

# Senator Bill Nelson

Dear Friend,

Last week, inspired by a story President Obama told during his address to Congress, I asked you to send in stories about the decency and generosity you've witnessed during these difficult times. Your responses were touching and inspirational. I want to share just a few of the stories with you.

- Faith is a professor at a Baptist university where the faculty agreed to forego a raise in the coming year. But Faith and her colleagues insisted that the university staff, including physical plant workers, housekeeping, and more, not face any cuts or reductions in pay.
- Roger told me he has mortgage troubles on the horizon and is caring for his disabled wife and children. But he still gives what he can to charities, including local school fundraisers.
- Steve and his fellow Campaign for Change volunteers created an organization after the campaign to keep making a difference for their community. For their first project, they collected \$2,800 and a half ton of food for a local food bank in time for Thanksgiving.
- James had a great story about a friend who bought a box of silverware at a garage sale for \$50. He later found out it was worth \$1,500, and when he sold it, gave half the money to the person he originally bought the silverware from.
- Patricia's community in Oak Hammock is filled with retirees who spend many hours volunteering. Some of them spend time with children at the local elementary school, some care for patients at a local hospital, and some are helping immigrant students learn English.
- Jonathan told me about his boss, who instead of laying employees off or cutting pay, reduced overhead by allowing employees to telecommute, which gave them more time with their families. He also gave one employee paid time off to help a family member recover from wounds he suffered in Iraq and even donated toward that recovery.
- Michaela and her husband were flooded out of their home in Tropical Storm Fay. They saw opportunity in tragedy and are rebuilding their home to be as green as possible, using solar and geothermal energy and reclaiming rainwater and gray water.

These stories are just a few examples of the many acts of decency we see every day. As promised, I'll share the stories you sent with President Obama. We're working hard in Washington to get our economy moving again, but it is your spirit of hope and optimism that will ensure America weathers the storm.

Thank you for your continuing support,



Bill Nelson