

## The Joy of Giving

Chad was a young, shy outcast. At the end of the school day, when other children would walk home together, Chad was left to himself.

For this reason, his mother was deeply concerned when Chad told her he wanted to make a Valentine for every child in his class. Nevertheless, she purchased all of his supplies for him to fulfill his desire.

With paper, glue and crayons, Chad spent three weeks making 35 Valentines.

On the morning of Valentine's Day, Chad was overflowing with excitement. He carefully collected all of his Valentines and headed out the door for school. His mother, however, was not so enthusiastic.

She knew her son might not receive a single Valentine and wondered if he could handle that level of hurt. To compensate for the pain, she baked his favorite cookies and had them ready for the time he would walk through the door.

The afternoon silence was broken by the sound of children walking down the street. As usual, the other kids were laughing as they walked together, and Chad was all by himself. She noticed his hands were empty, and the tears started to fill her eyes.

When the door opened and Chad walked in, she choked back the emotions and said, "Mommy has some warm cookies and milk for you."

He barely heard a word. Chad's face was glowing, and his chest was about to burst with pride as he said, "Not a one ... not a one. I didn't forget a one, not a single one!"

There's an important lesson in the story about Chad, and it is this: *The greatest joy in life is reserved for those who are more interested in giving than receiving.*

And it's a principle reflected every day in the work of the associates of Life Care and Century Park. They are called to give, and they happily do so.

*Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you (Luke 6:38 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter