

The Tickets at the Park

Integrity must be a key element of the foundation upon which Life Care Centers of America is built. That word is defined as the quality of possessing and steadfastly adhering to high moral principles or professional standards. Does that describe Life Care? It better!

Recently, I read a story (its author is unknown) that sets a golden example of what integrity should be.

Michael had been pinching pennies for three months since being laid off from his janitorial job. He had promised to take his twin sons to an amusement park for their 10th birthday, and he wasn't going to let them down.

So, when the day rolled around, Michael went into the cash reserves and pulled together enough to pay the price of admission. At the ticket counter, he noticed a sign: **“General Admission – \$10. Children Under 10 – \$5.”**

Michael hesitated for a second. Just a day earlier, he could have saved \$5 for each of the boys – enough to buy their dinner.

“Can I help you?” asked the ticket clerk.

Michael swallowed and said, “Three general admission tickets, please.”

“We're 10 years old today!” the boys chimed in.

“You should have asked for two 'under 10' tickets,” the clerk whispered. “I'd never have known.”

“No,” Michael answered. “But *they* would have.”

What an important lesson for those youngsters. I heard someone say once that the best measure of integrity is how a person speaks and behaves when no one is listening or watching.

That conclusion is appropriately drawn.

--Beecher Hunter