



## TOPIC: MOTIVATION

## TITLE: HARRY POTTER AND A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

November 2, 2001

A subscriber to these newsletters recently asked me to reissue an edition of the Coaches' Corner that I wrote last summer. In light of everything that's happening in our world and also considering the upcoming holiday season, I hope you agree that this highlights the essential goodness of the human spirit and reminds us of the impact that each of us can have on the world.

"Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end."  
- Scott Adams

### Harry Potter and a Random Act of Kindness

This weekend I spent time with a friend whose young son is an avid reader. The boy had been awaiting the arrival of the new Harry Potter book and also was preparing to head off to Boy Scout Camp for the first time. My friend thought it would be great for her son to take this new book with him. On our way home from dinner, she and I decided to stop by a bookstore and see if we could buy the book when it went on sale at midnight. While I never thought I'd wait at a store at midnight for a book, I didn't really mind, especially since I knew it would surprise and thrill someone I loved and cared about.

Obviously many other people had the same idea, because the line up to the sales counter wrapped around the store. As we stood in line, a man came up and asked if we were the last in line. When we told him we were, he handed my friend a package, saying, I'd like to give this to you. I hope you enjoy it.

Surprised and somewhat confused, my friend opened the package to find the brand new Harry Potter book which the man had just purchased. She ran after the man in an attempt to thank him and understand the reason for his gift, only to find that he had disappeared as quickly as he had given her his gift.

Although we were both delighted by the man's kind gesture, my friend was especially touched. She explained the event to her son and wrote on the flyleaf of the book, Thanks to a stranger and to a random act of kindness. She also shared this story with many other people, not in the context of getting the new book but to share with them the man's kindness and good will.

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As we further talked about the events of the weekend, she and I both found ourselves wondering why we don't do more things like this. This small event had a very large impact on my friend and her son, as well as on me. I found myself asking, When was the last time you shared a kind word, a warm gesture or a simple act of kindness? Things like these simply aren't done often enough. It's the little things that often make the biggest impact.

My challenge for you is to give the gift of kindness to someone -- something as simple as a kind word, a thoughtful note or a gesture bestowed on a stranger, an employee, a friend or a spouse. I also challenge you to pass this along to others and ask them to do the same. If we all take the time to give the gift of kindness to just one person this week, think of the difference we can make and the ripple effect we'll create, not to mention that we'll live in a far nicer place.