

TELL ME SOMETHIN' GOOD! ... ABOUT SERVING OTHERS

In the July edition of *Everyday Leadership*, readers were asked to share their story about serving others. Below is an article we'd like to share (with permission of the author):

Lessons from a Grandfather

By Anne Curtis



My grandfather taught me a lot about serving others from a young age. By the time I was in high school, my grandfather was already years beyond the age of retirement but I don't ever remember that he stopped working – he just stopped getting paid for his work.

One day I came home from school to find my grandfather napping at our house, tired after a long day. My mom later told me that he had spent the whole day in a hotel laundry room training a disabled woman in her new job in the laundry section of the hotel. The late spring weather in Texas coupled with the heat of the basement laundry room must have been stifling, but my grandfather trained the young woman all day and was planning to go back the next day to make sure she learned the job. He ended up working with her for the next few weeks, until she could work on her own. As part of a community program, he trained disabled workers in various venues so that they could eventually work on their own. It was just one of the ways that he continued to give to the community.

Years later, when he became too sick from cancer treatments to go out of his house regularly, I would help him balance his checkbook and run errands for him. I went to the grocery store one day to cash a check for him and showed his driver's license to the cashier. She saw the photo on the license and exclaimed, with a big smile, "You're Mr. Ed's granddaughter? Well, we would just do about anything for Mr. Ed here. Sure I'll cash the check." My grandfather's giving spirit was something he shared with everyone he met, and he taught me so much about life through all that he gave me. We still miss him a great deal, but I am glad for every day that we spent together.