



# The Kindness Campaign

The Kindness Campaign is a social action project organized by Global Awakening In Action and *Good News Toronto*. This collaborative project seeks to spread more kindness at home, at work, and in the world.

**The concept behind the campaign is simple, but powerful:**

Each month we feature a suggested act of kindness to help readers consider ways to bring a bit of kindness to an unsuspecting soul. Of course, our monthly suggestion is just that — a suggestion. We encourage you to let your spirit soar with possibilities and then put those inspiring ideas into action through your spontaneous good deeds.

*“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.”*  
— Edmund Burke

You are also invited to leave behind the Kindness Card, provided below. The card explains the campaign and encourages the recipient of your kind act to “pay it forward” in the form of another act of kindness to a stranger.

Kindness Activists are also invited to submit the story

of their act of kindness for inclusion in *Good News Toronto*. If selected and printed, we send you a *Good News Toronto* t-shirt as a reminder of your good deed and participation in this social action project.

**This month’s submission:**  
This month’s story, submitted by Gael Ross, is about ordinary people urgently doing everything in their power to rescue a lost pet.

**This month’s suggestion:**  
Build a birdfeeder or buy a birdbath for the birds in your neighbourhood.



*Stephen D’Amico, founder of Global Awakening In Action, coordinates the Kindness Campaign in collaboration with Good News Toronto. Visit [stephendamico.com](http://stephendamico.com) and [globalawakeninginaction.org](http://globalawakeninginaction.org) to find out about other fun and meaningful volunteer opportunities*

## Community Effort to Rescue Lost Pet

BY GAEL ROSS

Recently, I was out for a walk with my dog in my neighbourhood when I came upon an unusual scene. A group of young men were milling around a new house under construction nearby. One young man was halfway up a tree in front of the house, trying to get the attention of an unusual looking bird perched higher up.

It was a cold and damp evening and the scared bird refused to respond to commands. When I inquired about the situation, I learned that the bird was a two-and-a-half-year-old pet parrot, worth \$4,000, that had flown out of his home nearby and had been missing for about four hours.

The family had been out searching for their pet bird and had found it a short while ago sitting up in this tree. Some of the men were construction workers on the site trying to help out, some were family members, and some, like ourselves, were just gawkers.

One young man was on a cell phone trying to get help from various sources, to no avail. It was his brother who had climbed the tree to try and reach the bird. He was unsuccessful and in fact had gotten himself stuck in the tree, unable to get down. He almost fell at least once while we were there.

Before long, a fire truck arrived to rescue the young man, followed by a couple of police cruisers. Officer Kevin Clarke took charge of the situation and organized everyone so that the firefighters could do their job. Then firefighters Brian White, Michael Boudewyn, and Steve Sheppard got out some ladders and coached the young man down.

A plea to rescue the bird was made next, and the firefighters attempted to do so using the fire truck’s aerial ladder, but couldn’t because of all the overhead wires. They were about to leave when they decided to make one more attempt at rescuing the poor bird. The firefighters got an extra long ladder and a pole with a hook (a pike pole) from their truck. The ladder was extended to its maximum length and leaned against a small fragile branch of the tree. Boudewyn and Sheppard



*Geezy, the pet that mobilized the community*

held onto the ladder while White climbed to the top of the ladder and attempted to scoop the bird with the pole. The first two tries resulted in the bird just hopping away. Then, on the third try, the bird flew from its perch and went into the neighbouring yard. While White descended the ladder, constable Dawn Heighton grabbed a blanket from her cruiser, and along with the bird’s owners, ran into the yard. They soon emerged led by Heighton cradling the bird wrapped in the blanket. The bird was returned to its owners, followed by cheering all around from those of us who witnessed the rescue. A “good news” story if I ever heard one!

## Reader Submission:



### Good News from St. Lawrence Market

I have been going through a rather stressful time of my life.

I was walking along in the St. Lawrence Market area brooding over my problems when I found a lovely cluster of purple flowers taped to a pole. There was a message scotch-taped to it.

It said, YOU ARE LOVED. It brightened up my day and I took the flowers home and put them in a small vase.

I put the note on the table in front of the vase. I have no idea who left the flowers but they have certainly brightened my week.

As I went back outside to walk I noticed other flowers with notes taped to them.

I want to say thank you to whoever left the purple flowers and note that I brought home.

I hope other people going through some stress will see the other flowers and feel comfort with them as much as I have experienced.

Thank you, good neighbour for your wonderful, thoughtful gift to me and others.



—Patricia BearClaw



## SMILE

You’ve just been kinded!

Someone reached out to you with an anonymous act of kindness.

Now it’s your chance to pay it forward.

Do something nice for someone, leave this card behind, and keep the spirit going!

Courtesy Good News Toronto and Global Awakening In Action

*Good News Toronto*  
next issue  
Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>



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