

## Advice from Barber Joe

Author and editor Donna Shryer writes about her son, Mark, who, when he was 8 years old and in the third grade, entered a spelling bee.

The prize, his teacher said, was a pizza lunch for the champion plus three friends. “Mark wanted to win that contest badly,” Shryer said. “He could practically taste the pizza, hot with stringy cheese and pepperoni circles.”

In honor of the spelling bee, Mark actually agreed to a haircut, and before he changed his mind, Shryer whisked him off to the barbershop.

“Make it a lucky cut,” she instructed barber Joe. “Mark’s competing in a very important spelling bee next week.”

“Well, did ya do your homework?” barber Joe asked. “Yup,” Mark replied.

“Did ya study hard?” barber Joe asked. “Yup,” Mark replied.

“Do ya have confidence?” barber Joe asked. “Confidence. C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-C-E. A lot of people spell that one wrong,” Mark explained.

“Sure, you can spell it,” barber Joe responded. “But do you have it? Ya gotta have confidence in yourself, son. It’s a winner’s secret weapon.”

“The secret weapon, huh? Confidence!” And with that, Mark added a new catchphrase to his bag of tricks. “I can win the spelling bee,” he declared. And he did.



Decades later, after creating his own firm and establishing himself as a respected, albeit revolutionary, architect, Mark began receiving interview requests. Settling back to discuss his design approach with one particular feature writer, the reporter led with a question that almost stumped Mark.

“You’re considered a maverick in the world of architecture. When everyone around says it can’t be done, what makes you think you can pull it off?”

After thinking a bit, Mark replied: “Confidence. After I’ve done my homework and studied my idea from every possible angle, if I still see it, then I know the only thing standing between me and success is confidence. Yup, confidence. It’s my secret weapon.”

(more)



With that, Mark swept his hand across his forehead and brushed a scruffy tuft of hair out of his eyes. “That reminds me,” he said with a wink and a smile, “I need a haircut.”

Does Mark’s story have any application for us in Life Care and Century Park? It should.

Each of us is qualified for the job we have because of education and life experiences, on the job and personally.

Once we are confronted with an issue that needs a solution or we are faced with the need for a new initiative, if we study the idea from every possible angle, and we still see it, then the only thing standing between us and success is confidence.

The Bible also has something to say on the subject: *Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward* (Hebrews 10:35 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter