



HEART WARMERS

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

By Jeni Janek

Aaron started his career a long way from home and right out of college. An eager, yet green newcomer to the field of sales, he was assigned a mentor and fell under the supervision of a man from his company named Clarence who was in the midst of his career and doing well. Clarence was probably fifteen or twenty years older than Aaron and took him under his wing to “show him the ropes”. Clarence was a pretty good mentor and teacher to the young and upcoming professional, grooming him to fill a needed role and showing him how important professional values and customer service are with such a large company.

Years went by after they parted and Aaron started his life as most do, with marriage and kids and continuing his work for the company that he started with. He even rose to a management position where he supervised young professionals in the field, teaching them the things that he learned while he was young with the company. His territory spanned ten counties as he supervised fifty employees, with that number growing.

One day, on a visit in this furthest county with a young employee under his supervision, he decided to take the young lad to lunch. The young professional stated that the local Bar-B-Que restaurant was pretty good and unique to the area. He and Aaron entered the restaurant and chatted while in line at the counter.

As they ordered, an older gentleman approached them and saw the company emblem on their shirts, asking if they worked there. Aaron nodded politely and thought little of it until the man extended his hand and said his name. It was Clarence, his mentor from over twenty years ago. It surprised Aaron at how quickly he reverted back to being that young professional, as he watched his own new employee shake hands with the old man, now a sage mentor whose place he had taken to continue the cycle of mentorship and support. He recalled the admiration and respect he always had for Clarence for spending time with him.

We are not unlike this in our own world as counselors. Everyone has a turn at a job (a very important job) that so few can understand until they have walked in these shoes. When we leave, it's of utmost importance to hand that torch to those who come behind us so that the work continues. Whether you're a new counselor or a “well-seasoned veteran”, the importance of our relationships with one another is just as crucial as it is with those whom we serve. Counselors are and will always be the heart of campus.