

# Smiles Galore at Gaylord

Maybe it's just me, but the atmosphere at the Gaylord Opryland Resort April 18-22 for Life Care's annual directors of nursing meeting seemed a little different than usual. It's always a nice place to visit, and Lola and I go there at Christmastime and on other occasions. But while we were there with the DONs, there were hugs aplenty, warmth of fellowship, and lots of smiles.



The difference, of course, lies with the people, the guests of the hotel. And our nurses are, indeed, special people – mission-minded, purpose-driven, passionate about the residents they serve, and proud of their profession and those who share their calling. Their smiles are contagious.

As I thought about that experience, and the way they lit up the hotel, I considered the value of a smile – anytime, anywhere. A smile costs nothing, but it creates much:

- It enriches those who receive it without impoverishing those who give it.
- It happens in a flash, and the memory of it may last forever.
- None is so rich that he or she can get along without it, and none is so poor that one cannot be richer for its benefits.
- It creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in a nursing center (or any business), and it is the countersign of friends.
- It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and nature's best antidote for trouble.
- Yet it cannot be begged, bought, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is worth nothing to anyone until it is given away.

So, in the course of today, as you go about your work in Life Care, Century Park or Life Care at Home, some of your associates or residents may be too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours.

Nobody needs a smile as much as those who have none left to give.

– Beecher Hunter