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**Subject:** Changing our Words can Change Everything

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## Changing our Words can Change Everything

May 2017



Dear Friends,

Cailyn was 29 years old and knew the pain and hurt of being homeless with 2 young children. One afternoon Amy, one of her Bridge of Hope Neighboring Volunteers, took her to the mall for ice cream with their children. Cailyn had only known Amy for several months and found it hard to trust others because of her life experiences. As they were deciding what ice cream flavors to order, a woman approached them.

Here's the story as Cailyn tells it: *"When I saw this beautifully dressed stranger walk up to Amy and hug her, it was clear to me they were good friends. I felt all my own anxieties surface and was embarrassed by how I looked and how my kids might appear. The stranger asked Amy, 'So who is this?' and looked right at me. Amy put her arm around my shoulder and said, 'This is my new friend, Cailyn. She's an amazing and strong woman!'"*

Those words changed everything for Cailyn and for her relationships with Amy. Amy's words brought tears to her eyes. Cailyn was deeply moved to be called: friend, amazing, and strong—three words that Cailyn still treasures.

Contrast Amy's words to what she might have said. She could have responded with facts, "Oh, this is Cailyn, a homeless mom who I am helping." There would have been no dignity or healing had she used those words.

### Quick Links

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I invite you to make a Women of Hope gift in honor of or in memory of your mom or a

Words matter. If we can change our words, we just might change the world of those around us. [This video](#) demonstrates this beautifully – make sure you see the words on the sign at the end of this minute and a half video!

Words matter. Words can bring hope and healing. Let's change our world—with words and relationships!

## What's New?

- Anne Dunnenberger, our Director of Outreach, will have an exhibit at the [Association of Gospel Rescue Mission \(AGRM\)](#) convention from May 31-June 3 in Dallas, TX. [Contact Anne](#) if you know a Rescue Mission that will attend the convention or that would make a great Program Site - like [Bridge of Hope @ Safe Harbor Rescue Mission \(NC\)](#) or [Bridge of Hope @ Midland's Open Door \(MI\)](#).
- I'm grateful to the amazing [sponsors](#) of our Gala Luncheon next week. And I can't wait to hear author/speaker [Jennifer Grant](#) share about her new book ["When Did Everybody Else Get So Old? Indignities, Compromises and the Unexpected Grace of Midlife"](#) that is hot off the press today.
- July 25 is our 14<sup>th</sup> annual [Golf Classic](#). Special thanks to hosts [Signature Custom Cabinetry](#) and [Bomberger's Store](#).

woman of significance in your life. This year I honored my Grandma, Katie Lapp, with a Woman of Hope Gift. This photo demonstrates the sense of safety and love I felt when I cuddled up in her lap!



## Blessings,

*Edith Yoder*



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