

Part of the Gift

A young girl in Africa gave her teacher a special gift. It was a beautiful seashell.

"Where did you get this?" the teacher asked.

The child told her that such shells were found only on a certain faraway beach.

The teacher was deeply touched because she knew the girl had walked many miles to find the shell. "You shouldn't have traveled so far just to find a gift for me," she said.

The girl smiled and replied, "The long walk is part of the gift."

Every day, associates in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home deliver gifts to those they serve. Maybe the gift is making a bed, or changing a diaper, or mopping the floor, or washing the linens, or preparing a birthday cake.

The gift may not require "a long walk," but it may call for patience, for energy, for commitment, and always for love.

Those are just parts of the gift.

--Beecher Hunter