

The Manitowoc County HCE Citizenship Challenge

February 2005

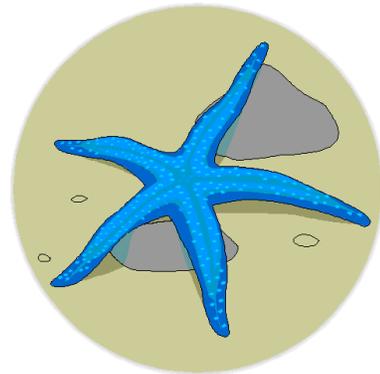
One morning an elderly man was walking along a beach and saw a younger man in the distance who appeared to be dancing in the sand.

As the older man got closer he saw that the young man was not dancing, but was picking up starfish from the beach and throwing them back into the sea.

As the older man came upon the younger man he asked, “Young man, what are you doing?” The younger man turned to the older man and said, “Well, you see, the sun is up and the tide is out and if these starfish do not get back into the sea they will die.”

“But young fellow,” the older man said, “Look ahead of you. There are miles and miles of beach and thousands of starfish. You can’t possibly make a difference.”

The young man looked at the older man and then looked at the starfish in his hand. He gently tossed the starfish into the sea and then turned to the older man and said, “Well, sir, I made a difference to that one.”



Author - Loren Eiseley

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

CITIZENSHIP

What is Good Citizenship?

Ethical people are good CITIZENS

Good CITIZENS go beyond their own interests, demonstrate a concern for others, and recognize their responsibility to make their home, school, neighborhood, and country the best they can be.

What does CITIZENSHIP mean?

For some people CITIZENSHIP means working for the government, serving in the military, or simply voting.

To others, CITIZENSHIP is holding a job, paying taxes, and obeying the law.

To still others, one's CITIZENSHIP just signifies one's nationality.

Real CITIZENSHIP is active!

CITIZENSHIP demands participation, involvement, and contribution. No one makes a difference in this country without being involved.

People have no choice about the families, neighborhoods, and countries they are born into. People *do* have a choice about whether to be responsible members of their families and communities.