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What one woman did to keep the homeless safe when then polar vortex arrived in Chicago



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*Candice Payne went to great lengths to make sure more than 70 people didn't freeze to death.*

In times of emergency we often get to see the very best in people. This was the case with last week’s polar vortex that saw temperatures dive to minus 31 degrees and [21 people lose their lives due to the freezing weather conditions](http://time.com/5518469/21-people-died-cold-polar-vortex/). While many of us could stay wrapped up indoors, not everybody had the security of a warm and cozy environment.

Thankfully Candice Payne, a real estate broker from Chicago, made sure that some of the homeless in her hometown were taken care of. Through her determination, compassion, husband’s support — and her American Express card — the 34-year-old made sure that more than [70 homeless people were given shelter and food during the cold snap](https://www.today.com/news/meet-candice-payne-chicago-woman-who-rented-hotel-rooms-homeless-t147982).

But it wasn’t easy. As Payne shared with *Today*, she faced a lot of rejection from hotels when seeking help for these marginalized men and women. Luckily one hotel called the Amber Inn was “nice enough to allow me to buy the rooms,” Payne explained.

Payne made a plea for help on social media to help ferry the homeless to the hotel, “I’m renting 20 hotel rooms for the homeless. If anyone has a van or a passenger van that will help me transport the homeless to the hotel, I’ll pay you,” she explained in [an interview on NPR](https://www.npr.org/2019/02/02/690916753/meet-the-chicago-woman-who-rented-hotel-rooms-for-the-homeless-during-frigid-pol). Fortunately, many other generous souls put their hands in their pockets and came to help and offer further donations so Payne was able to book a total of 60 rooms for 5 nights, including a warm meal, so the homeless would be both protected and fed.