

The Circle of Giving

By Donna Bishop

One of the ways that we are able to express our gratitude for the good things in our lives is to give back to others. This giving is not attached to “what’s in it for me” but rather in a spirit of joy, respect and awareness of the oneness of our humanity. These gifts pay forward in ways we may never imagine but in some mysterious way come back full circle in the blessings of our lives.

This fall at Windsor Gardens we are being offered an opportunity to give back to our greater Denver community by helping students in the Denver Public Schools through a volunteer program called Power Lunch. This program was originally developed for corporations to allow their employees to volunteer forty-five minutes a week to help improve literacy for early readers. Employees would give up the equivalent of their lunch hour. Windsor Gardens is the first retirement community to participate in the program.

Thirty volunteers went weekly last year to Place Bridge Academy where we spent forty five minutes with our second grade buddies. The goal is not to teach the children to read but to establish a caring relationship while you share your joy of books with these young people. There is no way to measure the effect of forty five minutes of individualized attention these children receive from their volunteer buddies.

Place Bridge Academy is a Denver Public School that has a thousand students with over sixty native languages. It is a school rich in diversity but like many of the Denver schools its students come from economically poor families with about seventy percent of the students on free meal programs.

Consider giving some of your time and talents as a volunteer with our neighborhood schools. These young people are the future of our country and your giving will be giving back far into the future.