

Help People Win

In 1984, Lou Whittaker led the first all-American team to the summit of Mt. Everest. After months of grueling effort, five members of the team reached the final campsite at 27,000 feet.

With 2,000 feet to go, Whittaker had a tough decision to make. He knew how highly motivated all five climbers were to stand on the highest point on earth. But two would have to go back to the previous camp, load up on food, water and oxygen, then return to the camp where they now met.

After completing this support assignment, these two climbers would be in no condition



to make a try for the summit. The others would stay in the tent that day, preparing for the summit attempt.

The first decision Whittaker made was to stay at the 27,000-foot camp himself to coordinate the team's activities. The next was to send the two strongest climbers down the mountain to get the supplies; it was the tougher job. The two weaker climbers would rest, renew their strength, and receive the glory of the summit.

When asked why he didn't assign himself the summit run, Whittaker's answer showed his understanding of people and the strength of his leadership. He said, "My job was to put other people on top."

Whittaker understood that when people make the right decisions that help the team to achieve its goal, everybody wins.

Commenting on that story, John C. Maxwell, author and internationally recognized expert on leadership development, said: "Helping another person to win is one of the greatest feelings in the world. I haven't met a person yet who doesn't like to win. And everybody I know who's made the effort to help others has said that it is the most rewarding part of life."

As a leader in Life Care and Century Park, you have that opportunity every day to help others win – and not just members of your team, but also the residents and families you serve.

And that has to make you proud!

– Beecher Hunter