

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS
Vicki Packman, Central District President 2010-2012



The Star Thrower by Loren Eiseley 1979

A man was walking on the beach saw a human figure moving like a dancer in the distance. He wondered what the figure was doing and walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young woman, and that she was not dancing at all. She was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

As he got closer, he called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young woman paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled man.

The young woman replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back into the sea, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the man commented, "Young woman, don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young woman bent down, picked up a starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, she said, "I made a difference to that one!"

Sometimes we feel insignificant and truly question how we, as individuals, can make a real difference in the world we inhabit. The reality is that we don't have to be rich, extremely talented or gifted geniuses to make a difference in the lives of others. We can make small changes by simply being kind to others and joining together to help those in need. These small acts first make a difference in the lives of others, then impact in our community and finally the world.

When we become throwers of the stars, we too, have the power to change the world. I challenge all of us to make a difference in as many lives as possible. It starts with just a kind word and a smile to everyone in our daily interactions.

Now go forward and make a difference in the lives of others!