

Language of the Heart

The language of the heart is beautiful, and wonderfully spoken. Sadly, however, not everyone has the gift to practice this intimate form of communication.

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, in his book, *When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough*, describes a personal incident that proves the power of such language:

"A business associate of my father's died under particularly tragic circumstances, and I accompanied my father to the funeral. The man's widow and children were surrounded by clergy and psychiatrists trying to ease their grief and make them feel better. They knew all the right words, but nothing helped. They were beyond being comforted. The widow kept saying, 'You're right, I know you're right, but it doesn't make any difference.'

"Then a man walked in, a big, burly man in his 80s who was a legend in the toy and game industry. He had come to this country illiterate and penniless, and had built up an immensely successful company. He was known as a hard bargainer, a ruthless competitor. Despite his success, he had never learned to read or write. He had been sick recently, and his face and his walking showed it.

"But he walked over to the widow and started to cry, and she cried with him, and you could feel the atmosphere change in the room. This man who had never read a book in his life spoke the language of the heart and held the key that opened the gates of solace where learned doctors and clergy could not."

The language of the heart is spoken everyday in the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles, and in the work of Life Care at Home. Its practitioners are specially equipped for the mission to which they are called: serving our residents.

--Beecher Hunter