

Who Are The "Heroes Among Us?"

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29 years ago our family faced a near tragedy. We were in the midst of the busyness of harvest and my husband's father suffered a heart attack and needed emergency bypass surgery. The timing could not have been worst . . . Let me set the stage of what our farm life was like 29 ago. Also, let me tell you about the heroes among us.

We were starting our young farming lives and as many young farmers do, we farmed together with my husband's parents. We exchanged labor for the use of machinery, which was very typical then and now. This arrangement allowed us to gradually work into the family farming business.

29 years ago, the entire family was needed to harvest our crops. At the time, I had an off-the-farm job and my mother-in-law provided meals and helped with other small harvest tasks. The key people working during harvest on our farm was my husband and my father-in-law. Harvest was also much slower back then because our machinery was smaller and our efficiency dwarfed compared to today's standards. So one less person was a huge loss, especially when one of them was a key person.

But it was now our reality. We were worried sick wondering how our crops were going to be harvested and also concerned about the health and needs of my father-in-law.

And then one day, the unthinkable happened. A parade of machinery started driving up our gravel driveway. Combine after combine. Truck after truck.

Unannounced. *They were there to help.*

No one called them.

No one asked them.

No one.

Heroes Among Us

They were the *heroes among us*. Just everyday people. Our neighbors. Our friends. We were unworthy of this kindness. *We didn't deserve it*. They had harvest to finish themselves. We knew how busy they were. But they came. So humbling.

And we prayed about how *grateful and thankful* we were for them.

There is just something so very special about the farming rural community. When someone is in need, people drop what they are doing and go where they are needed. No questions asked. *You just go*. Why? Because you know that could be you in need. We all know that literally in a split second our lives can change drastically.

And it is no different today. A [similar story repeated in our community](#) about a year ago. A very tragic accident that took a young father away from his new wife and baby daughter. And they also had "heroes among them."

When I think about what people did for us 29 years ago, it literally takes my breath away. To think people are so kind and compassionate, especially when we are constantly seeing and experiencing so much evil in our world. A few days ago when we reminisced the memories of that day by looking at the old pictures, fresh tears were streaming down our faces. Even 29 years later . . .

Lesson Learned

We can all be "heroes among us." We just need to look around. Many need our help. And it is just people like you and me. Heroes are just normal, everyday people helping their fellow neighbors, friends and strangers. We can overcome the evil in our world by being our own type of hero. We don't do it for recognition. In fact, we don't want recognition. We just do it because the *need is there and our world desperately needs more kindness and compassion . . .*

I would love to hear about your heroes. Please share in the comments.