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Character Counts Essay: 2018 Writing Contest

Imagine that you are driving in the city of Chicago and turn onto Lower Wacker Drive. You look out your window and see many people huddled together on the sidewalks, shopping carts filled with tattered blankets, and scraps of cardboard boxes scattered along the walkway. Would you drive by and then not think about it again? Or would you be so moved by the sight of these strangers on the side of the road that you drive to the nearest McDonalds and buy 80 meals and 40 coffees and deliver them yourself? Dr. Patrick Angelo chose to step-in and bring them hot food. Just like that! He chose to take-action and continues to do so today, recruiting many others to share in his crusade to offer meals and hope to the homeless population living on Lower Wacker Drive in the great city of Chicago. Dr. Angelo is a hero because he chooses to reach out and treat these people with kindness and compassion. He exemplifies the pillars of Caring and Respect.

Dr. Angelo is an example of the pillar of Respect because he treats others the way he would want to be treated. He is a dentist by day and truly enjoys helping others. He knows that these people need to have food in their stomachs, not be hungry out on the streets. So, he acts on it! He listens to them, treats them with kindness, and respects that at the end of the day, they are just people who fell on hard times. He doesn't judge them.

Dr. Angelo is also a wonderful example of the pillar of caring, because he takes care of people without being asked to. No one ever asked him to bring meals at least twice a week for over 12 years. He just did! He felt the urge to make a difference in this community. He showed compassion and kindness through his actions. He has inspired others to join him and thus has extended his network to include others who share the same mission. Dr. Angelo is an amazing example of a caring person.