

A Hug for the Babe

The sensational Babe Ruth hit 714 home runs during his baseball career, but on one particular day toward the end of his career, the Boston Braves were playing the Reds in Cincinnati, and the Great Bambino was not performing like a hero.

He fumbled the ball and threw badly. In one inning alone, his errors were responsible for most of the five runs scored by Cincinnati.

As the Babe walked off the field and headed toward the dugout after the third out, a crescendo of angry cries and boos rose to greet him. It was then that a boy jumped over the railing and ran onto the field. With tears streaming down his face, he threw his arms around the legs of his hero.

Ruth didn't hesitate for a second. He picked up the boy, hugged him, then set him down and patted his head.

The cries from the crowd abruptly stopped. A hush fell over the entire park. In that brief moment, the fans saw two heroes on the field: Ruth, who, in spite of his own dismal day in fielding, cared about the feelings of a young fan; and a small boy who cared about the feelings of another human being.

Every day, in the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles, and in the work of Life Care at Home, heroes are at work. They give a hug, they squeeze a hand, they offer smiles and words of encouragement. It is because they care about the feelings of other human beings.

--Beecher Hunter