

A Wandering Minstrel

Lou Indelicato, executive director at Life Care Center of Sullivan, wrote me a few days ago to tell about a “wonderful gift” that the center received that day (Wednesday, May 10). It was the week preceding the current National Nursing Home Week, but it is something that would have certainly fit with all the other activities now under way. Here is her story:

It was a very cold and wet, dreary day in Missouri. As always, these kinds of days bring out the minor grumblings and woes of not only the residents but also the staff. Everyone was rather down, not really unhappy but just rather out of sorts.

After lunch, we were all working on various projects when a gentleman dressed in blue jeans, a torn shirt and carrying a guitar walked in. He asked if we had a room that perhaps he could use to play his guitar and sing a little, and see if he could maybe gather a group of residents. My activities director was rather taken aback, but she agreed and showed the gentleman to a small living room. He took out his guitar and started singing beautiful gospel music. In no time, he had the room filled with not only residents but also staff. He played for our residents for approximately an hour and a half.

He explained to us that he was a truck driver. He was between loads and he could either have waited at the truck stop until his load was ready or he could find someplace to play the Lord’s music. He found us. He had parked his tractor across the street from the facility.

He further explained to me that he drives throughout the Midwest and Southern states, sometimes going as far north as Canada. While on the road and when he has time, he finds a nursing home where he can play his guitar and sing his music. This is his joy and his gift to others.

What a wonderful surprise on this dreary day. We are so very blessed to have met and to have been touched by Huston Derickson and his music. Gifts from the Lord come in many ways. Perhaps others in the Life Care family will be touched by this truck driver.

Then Lou added this quote: *Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.* – Muriel Strode

We thank Lou and her staff for a day brightener. Huston Derickson certainly proves how one person’s talent can enrich the lives of others, and particularly when one is sensitive to their needs.

--Beecher Hunter