

# Your power to make a difference

Never underestimate the value of your partnership nor your power to make a difference. Care Net is celebrating the fund raising accomplishment of Jim Stevens who placed second among fifty-three Janus Charity Challenge fund raisers in connection with the September Ironman competition. Jim's accomplishment deserves to be celebrated, but his contribution illustrates principles of making a difference that we all have in common.

Here are seven principles that will help any of us make a difference.

**#1 Decide what you care about.** Many at Care Net decided that they care about saving lives. How about you? What do you care about? What has God put in your heart? That passion is there for a purpose. God wants to use you to make a difference.

**#2 Watch for opportunities.** Opportunities are all around us, but we need to be tuned in. Jim was inspired by others who participated in an earlier fund raising event. As an athlete and a competitor, he found his niche. Your opportunity may well be very different, but it is no less valuable.

**#3 Set a challenging goal.** After prayer, Jim set the goal of raising \$50,000 for Care Net. That's no small goal! And, yes, he admits he had doubts. But the goal challenged him and spurred him into action.

**#4 Link arms with others.** We move forward as a team. Without your participation, we simply couldn't do what we do here at Care Net. This is true of any worthwhile endeavor. We need each other.

**#5 Invite the Lord into your plans.** Scriptures tell us, "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." (Proverbs 16:3 NIV) Without persistent prayer, Care Net would not be where it is today. We look to the Lord for the wisdom and the wherewithall to make a difference.

**#6 Don't let setbacks hold you down.** All of us experience setbacks. Six weeks before the Ironman, Jim injured his foot. The injury was bad enough to keep him from running for six weeks before the event. But he persevered training in whatever way he could. On the day of the race he ran 26.2 miles, in addition to swimming and bicycling.

**#7 Celebrate victory.** Jim was able to meet and exceed his goal. In the end, he raised \$88,621.96 for Care Net, not including the additional \$8,000 awarded to Care Net by the Janus Charity Challenge. As we put God first and follow these principles, we will have victories, and they are worth celebrating.

While we live in challenging times, difficult times may present the best opportunities for each of us to make a difference in our own sphere of influence. We pray that the Lord will inspire you to see the kind of difference he can make through you.