

## *Caring Counts*

A famous jeweler once sold a magnificent ruby to a customer after one of his salesmen had failed. Asked how he did it, the jeweler said: "My clerk is an excellent man and also an expert on precious stones. There is just one difference between us. He knows jewels, but I love them. I care what happens to them and who wears them. The customers sense this. It makes them want to buy – and they do."

Not just with jewels, but with all aspects of life, caring counts.

The Apostle Paul, writing his last will and testament to young Timothy, praised Onesiphorus and asked that Timothy greet him. This young man had sought out Paul while he was in prison. Onesiphorus was not ashamed of Paul's chains and spent time encouraging him. He did this not just out of a sense of Christian duty, but because of a real love for the Lord and for Paul. In other words, his caring counted.

Today, in the centers of Life Care and Century Park and in the work of Life Care at Home, we will no doubt have the opportunity to perform some act of love or ministry for our residents, their families or our associates. May we learn to do these things not just because they are expected of us, but because we really care. And may we convey that compassion to those we help.

People can sense when we really are concerned for their welfare, and not just interested in them as a statistic or out of duty. The result? Both parties – the giver and the receiver – are rewarded.

--Beecher Hunter