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Subject: New heroes, sticking their necks out to make others' lives better
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Giraffe Heroes Project

#StickYourNeckOut

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Dear John,

Delighted to send you a "baker's dozen" (that's Old School for "13") new Giraffe commendees.

Take a break from news of all the wrong-doing in the world—treat yourself to meeting some humans who are sticking their necks out to take brave, caring action.

As long as there are Giraffes, there's hope.

—Ann Medlock, Founder

PS: There are links to websites so you can learn more.



In Capetown, South Africa, **Colin Arendse** champions the powerless, the elderly, the homeless, and the poor. He's fought their evictions from affordable homes and he's fighting the destruction of their neighborhoods by a planned highway. Exposing corruption in the police force has brought him threats from both the police and the criminals paying them off.

Colette Pichon Battle left a career as a corporate attorney after Hurricane Katrina devastated her childhood home ground in rural Louisiana. Her new work is helping people



without wealth deal with the threat of the climate crisis. Her nonprofit Taproot Earth trains endangered communities and lobbies for the policies and funding that are needed for survival. [Learn more here.](#)



As chief epidemiologist of the state of North Carolina, **Megan Davies** warned Carolinians about the possible danger of drinking water from wells near coal ash pits that Duke Energy had created all across the state. She was gathering safety data when she was ordered to lower the toxicity standards and declare the water “safe.” Davies not only refused, she resigned in protest. Loudly.



Dion Dawson has used his memories of childhood hunger to be sure other Chicagoans, young and old, never go hungry. He’s devoted his life to creating a system that moves vast amounts of high-quality food to people in need across the region, managing the movements, finding the funding to keep it all going. Here's [his website](#).

Israeli **Alon-Lee Green** is an activist who refused drafting into that nation’s army and is a champion of low-wage workers’ rights. He’s won higher pay for restaurant workers and has led half a million Jews and Muslims to join him in working for peace and justice. He’s now a leader of protests against his country’s war in Gaza. There's an [English version](#)



[of his website.](#)



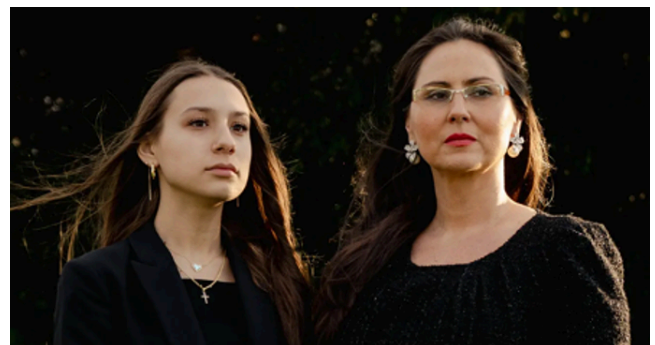
When she was 17, **Krista Hanley** hid under a cafeteria table at Columbine High School while two fellow students who were her friends shot and killed 13 students and the basketball coach she had just thanked for helping her get an athletic scholarship to college. Still plagued by PTSD, she's using her experience to help other survivors deal with their trauma and work for gun controls. [Find out more here.](#)

When she worked at a Catholic convent in India, Sister **Lucy Kurien** had to turn away a woman seeking shelter from an abuser, because the woman wasn't Catholic. Kurien then witnessed the woman being set on fire and killed. Determined to protect *all* endangered women and their children, Kurien broke with her order and began creating "Maher Homes" across India, a new life's work that has saved thousands of endangered women and children. [Keep up with her here.](#)



Kate Lindley got the highest award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award, for an anti-censorship project she created called Free to Read. It provided free access to almost a hundred books that had been banned by her Hanover, Virginia school district. When the Hanover town council honored her, they deleted "banned books" from their announcement, so Lindley took them on publicly for censorship of her anti-censorship project.

When **Francesca Mani** found out that a boy at her school had used AI to create sexually provocative photos of her and other girls, she refused to be a victim. Despite warnings that speaking out could provoke more online assaults, she and her mom, **Dorota Mani**, have been campaigning to make such uses of AI illegal.



Lisa and Freddie McMillan own Drexel &



Honeybee's, a lunch place in Brewton, Alabama that has a menu with no prices on it because nobody needs to pay. The McMillans run the place on his military pension, and grants that she secures when she's not lobbying at the state capitol and in Washington DC, insisting that legislators remember the poor. The McMillans never forget them, starting their workday at 6 AM, making over a hundred meals a day. [Here's their website.](#)

Texan **Richard Miles** was wrongfully convicted and imprisoned when he was 19, then exonerated, released, and recompensed at 34. Suddenly he was a free adult, one with money. No spree ensued. Miles bought his mom a house then put his money and time into helping people in and out of prison. His "Miles of Freedom" nonprofit helps ex-prisoners re-start their lives. And thanks to his lobbying, there will be fewer wrongful convictions in Texas; the "Richard Miles Act" is a law requiring police officers to share all evidence with all attorneys on a case. [His website is here.](#)



We are delighted to add that his exoneration was achieved by [Centurion Ministries](#), whose founder was Giraffe Hero James McCloskey.

**Hope these 13 Giraffes gave you some ideas about ways
you can stick your neck out to make the world a better place
for your fellow beings.**

**Do whatever you can to be a light
in all the darkness.
HANG IN THERE!**

To meet more real heroes, do LIKE [Giraffe Heroes on Facebook](#),

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from the vast storybank we've created over the decades.
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