

CLIMBING UP THE LADDER

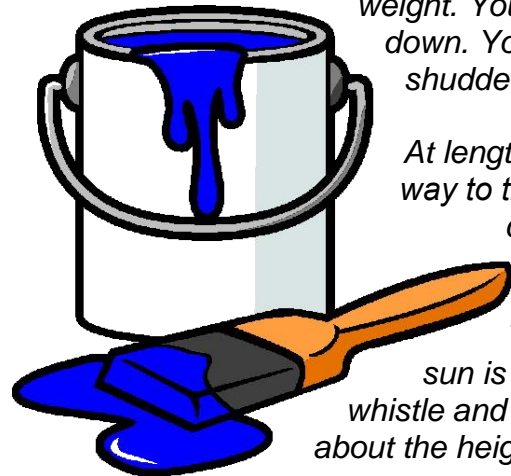
Associates of Life Care and Century Park are engaged in a noble calling of caring for others. It is a great responsibility, but it offers the personal rewards of peace, joy and an inner pride of personal accomplishment.

What does it mean to be responsible? *Merriam-Webster* defines the word as “reliable, trustworthy.” Certainly, the patients and residents we serve, as well as their families, would call those qualities appropriate and worthy.

As we grow and mature in our respective professions, taking on additional responsibility, although desirable, can prove a bit frightening because of the extra demands placed on us.

Author James Alexander Thom shared a story about the fear of responsibility:

Have you ever had to paint some rooftop, high up? You get halfway up the 36-foot extension ladder and you start wondering about the ladder, its footing and your body weight. You stop and hug the ladder, looking neither up nor down. Your left leg begins a ridiculous but uncontrollable shuddering.



At length, you conquer that particular rung and inch your way to the next, then the next. Finally, you're at the top, clinging for your life. How can you take one hand off the ladder to use the paintbrush? But you do.

Tight as a fiddle, you begin. The sky is clear. The sun is nice. The thirsty wood soaks up the paint. You whistle and think positive thoughts and do a good job and forget about the height.

You've learned an important lesson of life from this. No matter what higher responsibility you take on, it's scary, very scary, until you start working.

Most of us can relate to Thom's illustration. No matter what our job may be in Life Care or Century Park – whether as a certified nursing assistant, a worker in the laundry room, an assistant cook in the dietary department or the executive director – our actions have direct impact on the well-being and satisfaction of our residents. And knowing that responsibility is in our hands is a cause of concern, and rightly so.

But as we step up to the task, the joy of serving begins to flow.

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered (Proverbs 11:25 ESV).