

Wynne Leon (00:03)

Welcome to How to Share, a podcast that celebrates the art of teaching, learning, giving, and growing.

I'm Wynne Leon and in this episode I'm with hydrogeologist and Mariners fan Glenn Mutti-Driscoll. Glenn got a ball at a Mariners game in September, but it wasn't just any ball. It was Cal Raleigh's 60th home run ball, a significant marker when Cal joined the ranks of Babe Ruth, Roger Maris and Aaron Judge to hit that milestone. We talked to Glenn about what happened next because Glenn gave the ball away.

to a 12 year old boy near him in the stands. I'm so grateful that Glenn came to podcast with me because he didn't do this for the recognition. In fact, the next day the New York Times published a piece about this act of kindness before anyone tracked down Glenn's name.

So we talk about what inspired him to share the ball and the ripple effects of kindness. What's so incredible about this example is that we can see the rewards of giving, in this case, both to both the receiver, the giver, and everyone around. Glenn tells us about the serendipity of the moment and how the action was more automatic than deliberated. We also discuss the long effect this lesson will have on the next generation.

especially Marcus, the boy that Glenn handed the ball to, as well as his own son. This is a fantastically inspiring example of how and why we share. I know you'll love it.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (01:50)

you

you

Wynne Leon (02:07)

Hey, Wynne. I'm so glad to be able to talk with you. You recently scored a huge hit at a Mariners game for giving the ball away. Can you tell that story of that September Wednesday night game?

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (02:23)

do you want the short version or a longer version?

Wynne Leon (02:25)

I want the longer version.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (02:27)

there were lot of things that went into having that moment occur because it was scheduled that I was going to go to the game with some co-workers So, I don't know we had six or so tickets to make it there. Actually, for my job I was out of town So I was rushing

back at the end trying to get to the game and so there was bad traffic by the time I got there it was

it just didn't work out that well logistically I was running late and then my coworkers had already left to go to the game and then it was like, man, I'm going to have to try to find parking near the stadium. And so there were enough things going on that I was seriously thinking about just not going to the game just because like, ~ I need to find parking. I need to go pick up a ticket and just stand these long lines. So for a moment or, for

bit I was just like it could just be easier to go home than try to

Wynne Leon (03:14)

Right, right. You're on the fence.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (03:17)

Then

anyhow, yeah, eventually after wading through long lines and getting in, I think I got there in like the third or fourth inning. So I missed, a chunk of the game eventually. Yeah, made contact with my coworkers and found them. And so it was, it was a fun game. I had missed several home runs earlier in the game. So the Mariners were already up and it was the division. Well, if they won that, then they were clinching the, the first, first place in the division for.

Was it the first time in 21 or since 2001, so 24 years. Yeah. So it's a big deal. And the stadium, Well, everyone was really amped up just because Mariners were winning. So it was just a fun atmosphere to be in. Cal had hit number 59 earlier in the game. And so everyone knew, oh, they could, you know, he could hit 60. And it well, just never occurred to me that.

you know, would actually, he would hit it and I'd be the person that ended up snagging the ball. But when that happened, yeah, so.

Wynne Leon (04:18)

So tell me, were in, I think I read section 108, which is.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (04:21)

That's

right. Yeah, so that's in the right field. Okay, we should. Well, I guess not bleachers, but yeah, like so it was close in. I've been to quite a few Mariners games, but never in one of those sections where you actually had a chance of catching a home run. Most of the time it was, you know, it'd be up in the third level where you're kind of nose bleeds or other, you

know, tickets where well, it wasn't even an option or you like there's no way you'd catch a home run ball. So

Wynne Leon (04:24)
right field.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (04:48)

It was fun sitting there and, well, my coworker who bought the tickets, like he specifically was looking at it and trying to figure out where it'd be the best place, so.

I hadn't put any thought into it. Sure, that sounds fun. No, I didn't. I actually had one in the car, then as well running late and just like, left that in the car. But I guess when the ball was hit, so it actually some other people in the stands like they were filming video and so they forwarded them to me after it all. But

Wynne Leon (05:06)
Did you have a glove with you?

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (05:23)

Yeah, bounced off like three or so people's hands before it came to me. So it's just ricocheting around. it was really more reflexes. It wasn't like this thing's coming and let me get prepared. I'm really just sort of shooting your arm out and happening to be the lucky guy that grabbed it.

Wynne Leon (05:32)
you

Yeah, yeah. From what I've read, it was like, so you grab it and then it was only about 15 or 20 seconds before you handed it off to a 12 year old boy sitting near you. Yeah.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (05:54)

yeah, can't, it was 15, 30 seconds. I had it and it was exciting. Well, and I also have a 10 year old and 14 year old of my own. And so since I was there at the game with, you know, coworkers, I wasn't with my kids, but just sort of like maybe the whole serendipity of it all. Or like this even happened, like were I there with my own kids,

I would not have given it to a stranger in front of me. But at the same time, I think by being a parent or having someone that looked, you know, same age as my kids well, I guess backing up. yeah, I caught it. I grabbed it. It was exciting. It was just kind of a weird moment. You're like, this really happened. But at the same time, it's not that I went into the ballpark with plans like, ~ I'm going to do all this stuff if I catch that ball.

Right. So it really was just, spur of the moment. Like, I had it. I saw a kid and it was like, oh, this is nice. This is a special moment. But pass it along. I guess, yeah, just share it with

others. I guess it's kind of cliché, but just sort of like, this is the right thing to do. Or it's like, I'm going to do it, even though, you know, for a split second it's like, oh, I kind of like this. But it was like, no, this is what I should do. So it's often that's.

Wynne Leon (07:06)

Right.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (07:08)

That's how it worked.

Wynne Leon (07:09)

Well, and it's funny because basically you're saying that you were sort of set up for it, like in that your values or beliefs are conditioning or whatever it is that the feeling of serendipity is sort of, it was an automatic reaction more than it was a thought out reaction.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (07:27)

Yeah, but definitely. mean, everything was just going so fast. Like it was it was just automatic or it wasn't there was a lot of thought involved. And I guess that's probably it's probably better that way because you can definitely second guess yourself or overthink. So yeah, it worked out.

Wynne Leon (07:44)

Yeah. And so you give it to a 12 year old boy named Marcus, who seems like a delightful character. Had you interacted with him at all before this moment?

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (07:53)

No, I hadn't seen him. I believe it was his family. Maybe they were also some friends, but there was a long row of them. I think he was sitting several seats down maybe with his mom. And I was, closer to the side where his dad was. having had an interview with Marcus and read some of their accounting of the story, I think he came down to give me a high five. ~

Yeah, so I'd never seen him and I guess I looked down and it was just like, this looks like, you know, one of similar age kid to my kids are like helped with soccer coaching. So just, know, a kid that you've worked with before. yeah, I guess it's like the good thing to hand it off or pass on the time.

Wynne Leon (08:35)

And it wasn't like he was expecting it. He was just trying to congratulate you Yeah, and it's funny because I think the quote that I saw from you is that you were looking at him and you just thought He deserves it more than me

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (08:39)

Yeah.

Yeah. Again, it was just all sort of split seconds or just like this is this is what I should do. ~ So I guess in hindsight, it's definitely made a difference in his life, stepping back from it all, I guess it's cool that, you know, there was a big media response, not that I'm really one that.

It was overwhelming for me, I wasn't necessarily chasing that, but I guess just having a good story or having an example that is being broadcast or that there are people that do care about that people, amplifying stories of like, you can do a good thing and that can lead to recognition versus all sorts of other things that people do and they do gain fame or notoriety for it, but it's...

It's nice to be associated with one that's actually like, I'm actually proud of what I did versus trying to own someone or show how much better you are than them or that.

Wynne Leon (09:47)

Yeah.

Well, and I think this happened right around the time of the Phillies game one where a woman demanded a father hand a ball over. And so you were kind of called the anti, the opposite of that reaction. But you what I love about it is, you know, had you kept it, you know, you caught it, kept it, likely would have probably given it to the Mariners or given it back to Cal and, you know, gotten a bat, but it probably would have ended there. But in this case,

You know, you gave it to Marcus. Marcus got to meet Cal, right? And then you didn't do it for the notoriety. So I think the first time that I saw it was in a New York Times article and they had to update the article when they actually figured out what your name was because they didn't know who it was and you hadn't done it for that reason. So the Mariners invited you back. You got to come with your boys and your wife. You got to go to a game and everybody got to meet Cal.

Like I imagine in the first scenario, your boys probably wouldn't have gotten that chance, right? And then all this inspirational story that comes out. And what I love about that is that ripple of kindness is just more visible. Like we do things, you know, hand a bottle of water to somebody and we never get to see what the ripple effect is, but yours is a little just a little more visible.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (11:15)

Yeah, yeah, and it was nice and maybe the highlight or at least personally, well, just that I was able to share it, you know, give the experience to my family we're not going to get front row seats right next to the dugout ever again. you know, having, well, just that, we were,

well, yes, minor celebrities there, just like the kids didn't take part in that or will get to meet Cal or then

just random people that were coming up in the ballpark like, hey, were you the guy that gave that ball? Good job, well done. Or or standing in line for the bathroom with my youngest son. There were some guys behind us that were like looking at their phone and like, are you guys? So I think the Mariners had like posted pictures of like pregame when we were, you know, met Cal and they were like, is this you guys? And we were like, yeah. And they were like, man, that's awesome. And so yeah, my son was.

impressed they sort of surprised like we were even recognized when we were going to the bathroom.

Wynne Leon (12:11)

I swear, you know, this has a bigger effect on your two sons. They're at 10 and 14. Is that right? And I'm sure Marcus then had it happened any other way, right?

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (12:20)

Yeah, definitely. Because, yeah, it's just, kind of spreading it around, giving you more people experiences.

Wynne Leon (12:26)

Right. And talk about a way to teach your kids values by living them.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (12:32)

Right? I guess it's one instance where, you can do a good thing, but there really is like obvious that good things came back to you. I mean, does like kind of the perfect or probably, yeah, it would be one of the more, direct or clear.

lessons, not that I was trying to teach any sort of lesson, but it's just a very easy thing to point to and seeing like the response to the reaction that came from it. So yeah, I guess lucky in that respect too.

Wynne Leon (12:58)

Yeah, I think like and you've used the word serendipity as we've talked I think there's there's that you might not have even been there But in that moment you were there and and you did that Marcus's dad has a great quote What with the world that's going on now it's a lot of turbulence To know that good things can happen and something like this could uplift people is cool

and cool to share this to make people feel better. I that's a pretty good outtake of it.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (13:29)

Yeah, definitely. I've had neighbors or other friends just saying that, the country's been waiting for something like this. mean, you know, all this is like, I just gave a baseball to a kid. So it's kind of like, should that even be newsworthy? But I guess in this day and age, yeah, it was.

Wynne Leon (13:48)

Well, I suspect that it's that a lot of the news isn't good. So we just are a little bit hungry for this. Right. do you have an example of somebody doing something giving generously to you that do you think helped shape your worldview? ~

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (14:04)

~

well, not, not an example like this one. Well, just random act of kindness where it's like, wow, that was sort of a big deal But I mean, I suppose just, growing up or family values or being, you know, given things by my family, I suppose. But yeah, not like one crystal, one crystallized moment. Like, no, nothing like that. Yeah.

Wynne Leon (14:28)

I think it's the for me. I couldn't think of a big example either. thinking about how I was raised, it was the everyday values that grounded you, that prepare you for those, I suppose, how you're going to react in a moment.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (14:48)

Yeah.

Wynne Leon (14:49)

Yeah, I love Marcus's quote. Marcus, the ball, the 12 year old that you gave the ball to. He was talking about being popular in middle school and he says, it feels kind of good. He said of the sudden popularity boost. But I think the guy who gave me the ball, he should be like two times more famous than me or maybe even like three times because he was really nice.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (15:20)

Yeah, good for him. You know, that's nice. That's sweet. mean, yeah, I guess maybe maybe at this stage in life. I'm not as much like, popularity contest or that. But yeah, anyhow, yeah, like that.

Wynne Leon (15:31)

That's true.

Yeah, well, I think that's his way for me when I read that it was his middle school way of of recognizing it because based on what's, you know, big in in his world. Yeah. have you gone to any Mariners game since?

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (15:50)

there was the night that I caught it, then the family and I went to the next one, or the Mariners gave us tickets. there were only, I guess, what, three games left in the season after that. So no, we haven't been to any playoff games. So anyhow, we have been, we've been more engaged or definitely, yeah, watching them at home and cheering them on.

Wynne Leon (16:07)

Right. Were you a ballplayer when you were grown up?

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (16:10)

No, guess threw the baseball with my dad and would bat and I guess both my dad and brother. So we play catch, but no, I never played little little.

Wynne Leon (16:20)

Yeah, yeah. And your boys, are they baseball fans?

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (16:24)

not huge, actually my youngest, does want to go out and yeah, last night he was wanting to go out and do batting practice and it was like, I don't know, six and getting dark and rainy. So I think we're actually going to go do that later today, but they're he's more into soccer. it's yeah, he has some interest, but no, haven't been on teams or anything.

Wynne Leon (16:50)

Yeah, well, I'm sure they're more interested now. When my son, who's six, likes to hit in our backyard, you know, we don't have a very big backyard. So we call them neighbors instead of homers, because that's when we get to go see the neighbors when we get over the fence. It's a whole other level of ~ connection. I think it was Aesop that said no act of kindness, no matter

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (17:11)

Yeah.

Wynne Leon (17:19)

how small is ever wasted. And I love your example of one that's really visible. And even this conversation, you're kind enough to have it with me. It's not wasted. It really is having a great effect and grateful for that.

Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (17:37)

Yeah, yeah. Thanks. it is, it's good that it's passing it forward or hopefully inspiring other people.

Wynne Leon (17:43)

Mm-hmm. I think that I think you have So it's a great thing to share the ball. So thank you so much Glenn. Yeah

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Glenn Mutti-Driscoll (18:14)
you