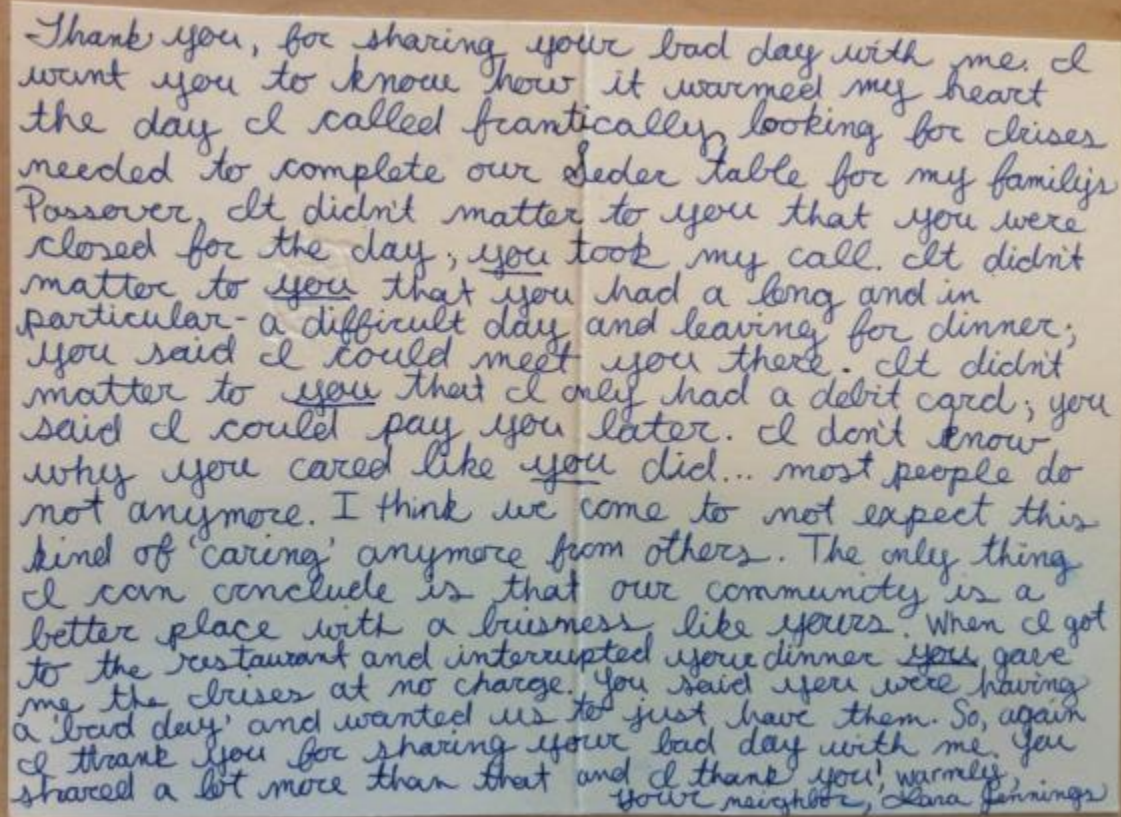


Paying It Forward: Orofino, floral shop, receive beautiful gift from customer

by Dan Brannan, Content Director
August 31 2016 4:15 PM



Thank you, for sharing your bad day with me. I want you to know how it warmed my heart the day I called frantically, looking for crises needed to complete our Seder table for my family's Passover. It didn't matter to you that you were closed for the day; you took my call. It didn't matter to you that you had a long and in particular - a difficult day and leaving for dinner; you said I could meet you there. It didn't matter to you that I only had a debit card; you said I could pay you later. I don't know why you cared like you did... most people do not anymore. I think we come to not expect this kind of 'caring' anymore from others. The only thing I can conclude is that our community is a better place with a business like yours. When I got to the restaurant and interrupted your dinner you gave me the crises at no charge. You said you were having a 'bad day' and wanted us to just have them. So, again I thank you for sharing your bad day with me. You shared a lot more than that and I thank you, warmly,
your neighbor, Lana Jennings



EDWARDSVILLE - Many times good deeds are taken for granted, but **Deborah Orofino** of **A Wildflower Shop, Inc.**, in **Edwardsville** performed one in the spring and was graciously rewarded by a woman.

Anne Morris is co-partner in the flower business. A Wildflower Shop is located at 2131 State 157 in Edwardsville.

“We were working late at the shop and the phone rang after hours,” Orofino said. “The person was looking for irises to complete their Passover table. I explained that we were actually closed but we're going to grab something to eat before returning to finish up the work that we had. We told the lady to come and meet us to collect the flowers.”

That day, it had been a difficult at the shop with some not being so nice, but she decided to pay it forward and not charge for the irises.



“The lady came in and couldn’t believe that we were just going to give her the flowers that she needed, Orofino said. “That was the last we heard from her until recently when

this beautiful painting showed up. It had been left at the business next door as we are closed on Sundays. We were thrilled and surprised, and have the painting hanging in the shop. We will make it very clear that it is not for sale.”

Orofino opened the shop with her partner, Morris, and the business has been thriving since the beginning in January 2015.

Orofino said she has always had a deep passion for flowers and that has carried over into her business. She said one of things she enjoys most is making someone’s day with a beautiful collection of flowers, but this particular situation caught her by surprise.

"What this woman did really touched me,” Orofino said. “I just thought ‘wow, she actually took the time to personally thank us.’

"I just appreciate the gesture and she took the time to acknowledge what we did in a beautiful way. It made us feel we actually made a difference in her life.”