

## Hope Floats

Writer Mark Twain – one of my favorite literary figures – observed: “Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.”

How do most people relate when they are around you? Do they feel small and insignificant, or do they believe in themselves and have great hope in what they can become?

The key to how you *treat* people lies in how you *think* about them. It's a matter of attitude. What you believe is revealed by how you act. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said: “Treat a man as he appears to be and you make him worse. But treat a man as if he already were what he potentially could be, and you make him what he should be.”

Another of my favorite authors, John C. Maxwell, agrees with this assessment. “Hope is perhaps the greatest gift you can give another person as the result of nurturing,” he said, “because even if people fail to see their own significance, they still have a reason to keep trying and striving to reach their potential in the future.”

In the noble work we are called to do in Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home, as leaders, there is no more important challenge than helping those for whom we are responsible – residents and associates – exceed what even they believe their abilities of performance to be.

--Beecher Hunter