



December 3, 2015

I was twenty-one and determined to be the best student nurse ever. The night before my assignment, I went to the hospital and studied my patient's chart thoroughly. I memorized his medications and went to the school lab to practice the use and maintenance of the equipment keeping him alive. I arrived on the floor the next morning in my crisp student nurse uniform excited and eager to impress my instructor. I was the model of efficiency and looked forward to my end of day evaluation. To my disappointment, the instructor gave me a grade of C.

I asked her why my rating was so low when I thought I had done everything well. She acknowledged I had been very efficient but noted I forgot the most important thing. As I ran through the day in my mind, wondering what I missed, she finally told me. *“Carol, you forgot about the patient. Under the tubes, and around the processes and procedures, was a human being. You never once squeezed his hand or touched his brow to let him know you were there for him.”* As I took this in she continued: *“Nothing in this world, no policy or procedure, absolutely nothing, is more important than the welfare of a human being.”* It was a powerful lesson and one I think of often as I work here at the Adult Learning Center.

Since 1972 our focus has been on the welfare of human beings. Our infant room is full of beautiful babies being lovingly cared for by our veteran staff who know the importance of human interaction to infant brain development. Our school age care program is staffed with professionals who make it a point to know the children and teens in their charge and strive to promote positive relationships with them. Our ESOL, adult education, and computer technology teachers work hard to ensure our students feel welcomed and accepted, no matter where they came from or what is going on in the world. And every school day at Clearway, our alternative high school, teachers and staff model care and respect for self and others. The well-being of children, teens, and adults is our number one priority.

I invite you to come by and see for yourself all the good work that is going on here at the Adult Learning Center. We are an important part of this community and every donation we receive goes toward bettering the lives of our clients. Please consider helping us through your donation to our Annual Fund Drive. Kindly complete the enclosed donor envelope or go to: www.adultlearningcenter.org. Simply click on the green Donate Today box at the bottom of our home page.

Thank you for your support.

Carol Baldwin
Executive Director