

STEPPING UP

What defines a leader? We usually think of leadership in terms of established positions, such as coaches, soldiers, executive directors, directors of nursing, rehab service managers, etc.

But don't many of us – titles or not – assume leadership roles when we least expect to, in the midst of life's activities? Dr. Susan Jeffers, an international best-selling author of self-help books, shares an interesting example.

One day a tough-looking young man was strolling along the sidewalk. He seemed unconcerned, even contemptuous, about everyone around him.

Then an elderly blind man appeared, and unknowingly headed for the busy street. The only person in the crowd to react was the tough young man.

He ran to the blind man and steered him away from the curb. But the blind man headed back for the street again. The young man went back again, and a third time. Finally, he shrugged his shoulders and simply escorted the blind man up the street.

Some shrugs mean indifference to what happens, but not this one. This one signaled acceptance of a duty that was no less real because it was unsought.

And that's why we have good leaders all through our staffs in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. They go above their job requirements to do for others what is not defined or sought.

– Beecher Hunter