Making A Difference ... “The Starfish Story”

A young man was picking up objects off the beach and tossing them out into the sea. Another man approached him and saw that the objects were starfish.

“Why in the world are you throwing starfish into the water?” he asked, looking oddly at the younger man.

“If the starfish are still on the beach when the tide goes out and the sun rises in the sky, they will die,” replied the young man solemnly, picking up another and gently moving it into the outgoing tides.

“That’s ridiculous. There are thousands of miles of beach and millions of starfish. You can’t really believe that what you’re doing could possibly make a difference!” scoffed the older man.

The young man picked up another starfish, paused, and remarked thoughtfully as he tossed it out into the waves, “Well, it made a difference to this one.”

Adapted from The Star Thrower
By Loren Eiseley