



**BEFRIENDER
MINISTRY**

A Listening Presence

Foundation Principles

- God is present
- Caring not curing
- Nonjudgmental presence
- Active listening

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How Does BeFriender Ministry Make a Difference?

Here's One Program Leader's Story

By Linda Beckman

"Thank you for listening." This phrase is the best compliment a BeFriender can receive.

The comment did not come after an official BeFriender visit, although it could have. I had met her accidentally after church and asked, "How's it going for you? This was not the usual greeting, "Hi, how are you?" so she obviously felt I was expecting more than an "I'm fine" answer. After ten minutes of hearing about a concern in her life, she said, "Thank you for listening."

BeFrienders experience this often. Whether it's an official BeFriender visit or a friend or family member, we are equipped to know when to keep quiet and when to speak; how to realize that the person I am with needs to talk...when to put on my BeFriender hat and say, "Tell me more."

Active listening is a gift you can give to anyone you meet.

Linda Beckman

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