



*In a time when many people don't even know their neighbors, Mikey is an extraordinary exception.*

After a strong wind and rain storm, he collected and removed the debris from an elderly neighbor's yard until there was not a twig or speck of moss remaining. After getting to know my mother during her visits to the neighborhood, Mikey has extended his generosity to her. "I have asked him to help with a few things, but mostly, he volunteers," Judy Wicker says.

Mikey once told me a story about his grandparents, Felton and Mary Andrews, who owned what was for a long time the only grocery store on the island, Andrews Grocery Store. One afternoon, Mikey was sitting on the store's front porch with his grandmother sharing a Coca-Cola when a big sedan pulled up. The gentleman who got out of the car was clearly not from around here and asked if he could buy one of the lush ferns hanging from the porch eaves.

"I'm sorry, those aren't for sale," Mikey's grandmother said, "but sit down and have a Coke with us." The gentleman was a bit surprised, but sat down and socialized for a few minutes. During the conversation, he again asked to buy the fern and was again told it was not for sale. When it was time to go, the gentleman was saying goodbye and had one hand on the door handle when Mary Andrews said, "Sir, you're forgetting your ferns."

"I thought they weren't for sale," the man replied.

"That's right," Mary Andrews answered, "they're not for sale, but I never said I wouldn't give 'em to you."

Mikey was obviously raised on a steady diet of generosity, but there is one event in particular he can point to that, as much as any other, explains his giving nature. When Mikey was a teenager, he and a friend drove down to a Florida beach for a day of surfing. On the way home, their car ran off the road and both boys were badly hurt, lying on the side of a road where a car may not pass for hours. Luckily, a woman happened to come by shortly after the accident and was able to help. Mikey woke up in a hospital knowing that a stranger saved his life, but he was unable to thank her — she didn't leave her name.

When he told me that story, I said, "I bet that's why you're so generous."

Mikey said, "Yes," and after a moment of thought said, "but Cameron, you gotta understand, that's just what neighbors do."

Mary Bryan Peyer is constantly impressed by the way Mikey takes the initiative to lend a helping hand. She rarely asks for a thing. She recalls a time when she was very upset and in tears. "Mikey came over and listened to me cry, then he pressure washed my entire house! He's always looking out for my family's well being. That's what makes him such a good friend."

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