

The following is a Facebook post regarding EPIC Community Resource Center following hurricane Ian.



My heart is extremely grateful today, for the unsuspecting heroes that help us, and the serendipitous circumstances (no doubt, Divine) that bring others into our orbit.

A guy named "Bob" showed up at our home the other day. He had the wrong address, and was contracted to do soffit/fascia work next door. In speaking with him, I was able to secure a contact name for soffit/fascia work on our own home.

That contact was "Randy"...a senior business owner who holds a general contractors license for our area. Come to find out, he's on the board of directors for EPIC (Empowering People In Christ); a Christian organization "resourcing for others in need". I'm thinking the EPIC project is not so much about helping consumers in need (although they may do that as well) but rather, giving those down on their luck, a chance to improve their circumstances. The group seems to be more about senior retired or semi-retired tradesmen mentoring those who have faced challenges in life.

After receiving a bid, we agreed to have Randy's crew perform soffit/fascia work for us. They provided a fair price and showed up within 2 days (which is unheard of, given the amount of individuals seeking contractors here).

The real telling of things came when "Raymond" showed up to perform the work...a spit of a man, maybe weighing in at 135 lbs at most, in his late 20's or early 30's, but SO physically strong of both

muscle and spirit. He asked Terry to pray with him, before he started our job. My husband of course, complied.

He was on the job about an hour when Terry offered him additional coffee..."heavy on the sugar please, and with cream of you have it".

Raymond has obviously endured a hard life thus far, which was evident in the heavy lines that prematurely age his face, and his thin physique. I know another with similar attributes...an alcoholic, unable to control his demons, whom I continue to pray for daily. My intuition kicked in and before I knew it, I was baking cookies to appease Raymond's sugar addiction...

My cookies were well received...by the time 11am rolled around, Raymond was happily ensconced in a sugar buzz of at least 8 classic chocolate chip cookies, in addition to the sugar from the beverage we provided.

While it was not intentional, I happened to be on the lanai later in the afternoon when Raymond and his elder mentor, "Bill" were working together on the area in which I was seated. Raymond made a comment to Bill about "spending time in college". When Bill questioned what his college degree was in, Raymond admitted that he actually didn't attend college, but rather, "the school of hard knocks".

"College" in Raymond's vernacular, referred to the time he spent in prison. I don't know what he was in for, the duration, nor the circumstances of why he ended up there, but it truly doesn't matter.

Raymond is a BEAUTIFUL soul, seeking to improve his life. Prior to Bill's appearance, Raymond spent the morning listening to Christian music while he worked. I am witness to Raymond's great work ethic, and he was so very respectful in all contact i had with him.

Tonight, I am sincerely humbled and inspired by the resources EPIC provides. I applaud their willingness to give others a chance, despite past history...don't we ALL deserve a second chance?!?! Isn't this the world we all wish to create?! #soblessed

-Shared Facebook Post November 4, 2022 by a text from R. Jackson, President, CEO to EPIC Board Member, K. M.