

## The Power of a Touch

It happened in an office building in New York City – one of those huge skyscrapers that shape the skyline.

A man, like a few hundred others, was there with his stereotypical briefcase, running to the bank of elevators so that he could get to whatever office he was headed for.

As he was hurrying along, he passed a woman standing with a little boy. As he passed, he adroitly skirted around them, but he paused just long enough to lay his hand – quite lovingly – on the child’s head and tousle his hair. And then he caught his elevator.



It was a poignant moment. What was just witnessed was a subtle, but important, reminder that no matter what kind of structures we put up, no matter how artificial our lives become, even in the concrete jungle, there is something about a little child that resonates within us all. We see it in our centers – when children of associates or family members come in – how delighted our residents are as they hug and react to them.

But on this day, in this tall skyscraper, in the hustle and bustle of it all, this man took time to touch a child.

Maybe the boy reminded him of his own child.

Maybe it was the one human touch of his day before he sat down in front of his computers and machines.

Maybe his action was a simple touch-point with humanity.

The incident is an illustration, however, of the power of connection with another human being – whether a touch, a handshake or a hug – and the benefit to both the giver and the receiver.

– Beecher Hunter