

PRACTICE

Building Character Through Soccer



Compassion:

Deep awareness of the suffering of another and doing something to help
Synonyms: mercy, kindness, empathy, benevolence

Compassion Story

The definition of Compassion has two components, first the deep awareness of a person's suffering. Secondly, the definition requires a willingness to do something to help. This "Good Samaritan" story demonstrates both aspects of Compassion.

The weather on January 6th, 2017 turned the DFW roadways into dangerous skating ponds. It was because of the freezing rain that FC Dallas midfielder, Ryan Hollingshead and his wife Taylor ventured out on the highways to help a friend whose car had slipped off the highway. While Hollingshead's were driving on the icy roads to assist their friend, they came upon another disabled sedan that skidded on the black ice, coming to rest after hitting a guard rail. The driver was okay but the car deployed its airbags; headlights were out and would not start.

Without hesitation, Ryan pulled his SUV ahead of the disabled car and got out to help the stranded motorist. Meanwhile, another driver pulled over and started walking up to the car with Ryan. While they were approaching the car, another car traveling 40 to 50 mph plowed into the rear of the disabled car which pushed into Ryan, throwing them 30 feet in the air.

"I had no time to react," Hollingshead said. "The only thing I could think to do was just turn and try to flex and keep my body taut. That way I am not flailing around." Ryan hit the guardrail, then the concrete and suffered 3 fractures in his vertebrae. He lay motionless for 10 seconds and then started to get back feeling in his hands and feet while thinking, "Yes, thank you, Lord." After a few minutes, with shoes gone and sweatshirt torn, Ryan was able to get to his feet. "I was totally oblivious to anything that happened, which we think is totally a grace from the Lord," Taylor said.

The good news is Ryan is expected to have a full recovery and will be back with FC Dallas after the beginning of the 2017 season. Ryan's compassionate response to a friend and a stranger is a reminder for all who read this story that by putting others first may bring pain we don't expect. Knowing the outcome would not change Ryan's decision to help if faced with the same situation in the future.

