



Angels IN THE Workplace

Stories and Inspirations for
Creating a New World of Work

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she did not give away the fact that she was the originator of the good deed and watched throughout the next month as people started doing similar good deeds anonymously, along with smiling more, offering to assist others with administrative tasks, and even gathering more for lunch-time chats.

What Hope Can Create

Taylor once asked me, "How can people not see angels? They're everywhere."

TRICIA CRABTREE, MOTHER OF
WORKPLACE ANGEL TAYLOR MARIE (AGE SEVEN)

Here is a story that came to my Website. In it, a young child believes she has been called to bring hope into the lives of many others, both children and adults. The story is told by her mother, Tricia, who in addition to being a proud mother is also a great writer.

MY DAUGHTER, Taylor Marie Crabtree, started a business called TayBear Company. She earns income by making and selling hand-painted hair clips at local stores. When she started her business, I assumed that she wanted extra spending money, but then she told me the purpose of her business.

Taylor was going to use the income to buy teddy bears for children with cancer. She said the kids probably have a lot of sadness in their lives and she wanted them to have something special to hug and to hug them back. Taylor wanted them to know that even strangers care about them. She set her goal at buying and presenting five hundred teddy bears. I thought her too-high goal was that of a child who didn't really understand. *I* was the one who didn't understand.

The media picked up on Taylor's project, and our community has embraced her efforts. But help has come from far beyond our little community. Taylor has received cash donations

from strangers who live thousands of miles away, just from word of mouth. It has been rather like a chain letter from the heart. In her scribbly second-grade handwriting, she wrote each person with her appreciation and an update on her project. She has also expanded her project to include over one hundred other children (including special-needs kids) as helpers. Taylor wanted other kids to feel that they too were capable of helping others in their own way. Along the way, she also raised her goal to presenting seven hundred teddy bears.

What is truly amazing is that she has sold over one thousand hair clips. She buys supplies over the Internet, and she has e-mail letters going between herself and the marketing directors of several large companies who offer advice. She keeps financial records of all donations, supplies, sales, and checking account activity (yes, she even has a business account) and has arranged for some corporate donations of money. The local supermarket even stuffs grocery bags with her flyers and has donation cans at their registers. I've listened in amazement as she's discussed the huggability of the teddy bears with vendors and later ordered seven hundred teddy bears after negotiating a lower price. She has been very clear that none of this is about her, but about helping the kids with cancer.

Taylor has been touched by so many people on her journey. While selling hair clips, one woman began questioning her about the project. She was very suspicious about just where the collected money was going. Taylor gladly talked on and on about all the little steps she had taken to that point, and about children and cancer. Looking on, I noticed that the woman's suspicions had turned to sadness. She became teary eyed and stopped Taylor in mid-sentence. She leaned down and hugged Taylor from a place deep in her heart. She told Taylor that her eight-year-old son had died just five months before from cancer and that he would have been very proud to have had one of her teddy bears.

Each day after selling, Taylor and her helpers talk about the people who had touched their hearts. Maybe it was the homeless man who had donated eleven cents and was surprised when he



was told that was plenty of money to buy a hair clip. He and Taylor stood together choosing just the right hair clip for his lady friend. Or maybe it was the young woman who was flying back home the next day to say good-bye for the last time to her father, who was dying from cancer. Perhaps it was the man who drove all the way to his bank and back in order to buy a hair clip for his mom. He said that his dad had recently died from cancer. He wanted a child to have a teddy bear in his dad's memory. With each hair clip or donation have come so many memories and a realization that when working toward a goal from your heart, the journey too is part of the experience. Taylor once asked me, "How can people not see angels? They're everywhere."

Taylor likes to talk to people about her project. She gets suggestions, support, and ideas from just about everybody. Just when she is stuck with a problem, somebody gives her an idea to build upon. She says, "By talking to a lot of people I'm able to get more ideas than I could have on my own. I really learned a lot about running a business."

These are her suggestions for a successful project:

1. Believe in yourself.
2. Keep good records.
3. Try different things; it's OK to make changes.
4. Be very careful with your expenses.
5. Never, never give up.
6. Ask for help; don't try to do everything yourself.
7. Enjoy the little moments.

Taylor developed a rich hope for kids with cancer—the hope that they would be able to enjoy every day, no matter how many days they have left. For all the children, for all the parents, family members, and friends of those children, we thank Taylor for the hope she has brought to all those whose lives she has touched.

ANGEL REFLECTIONS AND ACTIONS

Reflection What is your formula for success?

Action Find someone with whom you can share Taylor's story. Think about starting a similar program on your own. The beauty of her story is how it keeps growing as it is shared. I passed the story on to a friend who had a little girl the same age as Taylor who was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer. I told Taylor, and she provided the little girl with a teddy bear. Taylor was touched by the little girl's story and asked to have a picture of her holding the bear so that she could "feel closer to the little girl," since she lives in a different state.
