

## *The Edison Attitude*

Thomas Edison, who held 1,093 patents – including the electric light bulb, phonograph and motion picture camera – sold the rights to many of his inventions to Western Union and other large companies to keep his workshop going.

Over time, others made far more money from Edison's inventions than he did, but this didn't seem to bother him a great deal. He once said, "I don't care so much about making my fortune as I do for getting ahead of the other fellow."

Edison's greatest desire was to be both the first and the best in his field, to out-invent everybody he could. He worked tirelessly, with joy.

Edison eventually established Menlo Park, the world's first factory for the making of nothing but inventions. It was a forerunner of the private research laboratories now maintained by many large companies. At Menlo Park, Edison promised to turn out "a minor invention every 10 days and a big thing every six months or so." At one point, he was working on 47 new projects at once.

Other inventors may have been richer than Edison, but virtually no inventor has ever been more enthusiastic or more successful. For him, enthusiasm and employment were inextricably bound together.

What about you? Are you enthusiastic about your work? Do you enjoy what you do? Do you look forward to coming through the front door of the building to begin your job assignment each day? Are you happy in the mission to which God has called you?

These are appropriate questions to consider, and they provide an opportunity to reflect on what we do. Is it our desire to be the first and best in our field? Life Care's mission is to be a premier provider of long-term care and the facility of choice in each community where we operate. But do we have the same passion for the individual jobs we perform?

As I visit our centers, associates are observed working tirelessly, and with joy. And what warm emotion is brought when one...

- Lights up the face of a resident with a smile.
- Receives a hug in return.
- Hears a compliment for a blanket brought to remove a chill.
- Catches a wink over a cup of coffee delivered.
- Is told "thank you" for assistance en route to a bathroom.
- Comforts the customer in the moments of not-so-good news.
- Picks up a hand-scribbled note of appreciation for the mending of a gown.

The opportunity to be engaged in our profession is a blessing, indeed.

– Beecher Hunter