

## Comments from Carolynn

### **Your Support Could Help Change the World**

During this past year, we have been transfixed while observing the devastation caused by natural forces around the world. Tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and broken levees have made us acutely aware of how fragile life is and how vulnerable we are. Our awareness punctuates the importance of our local connections and the grace we show one another as we face hardships in life. Each of you works to make a difference in your own lives and in the lives of others. The way we connect with each other becomes, in times of hardship, our hope.

Each act of individual kindness strengthens the fabric of our human connection and makes us stronger. Your support of Children's Miracle Network makes a difference in the lives of 17 million children each year. Your support touches the lives of families in your communities – and increases the skill and knowledge of doctors in local hospitals – benefiting children worldwide. This global impact from your local support of Children's Miracle Network mirrors one of history's greatest leaps in preventative healthcare: vaccinations.

Edward Jenner (1749-1823), after training in London and then working as an army surgeon, spent his career as a country doctor in his native county of Gloucestershire in the west of England. His research was based on careful case studies and clinical observation, all conducted more than 100 years before scientists could explain what viruses were. His innovations were so successful that by 1840 the British government had banned alternative preventive treatments against smallpox. "Vaccination" was the word Jenner invented for his treatment.

In the eighteenth century, before Jenner, smallpox was a killer disease, as widespread as cancer or heart disease is today – but with the difference that the majority of its victims were infants and young children. In 1980, as a result of Jenner's discovery, the World Health Assembly officially declared "the world and its peoples" free from endemic smallpox. One doctor's work changed the outcome for the world.

Your support of Children's Miracle Network changes the welfare of quality healthcare for children not just in your local community but also throughout the network of 170 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. You are part of a larger network – one that benefits children throughout the world.

Thank you for your fundraising leadership. Thank you for taking a risk and making a difference. Your efforts to leverage the resources of RE/MAX Associates to benefit children are extraordinary. You are the voice that makes a difference within your local community. What you do today leaves a legacy for tomorrow.

In the face of a changing world and a demand for contributions, how do we continue to make a difference? Perhaps the "how" is best answered by words of wisdom from one of mankind's greatest thinkers and champions, Nelson Mandela.

"Our deepest fear  
is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are  
powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness,  
that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant,  
gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

You're playing small doesn't serve this world.

There's nothing enlightened about shrinking  
so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God  
that is within us;

It is not just in some of us – it's in everyone!

And as we let our own light shine,  
we unconsciously give other people  
permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear,  
our presence automatically liberates others!

– Taken from Nelson Mandela's 1994 Inaugural Speech

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