

# Secret benefactor hiding \$100 bills across Oregon capital city

BY REECE T. WILLIAMS

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Thursday, July 14, 2016, 3:56 PM



Benjamin Franklin featured on the new \$100 bill USD. (JEFFREY SCHREIER/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO)


An anonymous Oregon man is all about the Benjamins.

For more than three years, the private patron has been hiding \$100 bills at local stores, markets, fairs, and festivals in Salem, brightening many days along the way. Capi Lynn, who first wrote about “Benny” – the nickname she coined for the donor – for the Statesmen Journal in 2013 estimates that he’s given away more than \$50,000.

“A friend of his came forward to act as a liaison, confirming his handiwork,” [she wrote for USA Today](#) on Thursday.

“When she died, a replacement quickly stepped forward, emphasizing just how serious Benny’s circle of friends are about maintaining his anonymity and how this has never been about him, but about helping and inspiring others,” the article explained.

The act of generosity has helped to create a culture in Salem, including new slang terms: “To get Benny-ed is to find one of these \$100 bills and be given hope or inspiration,” Lynn explained. “The finders are Benny-ficaries. Non-profits and causes are Benny-fitting.”



**Capi Lynn**  
@CapiLynn

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11:56 PM - 12 Jul 2016

**Benny bills surpass \$50,000**

The mystery philanthropist's acts of kindness will be highlighted in a video by Humankind.

[statesmanjournal.com](http://statesmanjournal.com)

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Lynn wrote that “the bills always seem to end up in the right hands,” helping some to take care of medical costs or living expenses, while others know just who to pay the fortune forward to. More than half of the Benny-ficaries report sharing the wealth with someone – or some organization – in need, according to Lynn.

Some others have reported keeping the bills as reminders of generosity, choosing to share the love from their own wallets, or checkbooks.

One homeless couple recently reported finding a bill and using it to buy a few nights in a motel.