

If you don't believe that miracles take place in Colorado Springs, talk to 16 year old Liu Yuan. He will tell you otherwise. Yuan, who prefers to be called by the English Name Jack, was in Colorado Springs on a two week home stay in July when he went bowling at Classic 300 Lanes with host family and Colorado Springs residents Gerald and Elsie Kahre and four of their grandchildren. While bowling, Jack removed his fanny pack in order to get a better shot at the pins. 16 year old Liu Yuan (Jack) who left his fanny pack with nearly \$2,000 at Classic 300 Lanes. After the fun-filled evening, Jack and the Kahres happily returned home. Jack's fanny pack, which contained a digital camera and nearly \$2,000 in American dollars and Chinese currency, did not accompany them. "I was mortified with Jack told me he had lost his fanny pack," explained host father Gerald Kahre. "Jack did not start looking for it until the next day when he had school. When he told me that his fanny pack contained his camera, his passport and \$1300 in Cash, I knew we were in trouble.

We left Classic 300 Lanes around 8 p.m., and the alley didn't close until midnight. There was plenty of time for someone to spot Jack's fanny pack and steal it. I figured it was gone for good," Kahre added. Kahre added. Kahre said that when Jack realized the magnitude of what had happened, he became extremely quiet and frustrated. "Everything that he had was in that fanny pack, including all the pictures he had taken with his camera. He was scared to death.' Gerald Kahre proceeded to take the Chinese teen to his morning classes at Air Academy High School, where Jack and thirteen other students were receiving English as a Second Language instruction for three hours every morning through the nonprofit organization NACEL Open Door. Once there, he reported to Tomas Brickel, program coordinator and teacher, and Shirley Sun, the group's chaperone, that Jack's money and passport had been stolen. Sun relieved some of the anxiety when she informed Kahre and Brickel that she was in possession of Jack's passport. All three concurred that Jack's money and digital camera were most likely unrecoverable. However, Kahre decided to return to Classic on the off chance someone had seen the fanny pack and turned it in. "Except for his Chinese address, Jack had no identification in the pack., so there was no way anyone could identify who the pack belonged to and call," commented Kahre. Kahre was the first person to enter Classic 300 Lanes at noon when the alley opened its doors. He spoke with David Joseph Wagner, co-owned of the bowling alley. Wagner had returned to Colorado Springs from Orlando, Florida to team up with Manuel Guzman to purchase Classic 300 Lanes with the goal of promoting it as a community outreach bowling center.

"After my mother was killed by a drunk driver who was driving on three DUI's and a suspended license on Uintah and Union, I wanted to come back to the Colorado Springs and do something significant in the community," said Wagner. "With the help of Manuel, we have been working extremely hard to fix the alley up and convert it into a clean, safe place where at-risk youth and area families in this low-income area could enjoy really affordable entertainment. Little did Wagner know his decision would end up helping youth from as far away as Beijing, China. "I remembered the (Kahre) family very well, they were wonderful patrons. I also remembered the Chinese teenager who accompanied them," explained Wagner. "When the family left, I went to

clean up their table and found the fanny pack sitting in a chair. Between American dollars and Chinese bills, there was like \$2000 in there."

I knew (Wagner) was an honest man when I told him there was thirteen hundred dollars in that pack, and he corrected me and told me the pack contained closer to two thousand dollars, " said Kahre.

"When (Wagner) gave me the fanny pack, I told him that he was one of a kind, and that there are not many people like him around in the world today," Kahre continued. " When Jack found out, he was elated. My wife Elsie people like him around in the world today," Kahre continued. " When Jack found out , he was elated. My wife Elsie told him that we had been praying we would find it, and we did. He couldn't stop thanking us for finding his money. " Jack recently returned to China with his thirteen classmates. On his flight to Beijing, he gripped the passport that he once thought he had lost. He took impromptu snapshots of his friends with the digital camera he once feared had been stolen. He occasionally stopped to count the money left in the fanny pack he had abandoned on a chair in a bowling alley one fateful July evening.

Most importantly, he realized that thanks to David Joseph Wagner and the Kahres, everyday miracles are a reality in Colorado Springs. .