

President's Message
October 2015

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.

— Edward Everett Hale

As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way.

— Mary Anne Radmacher

Spoiler alert: my President's Message this month doesn't have a whole lot to do with healthcare documentation. Instead, I'd like to talk about the importance of giving as a vital part of living. In my five decades on this earth, I've learned how easy it is to become consumed with my own wellbeing, my own challenges, my own goals and desires. But I've also learned that living a self-centered life is, ironically, not nearly as fulfilling and satisfying as one would expect. On the other hand, I've discovered that there is a joy in leaving aside my own concerns in order to make a positive difference in the life of someone else.

I know that many working healthcare documentation professionals are struggling to make ends meet; I know from first-hand experience the relentless pressure of trying to meet deadlines, quotas, and quality standards. My challenge to myself and to every AHDI member is to intentionally look for a way to do something to lighten someone else's burden, even though our own shoulders may be weary from the load we ourselves must carry. Certainly volunteering to serve in some capacity in our association is one way to give something back, but by no means the only way. In fact, as odd as it may sound coming from the AHDI President, it's important to have a life outside of our livelihood.

There are innumerable ways we can show generosity that have nothing to do with our work, and I think we would do well to seek out those opportunities. To quote Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

May your way be filled with light as you find ways to create light for others!

Jay Vance, CHP, CMT, AHDI-F
AHDI President 2015-2016