

This I Believe
Jenny Carmichael

I have been privileged to have a home, a family, and an education. However, there are so many people that don't get those opportunities. I never used to think about those less fortunate people as important and valuable, but recently, a special morning has changed my belief. I believe that every person is valuable and special.

Every Sunday, my church goes to the homeless center downtown at 4:45 A.M. to serve the homeless a warm breakfast, which is usually the only one they get. The opportunity to go along has always been given to me, but I've always found some excuse as to why I could not go. A couple of months ago, a very close friend of mine asked me to come along with her, and not able to say no, I said the only other thing I could, yes.

I set my alarm for 4:15 and watched as the morning changed my life. The homeless people that I was privileged to serve were so precious. What amazed me was they only had the clothes on their back, a big smile, sometimes with missing teeth, and eyes that glistened like the sun on water on a warm summer day. I couldn't help but smiling too because I realized that in all people there is importance. I thought I was going to help the homeless that morning, when really they were the ones that helped me. Now I go back frequently because of how touched I was, and every Sunday morning that I go, I'm continually reminded of the value in everyone.

Another person who has had influence on belief is my cousin, Nick. He is an eighteen year old boy who isn't typical. He has downs syndrome. Although there are so many obstacles to overcome in his life, he is the most special person I know. He doesn't know how to hate; he only knows how to love, and he only sees the good in people. He doesn't judge anyone; he just loves them for who they are. Even though he is missing some things that are gifts to most people, such as the ability to learn well, he's the one who is truly gifted.

People like this remind me how much importance there is in everyone. Whether someone has a big fancy house or just one pair of clothes and a smile, whether they can learn something new every day or they can teach everyone how to love, everyone is important and valuable.