox feeling"....but right now, it feels even better this time around!