



# Trip...To 2nd Street on a Windy Day

*By Donna Sievers*

On a very windy Saturday in February, my husband and I decided to go to 2nd Street to purchase a new fire alarm for our house. Thinking that the wind (and the pandemic) would keep people home, we were horribly surprised by the crowds. There were lots of people savoring the restaurants, walking up and down the street, and enjoying some level of freedom. I was uncomfortable, though, and we decided to head back to the car while dodging the pedestrians.

Then it happened...I tripped! My foot must have hit on a bump in the sidewalk and off I went. I'm sure it was only a second or two, but every nanosecond stands out in my mind. As my feet were trailing my upper body, which was now looking down at the fast-approaching sidewalk, I saw several young women having beers while they watched me fly by. I recall thinking that this was not going to end well. My husband was way behind me by now and I again thought "Yes...this is not going to end well."

Then, my hero emerged. A young man wearing a tank top was walking towards me and there

was such sympathy in his eyes. I'm sure he was as horrified as I was to realize this older lady was careening towards him. He kept coming towards me and I literally flew into his arms, my head landing on his chest. My hero kept asking me if I was ok and all I could say was "Yes, thank you...thank you."

As I walked back to my husband with tears in my eyes, I said out loud, "I just flew into that man and he save me from falling." The girls, still drinking their beers, were now all nodding their heads in agreement. They had watched the whole episode transpire. When I got back to my husband, I turned to thank the young man again, but he was now part of the crowd.

I will be forever grateful to that young man. He could easily have dodged my flying body and let me crash and burn, but he allowed me to crash into him instead and saved me from certain injury. This decent young man showed his empathy for me by standing his ground instead of walking past me. He knew it was his turn to help someone else and he did it.

I did learn a huge lesson...be more careful when walking in a crowd, because tripping takes just a second and I can't be certain that someone will always be there to catch me.