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OUR OPINION: 3 stories of leading with compassion

Being a good leader takes more than just brains and skill – it takes compassion. It requires the ability to know when to play hard and when to do a good turn for another. This week we bring you three stories of those who did just that – in big ways and in small – but meaningful to those who benefited from the kindness.



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Editor's note: Readers often comment that there should be more good news in the paper. While it's true that there's more than enough bad news to go around, on Mondays on the editorial page we will highlight some of the many good-news stories that appear on our pages on a regular basis.

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No. 1: Granite Telecommunications, Quincy

A blustery Monday morning might not seem like the best time to part with the only barrier between your scalp and a frigid wind chill, but that's exactly what the employees at Granite Telecommunications in Quincy plan to do today.

At last count, 365 employees of Granite and volunteers from the Boston Cannons lacrosse team had pledged to shave their hair or beards – in some cases both -- and in return, Granite will donate \$1,000 to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Granite CEO Rob Hale and his mother, Judy, will each pledge an additional \$1,000. As of Friday, the Hales promised to double their pledge if they reach 400 volunteers.

At this rate, Granite Telecommunications may raise \$2 million for cancer research. It's a charity the Hales have supported for several years, moved by the loss of the Hale patriarch, Bob, to cancer in 2008.

We commend the generous spirit of all who volunteered to part with their hair to benefit those fighting to survive cancer. It's a deeply personal sacrifice. And we're astonished by the generosity of Granite Telecommunications and the Hales for their exuberant giving. It's the kind of gift that will benefit countless people for years to come.

No. 2: Hingham police



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Whose hands wouldn't be shaking?

Last Thursday, Rockland resident Scott Lowe scratched a "20 x The Cash" ticket and found he won \$50,000. In his haste to get to The Lottery headquarters in Braintree, he drove through Hingham going well over the speed limit, said Sgt. Steven Dearth.

When police pulled him over, the officer noticed his hands were shaking. Lowe explained where he was going and showed the cop the winning ticket. To his credit, the officer declined to give Lowe a ticket but did give him some excellent advice: "Take it slow to get there and be able to spend your money."

It was great work on the part of the officer to keep his streets safe and allow one lucky guy's winning streak to continue.

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