



# HAPPY NEWS

## TEENS

### It's raining hopes and dreams!



USA

As the famous New York City ball dropped to welcome 2026, Times Square filled with more than just confetti - it was filled with hopes, dreams, and wishes from people around the world. For weeks before New Year's Eve, people wrote down their wishes on the Times Square Wishing Wall, sharing messages about kindness, peace, and personal goals. Those wishes were then mixed into thousands of pounds of colourful confetti and released over the crowd at midnight. It was a powerful reminder that a new year can bring a fresh start and the chance for positive change.

Image Credit: John Angelillo/UPI

### A recipe for inclusion: The pizzeria changing lives

A pizza restaurant in Italy is showing that with the right support, people of all abilities can be successful in work. After his son was diagnosed with autism, Nico Acampora opened PizzAut, a pizzeria where all the staff are on the autism spectrum. The restaurant is designed to be sensory-friendly, helping employees feel calm, confident, and supported at work. Now a huge success with customers, PizzAut shows that when the right environment is created, everyone can thrive and feel valued.



Italy



Image Credit: PizzAut/www.pizzaut.it

Finland



### Finland fights fake news

In Finland, students are learning how to spot fake news and AI deepfakes as part of everyday school life. For years, Finnish schools have taught media skills from a very young age, and now lessons will include how to tell if pictures or videos were made by artificial intelligence. Teachers say these skills help protect democracy and keep teens from being misled online. Can you tell that the image on the left was created by AI? What clues give it away - if any?

### Quote of the Week

*"Inclusion is not bringing people into what already exists; it is making a new space together."*

George Dei

### Best friends send same card for 81 years

On her 95th birthday, Pat DeReamer received a birthday card that was already 81 years old. She first got the card in 1944 from her friend Mary Wheaton, then signed it and sent it back - starting a tradition that's lasted for decades. The same card has travelled back and forth every year, earning a Guinness World Records title along the way. These two really are the definition of BFFs!

Image Credit: Pat DeReamer/Mary Wheaton

### Autocorrect is corrected

Big tech has made a small change that means a lot. Thanks to the "I Am Not a Typo" campaign, Microsoft has updated its spell-check so thousands of real names are no longer marked as mistakes. Many names from African, Asian, Welsh, and Irish backgrounds are now recognised properly. Campaigners hope this shows how technology can be more inclusive, and how speaking up can lead to real change.



Worldwide



### Mindful Minute

Spend 60 seconds imagining yourself achieving one goal in 2026. What does it look like, and how does it feel when you get there?

