

## Carry Someone Else

As I opened the door to see if anyone was waiting on the front porch to check into the shelter, I was greeted with icy wind and heavy drops of cold rain. There, shivering on the bench, dripping-wet clothes, was a man who had walked a great distance in the freezing rain. He rose from the bench to inquire about our shelter program. After I told him about our program, I went to the phone to call our clothes storeroom to ask for a dry change of clothes for him. In the corner of my eye, I noticed a guest walking quickly back to his bed. He returned with a sweater, dry socks, and a shirt. He slipped quietly out the side door, handing them to the shivering man on the porch. He did this with no attention to himself, simply through compassion sharing with another, what little he had.

It is through examples like his that I grow and learn. His gift of compassion went beyond his own needs. In that act of kindness, he reminded me of the thought, “Life is about learning to grow through the learning of others. We never grow to full statue until we have learned to carry someone else.” In the coldness of that winter night, one individual carried another when he saw a need and gave extra care—willingly being interrupted so that another would have less pain. In that moment, I realized that I must claim my own poverty and connect my poverty with the poverty of others.