

You deserve
Good things!

*Living the
life of your
dreams is
easier than
you think!*

The secret?
Following your head
and your heart.
Giving your dreams
more weight than
your doubts. Seeing
the best in yourself
and making the
most of it, and
believing that
happiness is
your destiny.
Because it is!



Kid Hero

Proof that it only takes one person to make a difference

“Everyone needs a magical best friend!”

Darius Noonan spent the first few years of his life in foster care. During that time, he found comfort from a stuffed pup. So much so, that after he was adopted into a loving home, Darius began a project to give other kids in foster care their own plush pal

Darius Noonan had bounced between several foster homes before he was adopted at age 4. During those years, there was just one constant in his life: his beloved stuffed dog, Trouble, a gift from his social worker.

“Trouble listens to me. I talked to him when I was worried or scared,” Darius explained to his mom, Maria.

In fact, Trouble had been created by a woman named Sheila Duncan and her 12-year-old niece, Kendall, for that very purpose in 2006, after the young girl had lost several loved ones to cancer.

Maria’s heart warmed watching Darius tuck in his plush pal at night. He’d sit and read to him. *Trouble has been his coping mechanism and good friend*, she realized, grateful he had someone to love and comfort him during those difficult days.

And Maria was overwhelmed when one day, when he was 7, Darius told her and his dad, “I want to raise money so other kids in foster care can have a Trouble the Dog. I know it can feel scary and lonely, and I don’t want any kids to feel that way.

Trouble can help them and let them know someone loves them and hears them,” he sweetly explained.

Darius began doing chores around the house and saving his birthday and Christmas money to purchase Trouble stuffed animals to give to local foster kids. He advertised by decorating the front lawn with “Honk for Trouble” signs, and got two local businesses to put donation boxes on their premises.

Touched and inspired by his compassion, Maria posted about her son’s project on Facebook, and soon, donations started coming in, helping him buy even more.

In 2019, Maria was at a craft fair and saw a Trouble the Dog display. She went over and, by chance, met Sheila. Thanking her, Maria shared the impact the toy had on her son’s life, and how he was now gifting Trouble to other kids.

Astounded by the little boy with such a huge heart, Sheila dedicated a page on her company’s website (TroubleTheDog.com/kids-helping-kids) to Darius for people to purchase Trouble (\$44.95, includes free



“I want other kids to know someone loves them,” says Darius, with his pal Trouble

shipping) to either be sent directly to a child in need or to Darius for personal deliveries—something he loves doing.

“Trouble is an angel in disguise, and this is going to be your new best friend,” Darius gushes when he hands a child a Trouble the Dog of their own.

“He’s been through so much but remains so full of joy and compassion,” Maria marvels.

As of today, Darius has gifted more than 400 Trouble the Dogs to kids in foster care—and also to local police and fire departments to give to kids they meet or rescue from emotional situations. And he has no plans to stop.

“I want to keep on going because there are so many kids who need hope, a hug and something of their very own to keep with them forever,” Darius, now 12, says. “Everyone needs their own magical best friend to help them through scary and hard times.” —Gina Roberts-Grey

Has a person or animal come to your rescue? Email the story with your name, phone number and a photo to: WWFeatures@WomansWorldMag.com. Or mail to: Everyday Hero, *Woman’s World*, 270 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632. By submitting your story, you are granting *Woman’s World* permission to use it and your photo in the print magazine, on our website and/or in future special issue publications. Due to high volume, we are unable to return submissions received.

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Love & Laughter

"One large cheese pizza, please!"

Elijah, 3, submitted by grandma Linda Lagomarsino, CA



"Wanna snuggle?"

submitted by Dianna Zychowski, FL



"Divorce is not the answer. Find a way to settle your differences to load the dishwasher."

"So one was too hot, one was too cold and one was just right? Was the microwave defective?"



Looking bow-tiful!

Julia, 7 months, submitted by mom Teri Hanning, MI



One afternoon, I brought my 4-year-old daughter with me to the supermarket. To keep her distracted, we play a game where she calls out the names of foods and products she recognizes as we walk through the store. When we passed the feminine hygiene products, she turned to me and said, "Mommy look, there's your lady diapers!" The other women in the aisle shared a laugh with me, but boy, was my face red! —S.D., Cape Coral, FL

Was my face red!

"If you always do what interests you, at least one person is pleased."

—Katharine Hepburn

Cheery cherub!

Sophia, 14 months, submitted by grandma Doris Terranova, MD



Two peas in a pod!

Wesley, 4 months, submitted by grandma Judy Avery, AZ



Send us photos of your cutest 'babies' and you may see them in an upcoming issue of Woman's World!

Please include the name and age of the child or pet, as well as your name, address, phone number and relationship to the child or breed of the pet. Send to: Love & Laughter, *Woman's World*, 270 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 or email to LoveAndLaughter@WomansWorldMag.com.

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