

Assisting Others

Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, kept a picture in his office of a turtle sitting atop a fence.

He kept it there to remind him of a lesson he had learned years before:

“If you see a turtle on a fence post, you know he had some help.”

Haley remarked, “Anytime I start thinking, ‘Wow, isn’t this marvelous what I’ve done!’ I look at that picture and remember how this turtle – me – got up on that post.”



Both leaders who have been developed and the people who developed them are like that turtle. They have gotten a lot of help. Their view from the fence post is made possible by others.

John C. Maxwell, author and speaker, said, “Through the development process, the new leaders and the developers have value added to their lives.”

Adding value to a person is much more than personal promotion or organizational improvement, Maxwell continued.

“It is true that people who have been developed get promoted. And it is equally true that organizations improve and expand when they have leaders devoted to the development of others. But adding value is much more than that. It is the enrichment of people’s quality of life. It is the expansion of their life purpose and capabilities. People development is life-changing for everyone involved.”

For those of us in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, there is no nobler occupation than assisting and serving other human beings – be they future leaders of our organizations or the residents entrusted to us.

– Beecher Hunter