

Are We Setting The Right Example For Our Young People?

The answer is no when it comes to demonstrating what basic life values are all about.

Unfortunately, at home, they see us consuming ourselves with selfish pursuits and a lifestyle that is more about gadgets than people. Every morning while driving to work, I am amazed at the number of people who are so busy “yakking” away on their cell phone, that they totally ignore the beauty of our fair city, not to mention the safety of other drivers.

Or have you also seen that annoying person trying to look important by fiddling around with their Blackberry or typing on their laptop when they should be enjoying a break from the world to enjoy lunch? Technology is both a blessing and a curse in today’s world. In our efforts to connect to do more work we have, ironically, become disconnected from life and more importantly the physical contact that all human beings crave.

The real tragedy is not that many of us adults are wasting much of our life on things that really don’t matter much in the grand scheme of things. The problem is that the young people of this generation are mimicking that behavior. I find it hard to believe that we have elementary school kids with their own cell phones and countless numbers of teenagers with Ipods shutting off the world, and their addiction to the Internet.

This generation needs our help. One way to give it is to become a mentor. There is not a person reading this column today who has gotten where they are without some help and guidance, Horatio Alger notwithstanding. The greatest statement you make about what is important in your life is how you spend your time. Our young people need to see that selfless service is something noble to aspire to.

As Gandhi once said “You must be the change that you wish to see in the world.”
Won’t you be that change today? Our children are watching and waiting for your answer.