

High School 1st Place

Whg Park

2014-2015 Heart to Heart Essay Contest

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What would happen if a teenager's prized cellphone stopped working properly? Most likely, he would get a brand new phone and get rid of the old one. How could someone throw away a phone that he could once not live without? One could use a similar argument when talking about the unfortunate members of society: elders, the sickly, and the disabled. An outdated phone will start to run slower and freeze up, making it frustrating to use; therefore, a common choice is to replace it with a newer model. The same can be said about the elders, sickly, and disabled. Society today is centered around youth and moving as fast as possible, so when a person becomes unable to keep up with society, whether it be because of age or a medical condition, society casts him aside and focuses on the ones who can succeed. Similarly, the ideas of respecting your elders and being a Good Samaritan are now rarely being taught to children of newer generations, and it seems as though society is also becoming increasingly self-centered. Society needs to go back to the time when caring for others was so common that disrespect and selfishness were extremely frowned upon.

If an infant is wailing at the top of its lungs, a good majority of people would try to figure out what is wrong with the baby and console him. Anyone who would leave the baby to fend for itself would be considered to be a heartless or horrible person. But do those same standards apply to the care of the elderly, sickly and disabled? Just like a child needs a lot of nurturing and guidance to help him grow, those who are unable to help themselves need nurturing and guidance to help them be able to live better. Social interaction is vital to humans, and when a person is neglected, it can cause serious mental and/or emotional damage. Those who are elderly, sickly, or disabled need social support from their loved ones or caregivers to help them be able to feel loved or wanted, and to encourage them in areas that they are struggling in.

How can the declining desire to help the unfortunate citizens be turned around? A very effective but extremely complicated solution would be to turn society's views from being focused on one's self back to focusing on putting others first. Of course, that is much easier said than done, for there are far too many people with conflicting beliefs about how to treat others. On a smaller scale, raising awareness about the need for supporters of the unfortunate ones could help some realize how important it is. Continuing support of companies or charities who focus on helping those in need could also help. In conclusion, the elderly, disabled, and sickly are just as important as everyone else is, despite what society says. Mahatma Gandhi once stated, "The measure of a civilization is how it treats its weakest members".