



Ed's Word for November is...

CARING

Definition: To be interested and concerned about others, and to treat them with understanding and compassion.

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."

Margaret Mead, anthropologist (1901-78)

"If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded."

Maya Angelou, author and poet

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Leo Buscaglia, author (1924-88)

Are you ready for the day?

Are you ready for the day? Do you know what is ahead?
Come on now! Get up! Don't stay too long in bed.
There may be some surprises. It may be just routine.
We never know what the day might bring.
Please be kindly. Don't be mean.
For some it will go quickly. For some it will only drag.
If you have helped somebody, you have the right to brag!
You may have a chance to help someone walk a mile.
Whatever comes, remember,
Always, if you can, Always Smile!

Roy A. Payne

The Acorn Planter

In the 1930s, while a young traveler was exploring the French Alps, he came upon a vast stretch of barren land. It was desolate. It was forbidding. It was ugly. It was the kind of place you hurry away from.

Suddenly, the young traveler stopped in his tracks. In the middle of this wasteland was a bent-over old man. On his back was a sack of acorns. In his hand was a four-foot length of iron pipe. The man was using the iron pipe to punch holes in the ground. Then, from the sack he would take an acorn and put it in the hole.

The traveler stopped the old man to ask him what he was doing. "I've planted over 100,000 acorns here, but perhaps only a tenth of them will grow," he said. The old man's wife and son had died, and this was how he chose to spend his final years. "I want to do something useful with my life," he told the traveler.

Twenty-five years later, the now-not-as-young traveler returned to the same desolate area. What he saw amazed him. He could not believe his own eyes. The land was covered with a beautiful forest two miles wide and five miles long. Birds were singing, animals were playing, and wild flowers perfumed the air. The traveler stood there recalling the desolation that once was; a beautiful oak forest stood there now - all because someone cared.

Adapted from The Sower's Seeds

Caring is...Giving thanks when it is deserved. Helping to solve a problem, rather than just ignoring it. Being aware of others' achievements and celebrating their success.

Kids are like heat seeking missiles looking for truly caring adults.



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Led by the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, **Character Education** is a community-wide initiative working to create a culture of character.

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