

# Good News Department

## #PoweringGood: Power Equipment Helps People Give Back

(NAPSA)—While digging out after a winter snowstorm can be a lot of hard work, the job is made easier thanks to many people who use their snow throwers to clear not only their own driveway, but also their neighbors'.

Kris Kiser, president and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), says he hears stories every winter about neighbors using snow throwers to help each other after storms. "We know of a 77-year-old man in New York named Pat Papa, for example, who uses his Ariens snow thrower to dig out his own driveway. Then he clears seven other driveways on his street just because that's what good neighbors do."

Kiser says this spirit of giving back and helping out is part of what knits communities together across the country. "Outdoor power equipment is often the thread that connects neighbors and communities," explains Kiser.

The spirit of giving remains strong throughout the year. The effect of outdoor power equipment to do good can be seen in the aftermath of the blizzards of winter, the tornadoes of spring, the wildfires of summer or the hurricanes of fall.

Nonprofit organizations such as Team Rubicon, AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams, Baptist Disaster Relief Teams and others train and organize entire chainsaw crews to deploy in the aftermath of disasters, knowing the good that fast-moving saws can do. They use their chain saws to clear roadways of trees and trim debris into manageable pieces—ultimately helping crews get power lines back up and running quickly.

"These do-gooders—from organized groups to individuals like Sister Margaret Ann, who started clearing debris herself in Miami after Hurricane Irma—play a vital role in recovery," says Kiser. "They make it possible for their devastated communities to get back to normal faster."

After one of the most active hurricane seasons on record, the steady hum of generators is also part of the post-disaster landscape. When the grid is knocked out by strong storms, generators stay on, powering the heating and cooling infrastructure, as well as communication systems, that communities need. Smaller units power air-conditioning or heating systems, appliances, lights, phones and even laptops. Larger backup generators keep emergency response operations and hospitals up and running. And as



In times of trouble, Americans help each other, often thanks in part to quality outdoor power equipment.

residents and public safety officers respond to flooding after a major storm, engine-powered water pumps help dry out homes and businesses.

"The reality is that outdoor power equipment powers good in so many ways," notes Kiser. Amid all the stories of neighborly acts with snowblowers and lawn mowers, larger community efforts also emerge. For example, the nonprofit GreenCare and SnowCare for Troops programs arrange for landscapers to mow lawns and clear driveways for deployed and injured military service members and their families.

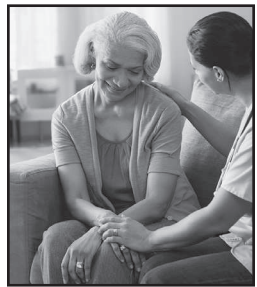
In response to Hurricane Harvey, which devastated parts of Texas, generator manufacturers Briggs & Stratton, Generac, and Kohler ramped up production and deployed inventory, technicians and spare parts as close as possible to the disaster zone.

"It takes an industry with heart to power good, and we'd like to hear more examples of how people are using the equipment our industry makes in positive ways," says Kiser. If you have an example of "powering good"—ways outdoor power equipment including lawn mowers, chain saws, generators and snow throwers help people—you can share it using #PoweringGood on Facebook or Twitter.

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## Let's Talk About Sympathy

by Jim McCann  
(NAPSA) — When someone you know loses a friend or family member, it's not easy deciding when and how best to respond. You may find yourself unsure of what to say or do. Sometimes, a simple phrase such as "I'm sorry for your loss" can be extraordinarily meaningful. Here are six more helpful tips on how to approach someone who is grieving:



Expressing sympathy doesn't have to be scary.

### Listen

Allowing a grieving person to express how he or she feels can be a huge help. Try to listen without offering advice or interrupting. Letting people share memories and talk about their loved one can be a part of the healing process.

### Be Specific When Offering Help

Make a specific commitment to being with the person who needs you. Offering assistance with day-to-day matters can be very comforting but be sure to offer something specific, such as "I'm coming over with groceries on Saturday." That way, you're offering help without placing the burden

on the grieving person to figure out what to bring and when.



Help your loved ones heal by giving them time to talk and share memories.

### Navigate Social Media Appropriately

When acknowledging the news of a loss, stick with the communication medium through which you initially received the information. If the news came by phone, return the call. If you learned about the death through social media, it is appropriate to reply on social media; just be sure to keep your message brief on public pages. More-detailed expressions of sympathy should be conveyed in private posts.

### Be Patient

It is normal for people who are grieving to experience a range of emotions. It takes time to heal, so be patient and allow them to grieve at their own pace.

### Send a Card

Show your concern and support by sending a card. You can even put your own personal message inside.

### Don't Minimize Their Pain

It is important to keep the focus on the grieving person. Resist the urge to share stories of times

when you've lost a loved one. Let your friend or family member share his or her own stories and memories and listen.

To further help, 1-800-Flowers.com has created an online sympathy hub for tips and advice, directly from experts, on how best to express sympathy and condolences. Topics include Appropriate Sympathy Etiquette Across Different Religions, How to Write a Eulogy, How to Create a Memory Garden and How to Cope With Grief Around the Holidays.



1-800-Flowers.com developed a sympathy advice and etiquette online resource guide.

This is a resource for people in their time of need and making their experience a little easier to manage. The goal is for people to have a greater understanding of how to help their friends, family and co-workers in coping with a loss.

Learn More For further information, visit [www.1800flowers.com/sympathyadvice](http://www.1800flowers.com/sympathyadvice).

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Saturday's Graphic

National Hot Pastrami Sandwich Day - Jan. 14, 2018

Here is how it works... We will put a graphic or photo in the box to the left. You find it somewhere in the classifieds. Come into our office, Enter your name, phone number and describe where you found the graphic or bring in a clipping to attach to your entry into the drawing for a gift certificate.

Gift Certificates must be picked up within 2 weeks of winning  
Deadline for today's paper:  
**Monday by 2:00 PM**

**DONNA GRAVES** found the National Save the Eagles Day Graphic on page 4B (West Coast Real Estate Services - the "O" in Coast)  
She won a gift certificate to Big Dogs Donuts & Deli.

Wednesday's Graphic

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