October 21, 2009

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have seen compassion expressed this past month and I am very impressed. The PACE (Partners Achieving Character Excellence) Character Trait for December was compassion. Goggle.com offered various definitions from “the humane quality of understanding the suffering of others and wanting to do something about it” to “compassion is a sense of shared suffering, most often combined with a desire to alleviate or reduce such suffering”. PACE defined Compassion as caring for others with kindness.

I wanted to share the compassion I have seen. I saw schoolchildren bringing canned and boxed food and other household goods to donate to those less fortunate. I saw churches and individuals adopting families, donating a Christmas gifts and clothing to those in need. I saw schools and organizations have Christmas parties to share happiness, fellowship, and a feeling of togetherness. I saw towns celebrate the season by providing meals to those who had no one to be with at Christmas. Finally yet importantly, I saw the following expression of love:

A very beloved person recently passed away in the Parnell community. Marilyn Runde had a very large family and many people cared about her and her loved ones. Marilyn belonged to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Parnell. Marilyn was always very active in the parish, so the parishioners showed their love by preparing a meal for the family to enjoy after the funeral services. Compassion! Everyone ate his or her fill and there was a great deal of food left over. Another long time Parnell community member died and he was being buried the following day. Cecil Tippie was a beloved member of the Parnell Methodist Church. The Catholic Church along with the Runde family delivered and donated to left over food to the Methodist Church for the Tippie family to enjoy the following day after the funeral. Compassion!

This month the PACE Character Trait is tolerance, acceptance of differences and the uniqueness of others and celebrating the common ground we share. I welcome letters from readers to share examples of tolerance they witness in this New Year. Become a PACE partners by agreeing to display or otherwise promote the trait of the month (no cost or expense, just support character excellence). Please join us in our quest for Character Excellence (www.nwpace.org).

Sincerely,

Julia Schmitz

January - Tolerance – acceptance of differences and the uniqueness of others and celebrating the common ground we share
