

## Moody Artwork

British and American computer scientists have created artwork that changes according to how the viewer feels. The computer program analyzes the position and shape of the mouth, the angle of the brows, the openness of the eyes, and five other facial features to determine the viewer's emotional state. The artwork then alters, based on the viewer's mood. If joy is seen on the face, the artwork will show up in bright colors. If there is a scowl, the image will become dark and somber.

That's pretty high-tech stuff. But while we are amazed that machines can draw such conclusions, we certainly must understand that our moods can also affect the *people* around us – our family, friends, co-workers, residents we serve and their families. Our lives touch people, whether for good or bad. Each person is responsible for his or her own reaction to us, of course. Yet, the way we behave makes a difference in others' attitudes toward us.

I remind our associates who attend the *Life Care Journey* that the executive director or director of nursing is a chief communicator in each building. If one comes in happy, smiling and cheerful in the morning, then our associates and residents will model what they see. On the other hand, if we show up grim and moody, we may expect them to reflect such conduct.

Being upbeat and positive may be difficult on a day when we feel cranky. But we can have a favorable impact on those we meet – even if all we do is smile or listen.

--Beecher Hunter