

Serendipitous Grace

In 1999, Kevin Stephan of Lancaster, New York, was a batboy for his younger brother's Little League baseball team.

During one game, a player who was warming up accidentally hit Kevin in the chest with a bat. His heart stopped beating.

"All I remember is that, all of a sudden, I got hit in the chest with something, and I turned around and passed out," Kevin said.

Penny Brown, a nurse whose son played on the team, was able to rush to Kevin's side and revive him.

Seven years later, Penny Brown was eating at the Hillview Restaurant in Depew, New York, when she began to choke on her food. "The food wasn't going anywhere, and I totally couldn't breathe," Penny said. "It was very frightening."

Patrons screamed for help. One of the restaurant employees – a volunteer firefighter – ran out from the back of the restaurant. He wrapped his arms around the victim, applied the Heimlich maneuver, and saved the woman's life.



The firefighter was Kevin Stephan, the boy whom Penny had saved seven years earlier.

What a fortuitous happenstance!

While this incident is an unusual circumstance, we who work in Life Care should not find it surprising. Good deeds performed for others have a way of bringing personal rewards – not just for the receiver but also for the benefactor – either here on earth or in heaven or both.

Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you (Luke 6:38 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter