

The Cleaning Lady

How important is dignity? The word is in our Mission and Values statement. Under *Our Values to Residents* are these words: “We believe in the preservation of *dignity*, self-respect and resident rights in a loving and caring environment.”

The worthiness of others should be recognized with all people we meet, and not just with our residents.

Joann C. Jones, in an article in *Guideposts* magazine, told the following story.

“During my second month of nursing school, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: ‘What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?’ Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name?

“I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Before the class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

“Absolutely,” said the professor. “In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say, ‘Hello.’ I’ve never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.”

It is the practice of Forrest Preston, chairman of Life Care, when he visits one of our buildings, to go first to the laundry room to meet associates there – who rarely get to be introduced to visitors – and to thank them for what they do. He reminds them the clean linen – sheets, tablecloths, towels – are essential to the operation of the facility, and that makes their work very important for the benefit of our residents. His visit always motivates those who work in that department.



Think about it: We have not begun to show the love of Christ to others until we have treated them with respect.

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself (Philippians 2:3).

– Beecher Hunter