

## The Trapeze Artists

Not long before his death, Henri Nouwen wrote a book entitled *Sabbatical Journeys*. He shared about some friends of his who were trapeze artists, known as the Flying Roudellas.

They told Nouwen there is a special relationship between the flyer and the catcher on the trapeze. The flyer is the one who lets go, and the catcher is the one who catches, as the job description suggests. As the flyer swings high above the crowd on the trapeze, the moment comes when he must let go. He arcs out into the air. His job is to remain as still as possible and wait for the strong hands of the catcher to pluck him from the air.

One of the Flying Roudellas advised Nouwen, "The flyer must never try to catch the catcher." The flyer must wait in absolute trust. The catcher will catch him, but he must wait.

This illustration by Nouwen captures the relationship of faith that must exist between residents and associates of Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home. They entrust themselves to our care, much as does the flyer with the catcher. They depend on us to be there at the moment they need us. It is a great responsibility for us, to be sure, but it comes with great personal rewards.

The trapeze team also provides a picture of the interaction between associates in our buildings and in the work of Life Care at Home. We are not all flyers, and we are not all catchers. Each of us has a designated area of performance that is required.

And when each one focuses on the assignment before us, determining we will require excellence in the process, the spectacle brings the applause of our customers.

--Beecher Hunter