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Learning How to Collect Stories
(the Soul of Life)

Dear CircleTalk™ Colleague,

Brené Brown, Ph. D., LMSW, is a research professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. She has spent the past ten years studying vulnerability, and its impact on forming relationships that endure.



Brené Brown

What she says about connection: “It is why we are here. It gives our life purpose and meaning. The ability to connect requires us to be vulnerable. Only then can we elicit and hear the stories; the trials, tribulations and the joys.”

There is a freedom, almost a spiritual awakening, to be able to interact with others in a way that they can share moments and events that were formative in their lives; and yet, they haven’t told these stories in many years (or ever). Our CircleTalk™ leaders report that learning how to build trust and vulnerability and having a (curriculum) tool to elicit stories opens up the floodgates. Thank you leaders. Let the stories flow.

**Join us on June 29, 2021 as we begin another
CircleTalk™ Leader Course!**

Learn the skills and get the CircleTalk™ Curriculum to create a rich social space and lead the conversations to authentically connect people to each other!

For more information and to register [click here](#).



CircleTalk™ Virtual Training Course
May 2021 - in progress!

Look at what our new leaders say!

- *Kelly and I are enjoying CIRCLE TALK so much! We had a gentleman bring his harmonica for his special item from home. He played for us after CircleTalk was over. These people become so dear to us, so quickly. This course is not just about leading a group of elderly people in conversation. It's about helping them feel connected and valued, no longer invisible. I am thankful for the tools I've been given to make a difference. I absolutely love CircleTalk.*

Kathy, Prairie Family Center

- *I would recommend circletalk to anyone in a long term care setting, or to anyone working with seniors, who would like to make a difference to the lives of their residents or clients. Anyone can talk to seniors, but creating deeper, more meaningful connections requires skill. I believe that CircleTalk teaches their leaders how to make a difference in the lives of those within their "Circle".*

Jen at Alta Vista

- *CircleTalk puts connection at the forefront of everything. It is fun and grows important leader skills. Finding our way into people's stories is a strong way to make a difference and change lives while having a good time.*

Lara at Windsong Senior Living

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- *I recommend this course because it unveils a hidden element in leading groups that I have not found anywhere else. Everything is prepared, you hold it in front of you, just lead and others will follow. Be glad and happy with the format, because it works and we saw that every week.*
Eva at Balfour Senior Living

Open Office Hour for CircleTalk™ Leaders

Join us on Wednesday, 5/26, for Deb's "Open Office Hour" from 1-2pm MST for our community of trained CircleTalk™ Leaders to join, hear from each other, and get updated on new ways to hold Circles.

This month we will discuss:

- * How to manage the transition for seniors going from isolation to being in a group – virtual and potential in-person circles.
- * The HOW-TO for those Leaders who don't have a fixed audience - bringing seniors together for circles.
- * How you can become a CircleTalk™ Leader (generous scholarship available through our Next50 Initiative Grant)

Contact Fawnda@circletalk.org for the link.

CircleTalk is a proud sponsor of the [Village Movement](#)
California's **third annual statewide convening [Reimagine](#) on
June 15 and 16, 2021.**

Please get in touch and let us know if there are other ways in which we can support the excellent work that you do. May we all find sources of peace, health and love each day.

Warmest regards,
Deb



Proud recipient of a NextFifty Initiative grant.





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