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# Community Engagement through Sensitivity

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This I Believe

8/22/11

I believe in being compassionate and having a strong interest in helping others. Through my interactions with children of different backgrounds, I have learned that each life is precious and should not be wasted.

As a camp counselor for several years, I know that there is no science or formula to being a good role model for youngsters. No matter how much I read the handbook or study disciplinary actions, it is how I comport myself that carries the most weight. Having a good moral compass allows me to distinguish between good and bad character traits. I believe this attribute is not something easily attained and is by no means complete. I thank my parents and myself for giving me the courage to never settle for less than my best.

My sense of compassion and sensitivity towards others can be seen in other circles as well. As a volunteer at Transitional Housing, a shelter for women and their children in poverty, I am around youth of all backgrounds. Being sensitive toward each unique child and his situation is my aim each time I set foot in the building. I use my love of sports to unite the children. While leading kickball, soccer, or capture the flag, I find that all the children, regardless of athletic ability, can find a special place to hang out with friends away from the commotion that goes on inside the house.

Finally, I am a volunteer at Morristown Memorial Hospital. I believe this job is very unique in that I am a member of the messenger service and patient hospitality section of the volunteers. Here, my favorite activity is visiting the patients with flower deliveries. Each time I enter a room, I feel the emotions of the patients or the family members visiting, and I know how to deal with them.

However, just a few weeks ago, when my neighbor was hospitalized, my family and I went to visit him. This trip was different than the others because I had a close connection with the patient. I remember waving him over to play basketball when he'd come home from work. Now, to see him in a gown in a dark hospital room, sitting helplessly at the hands of a brain tumor, I was stunned.

I believe digging deep into my soul to find my interest and strength. For me, it is my strong sensitivity and passion for children and others. Hopefully my work in time has impacted these people's lives because they have made a huge impact on mine.