

A Heart to Help

The small village of Humlikon, Switzerland, sustained an unbelievable tragedy on September 4, 1963. On that day, 43 men and women, all dirt farmers, boarded a plane for a one-day excursion to Geneva, where they were to inspect a fertilizer plant.

The airplane crashed en route and all were killed. Imagine one generation from a small community obliterated at once! Jakob Zindel, the elderly town clerk, faced the dreadful task of notifying the next of kin.

The following day, Pastor Konrad Niederer from the nearby village of Andelfingen came to offer assistance. Day after day, he, his people and volunteers from as far away as England helped with the children and crops.

Jakob Peter, 74, former councilman from Zurich, was chosen leader and coordinator of the bereaved community. More than 1,800 gifts from around the world, totaling \$350,000, came in as a tidal wave of love. Orphaned children, of course, were given first consideration. Equipment was purchased to expedite the harvesting of potatoes and beets.

A Humlikon farmer said, "We have suffered a great misfortune, yes, but we have good fortune, too, for we have learned that the world has a heart."

The residents in Life Care and Century Park, and those served by Life Care at Home, may tend to feel they are experiencing misfortune as they encounter the effects of aging, the impact of disease and the breakdown of physical ability and bodily functions. But they also discover that our associates who take care of them do so because they have a heart.

And their actions, born out of compassion, make a world of difference – good fortune for our residents.

--Beecher Hunter