



## Caregiver contributions



### What we need to learn

*Contributed by Derek Cash*

There is an amazing story about the famous violinist Itzak Perlman. You see, he had polio when he was a child, and so at concerts he walked on the stage with braces on his legs and using crutches. The audience watched as he sat in the chair and removed each brace. He then placed one leg forward and the other leg back. He raised his violin and nodded to the conductor.

At this one particular concert in a matter of just a few measures the entire audience could hear the sound of the violin string that broke.

Everything stopped and Perlman sat. He thought a minute, then nodded to the conductor and they began again. He adjusted, he modulated, he played the entire piece, minus one string, and at the end there was astounded applause.

He motioned for silence and said, "It is the artist's job to learn sometimes to play with what is left." It seems to me that that story does not just apply to Itzak Perlman but to each one of us. As we go through life we lose things and sure enough we have to have that creative spirit which invents how to continue to make music, to live life, with what we have left.

### To all caregivers

*by Barbara Matiru*

Our days are better because you're here

For you brighten the place with your good  
cheer  
Calmly and lovingly you perform each task,  
Anticipating our needs before we ask.  
You love your work and each new day  
by your actions show the way  
we should all follow if we believe  
that the good we give, we shall receive.  
Mother, caregiver and wife,  
the deeds you do enhance our life.  
Experience and kindness you exude  
as you come with joyous attitude.  
From laundries, to showers, to our spa  
when we see you, how happy we are  
Indeed we're grateful to have you here.  
Please know that to us you are very dear.