H.O.P.E.: Holding Onto Principles of Encouragement – A Strength’s Based Approach to Dementia Care

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“My greatest challenge has been to change the mindset of people. Mindsets play strange tricks on us. We see things the way our minds have instructed our eyes to see.”

Muhammad Yunus

“Your words control your life, your progress, your results, even your mental and physical health. You cannot talk like a failure and expect to be successful.”

— Germany Kent
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Those living with Dementia are doing the best they can and our language should convey that.
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Those living with Dementia are not bound by time and space. They experience a freedom in living.
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Those living with Dementia have a huge capacity for patience and sympathy.
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Those living with Dementia have the ability to form new relationships, even if they are non-verbal.
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Those living with Dementia have the same array of human emotions as all humans have and these should be acknowledged, not taken away.

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Those living with Dementia revert to instinctual relationship development which allows for a depth of connection with others cognitively intact individuals may not have.
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Those living with Dementia rely on emotional memories for relationship development: every interaction lays the groundwork for the next interaction.
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Those living with Dementia who have a history of being social or living with others do not like to be alone. They will often times seek out human comfort.
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The world communicates to those living with Dementia through their 5 senses. We communicate with them through our body language.
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Questions???