

## **Do You Agree?**

Back when I was in my early thirties, the company that I worked for sent me on a 5 day course. This course turned out to be a seminar that would change me. The seminar was about caring. We all learned that caring about people is one of the most important traits that we can have as a person.

Think about this for a minute. If I showed up on your doorstep crying, would you care? If I called and asked you to come pick me up because something happened, would you come? If I had one day left to live my life, would you be part of it? If I needed a shoulder to cry on, would you loan me yours? Life is lonely without friends.

Many years ago, I decided to run for Mayor of Regina. As part of this, I decided I should ride one evening with the police on a ride along. We received a call that a young lady had to go to Toronto with her job and her father was supposed to pick her up and take her to the airport. He did not show up. The sergeant that I was riding with took the call and we went to the father's apartment. It took us several hours to get keys and to be able to get in. When we finally got in, we found him dead. Would it have made a difference if this lady had gone over and checked on him before leaving town? I don't know! I just know that we found him alone in an apartment. There was very little food. Mostly cereal boxes. Did people or friends care? I don't know. How many people, especially older people, live in this kind of isolation?

That course that I took 50 some years ago taught me that the greatest gift we can give to people is care, because most of them care for us as parents, as friends, as brothers and sisters.

I have had a sign on my desk and in my home for the past 50 years that simply reads: "I care", to remind myself daily of the difference caring makes in people's lives.

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