



# Everyday Hero

Proof that it only takes one person to make a difference

## “A small kindness can warm so many hearts!”

When Lori Hinkle learned socks were something homeless people desperately needed but are rarely donated, she began stocking up, and today she's provided thousands of pairs to warm their soles!

**L**ori Hinkle shivered as she and her friend Lydia emerged from a Manhattan theater. Temperatures had plummeted, and the women spotted a man in an alleyway nearby sleeping on a sheet of cardboard.

“He doesn't even have a blanket,” Lori fretted. “He'll freeze!”

Lori had worried about the homeless ever since she was a little girl and her Aunt Shirley had taken her to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. As they'd made their way home to New Jersey, Lori had spotted several homeless men and women at the bus station, slouched in chairs trying to sleep and stay warm.

“Can we give them money?” Lori had asked her aunt, who suggested they pass around coffee and donuts instead.

Lori had never forgotten their grateful smiles, and from then on, whenever she had passed someone huddled on a street corner, she'd drop some spare change into their contribution cup or buy them a hot sandwich.

But the night after the theater, seeing that man sleeping out in the bitter cold, Lori's heart sank. Determined to help, she headed to a discount store,

bought a cartload of blankets and returned to give one to the shivering man.

His eyes grew wide in surprise and gratitude. “Thank you,” he said, wrapping the blanket around himself.

For the rest of the cold night, Lori and Lydia drove around, distributing blankets to folks curled up in doorways or alleys. Most accepted gratefully, but one man shook his head.

“Don't need a blanket, but do you have any socks?” he asked.

Lori was startled, but when she thought about it, a need for socks made perfect sense. *The homeless spend most of their days on their feet, walking, she realized. Socks wear out. They get wet and dirty. It never occurred to me.*

So the next day, Lori went to a dollar store and loaded up on multi-packs of thick socks. Unfortunately, she couldn't find the man who'd asked for them, but there were plenty of others who happily accepted a pair.

*The look in one couple's eyes when they accepted the socks... you'd think I'd given them a million dollars,* Lori told Facebook friends after she returned home.

Touched by her post, family and friends began sending Lori pairs of socks to give away,



“Each boost boosts spirits!” Lori on socks for homeless

which inspired her to set up the Facebook page “Socks for Homeless Soles” (Facebook.com/SocksForHomelessSoles).

Soon donations of socks and cash began pouring in. And to her surprise and delight, Lori's living room quickly filled up with piles of socks. Pair by pair, Lori began handing them out. “It's amazing how much socks boosts their self-esteem,” Lori told loved ones. “Women especially love getting socks in bright colors with crazy patterns!”

These days Lori, her grown daughter, Cassidy, and Lydia never leave home without a trunk full of socks. They've given away thousands of pairs over the past four years and has no plans to stop. “I dream the day I hit the lottery and help every homeless person have a place to live,” she smiles. “In the meantime, I can keep their feet warm and cozy. It may seem like a small thing, but a nice pair of socks can warm both their feet and hearts!” —Bill Hinkle

**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](mailto:WWFeatures@WomansWorldMag.com). Or mail to: Everyday Hero, *Woman's World*, 270 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

