

# An Olympic Champion

Dr. Jennifer “Jenny” Beth Thompson (born Feb. 26, 1973) is a former competitive swimmer and one of the most decorated Olympians in history, winning 12 medals – including eight gold medals (all relay) – while representing the United States in the 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2004 Summer Olympics.



She did not win any of the golds in individual events, however; she won them all in team events with three other swimmers.

As a result, some people have questioned whether Thompson’s swimming accomplishments ought to rank her with the “great” Olympic champions. She even wonders about that herself: “It’s got to be very different to experience an individual gold versus a team gold,” she says.

But Thompson’s accomplishments in the ego-driven American culture – especially among athletes and other celebrities – are refreshing. With ballplayers moving from team to team, demonstrating little team loyalty, Thompson is a marvelous example of someone whose genuine success came in the context of team play.

This is how it should work in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. Our true “stardom” occurs when we participate as part of a winning team.

There is no room for so-called superstars who think they can do it on their own.

Our mission is too great, and the work we do is too complex, requiring every associate to play an integral and important role, for us to think and act otherwise.

– Beecher Hunter