This week’s newsletter is dedicated to all the good in the World! Every single day there are people helping others and doing incredible things in all corners of the planet and the majority of them aren’t celebrated, but I found an website you can subscribe to that thinks those helpers deserve to be recognized. The Happy Newspaper aims to “bring a refreshing twist on what we typically know as 'news', reporting on positive changes and truly inspiring people.” So here are some great stories of Helpers and hope to remind you there is still good in the World. And, who knows...maybe something will ignite in you to give back to the community you live in.

A 99-year-old army veteran who has raised more than £2m to help the NHS in the fight against Covid-19 has vowed to keep going even though he has smashed his original £1,000 target.” @captaintommoore had originally hoped to walk 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday at the end of the month but it looks like there’s no stopping him!!

In an effort to help out a looted community, a Minneapolis middle school decided to hold a food drive. They expected a modest turnout, but what happened next was more than they could have imagined. The thousands of donations were far beyond the 100 grocery bags the school had hoped to collect when they first published their appeal on social media—it was shared so widely that some of the donors even came from out of state. “Donations covered every inch of ground of our parking lot, the grass, everywhere,” Sanford Middle School Principal Amy Nelson told CNN. “We had to also use a neighboring park because we didn’t have enough space here at the school to stack it up.”

The school community initially wanted to help its own families because they lived in neighborhoods where grocery stores have been closed due to damage from the protests. “The line of cars bringing donations went for blocks and blocks in every direction from the school. And they just kept coming,” Nelson told CNN. “We still don’t know how much we received.” Thanks to the generosity of so many, volunteers from the school are working with the food support nonprofit The Sheridan Story to get the donations out to those in need within the greater Minneapolis community.
Twenty years ago a trash collection man, Jose Alberto Gutierrez of Bogota, Colombia, found a copy of Leo Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina in with the rubbish in one of the wealthier areas of Bogota, so he decided to rescue the book from the trash. Jose has since collected over 20,000 books that now make up his own free library in his home in the poorer area of South Bogota – which he opens to community children at weekends. Aptly named “Strength of Words” the library provides local children with a host of reading resources and Jose hopes to inspire young minds.

The owner of a New Jersey frame shop has been unable to operate his business since late March. But that hasn’t stopped him from taking over 500 trips to the grocery store—for free—for seniors staying at home to avoid exposure to the novel coronavirus. It all started when an 88 year-old woman on his East Windsor paper route asked him to throw the newspaper closer to her door, so that she wouldn’t have to walk far to get it. He obliged, without thinking much of it at the time. It was a few days later, in line at the grocery store, that he thought of her again. “If she can’t walk 20 feet to get her newspaper, how is she getting groceries?” Greg told CNN. “So, I called her and asked if she needed anything.” Tremendously grateful for his request, she asked him to pick up one small order for her, and one for her neighbor across the street. Then that Greg thought about the hundreds of other senior customers along his route, and how he could make a world of difference for them. So, he decided to offer his services in a note attached to each newspaper he delivered. The need turned out to be enormous, and before long, Greg’s wife, three children, and mother-in-law began to help in any way they could: answering the phone and taking shopping trips of their own. When he’s done with his paper route for the day, Greg and Erin go shopping and make deliveries until around 7 p.m., taking only a short break for lunch. They have been working every single day since March, except for Easter Sunday.

MY FAVORITE!! A Bellevue, Washington man who knows what it’s like to grow up without a father has been doing his part to make a difference in the lives of kids today who are in the same boat—and from the surging popularity of his YouTube channel, it’s clear he will be among the dads most showered with love this Father’s Day. Rob Kenney wanted to step in to fill the void whenever a kid needed to learn how to do something—like change a car’s oil, put up a shelf, use a stud-finder, and even iron a shirt or shave your face.

His YouTube channel, called ‘Dad, How Do I?’, aims to teach youth the valuable lessons a father is meant to teach. Launched only two months ago, his DIY channel already has more than two million subscribers. Fans can now count on Mr. Kenney whenever they get into a jam, using his step-by-step instructions for jumpstarting a car or unclogging a sink. Many viewers have been touched by the kind and heartfelt words Rob shares in his videos. Such simple words, like ‘I love you’ and ‘I’m proud of you’ that so many children don’t get to hear from a father figure, can have a profound impact, even into adulthood. He starts each video with an enthusiastic ‘Hey kids!’—but the videos are not meant for just young adults. Rob’s awkward charm is evident in each video that includes a (bad) dad joke like, “When is a good time to go to the dentist? 2:30.”

The downtime the coronavirus lockdown provided was the impetus for him to finally start his YouTube channel, a long-held dream. This, in itself, shows his viewers that there is always opportunity in the face of adversity. Impressively as his car maintenance skills may be, his dedication to showing kids some encouragement these days means far, far more.