

LOCAL HEROES

It can be very disheartening to read that “no one did anything” when someone else’s life was in danger. That’s why we included these true stories—to illustrate that in many cases, people do “do something.”

GIVE THAT WOMAN A CONTRACT

Preschool teacher Cristina Torre is the daughter of former major-league catcher and New York Yankees manager Joe Torre. Though not a big leaguer herself, Torre displayed some impressive skills when she caught a falling baby. While passing by a cupcake shop in Brooklyn in June 2013, she happened to see a one-year-old boy hanging from second-story fire escape. (He got out to the fire escape after removing a piece of cardboard next to an air conditioner.) Torre called 9-1-1 but realized they wouldn’t make it in time, so she positioned herself beneath the infant. A moment later he lost his grip and fell. He hit a metal awning on the way down, cutting his face, but Torre caught him before he landed on the sidewalk. He was okay.

CALLING ALL CABS

A remote town in Peru called Contamana (pop. 15,000) has an airport and a hospital, but the airport’s runway has no lights, and the hospital is too small to deal with serious medical issues. One night in 2013, those factors put the lives of three people in serious jeopardy. A sick woman, her sick baby, and a man with a tropical disease were in danger of not lasting the night, and couldn’t be flown to a better hospital until morning. But a local radio DJ named Adolfo Lobo made an on-air plea for any and all taxi drivers to meet at the airport. A short time later, nearly 300 cabs (motorcycles with sidecars) showed up and parked along each side of the runway with their lights on. That provided enough light for the Medevac pilot to take off. The man died a few days later, but the mother and child survived.

DISCO DIVA

You have to be impressed by Sharon Thorneywork. While riding to work on a bus in Birmingham, England, she performed CPR on a heart-attack victim for 18 minutes while singing *Stayin’ Alive*. She’d seen a public-service announcement that advised singing the

Bee Gees' 1977 disco hit while doing chest compressions (to keep a steady rhythm). The victim, 67-year-old Terry Holly, had collapsed next to Thorneywork, 42, who had no first-aid training (aside from the commercial), and asked if anyone else on the bus knew CPR. No one did, so she started pumping and singing, pumping and singing. Finally, paramedics arrived and took over. Thorneywork helped them get the patient to the ambulance, then got back on the bus and continued to work. Two hours later, she received a call from police: Holly was breathing on his own! "I can't thank Sharon enough," said one cop. "She should sing *Stayin' Alive* from the rooftops."

BIKE PATROL

Temar Boggs, 15, of Lancaster Township, Pennsylvania, was watching TV with some friends in May 2013 when several police officers showed up on their residential street. They were looking for a five-year-old girl who'd been abducted hours earlier. The teens tried to help by searching the woods near their houses. Then Boggs realized they could cover more ground on their bikes. "I had a feeling in my stomach I was going to find her," he said. Soon after, they saw a car with a man behind the wheel and a little girl in the passenger seat. The car turned around, as if to avoid a police car on the next block. The teens pursued. The man tried to get away, but the neighborhood streets were small and the boys were able to keep up. After a brief chase, the kidnapper pulled over, pushed the victim out, and sped away. Boggs comforted the crying girl and then brought her to a firefighter. (The suspect remains at large.) Boggs downplayed his heroism, but admitted that he and his friends are proud that they were able to "make sure her future could be possible."

BEING SAVED BY JOHN MALKOVICH

A 77-year-old man named Jim Walpole had just walked out of a pub in Toronto when he fell and cut his neck on a piece of scaffolding. With blood gushing out, he didn't have much time. Thankfully, Hollywood A-lister John Malkovich (who was in town for a play) ran over and used his scarf to stop Walpole's bleeding. He continued to apply pressure to the wound for ten minutes until paramedics arrived. Walpole described the movie-like scenario to reporters: "As the ambulance drove away, Malkovich looked at me and said, 'That was intense.' And then he just sort of faded into the night."

A single pear, eaten with the skin, contains more fiber than a bowl of oatmeal.