

Girl Goodwill

Success & Equality Step 9

Speak words to give other girls and women confidence.

When I was in my 20s and living in Chicago, I did my laundry at a local laundromat. On one particular day, I started my laundry and sat down to read. To my side sat a little blonde girl, all by herself. A Filipina woman with three little girls came into the laundromat. As the mother got busy doing laundry, the girls got busy playing. They had so much fun they sort of tumbled around the laundromat. They passed me several times, and I started talking to them as they tumbled by.

The little blonde girl just sat watching, a sad look on her face. After the Filipina girls tumbled by and I talked to them yet again, I turned to the little blonde girl and said, "I like you, too."

The little blonde girl sat up straight, her eyes opened wide, and the sun came up in her smile. She jumped off her chair and happily ran off to join the little Filipina girls, who included her in their tumbling play.

Paula Kramer
Girl Goodwill Founder

~~~~~

In college, I took a number of video production classes. One of my classmates graduated from college and became a reporter for a local television station. We had not been friends in college, but I knew who she was.

After she had been on the air for a year, I saw her leaving a conference we had both attended. I stopped her and told her she looked more comfortable on camera than she had when she started. She was pleased to hear that, and thanked me.

Paula Kramer  
Girl Goodwill Founder

~~~~~

While I was unemployed I participated in Fremont's ProNet chapters. I was unemployed for 10 months and showing up at ProNet gave me a schedule and some days even the motivation to get moving in the morning.

One day, a woman feeling hopeless walked into the office needing someone to review her resume. It was my good fortune that I was there that day. Her resume was in order, it was her self-esteem that needed help. I was able to lift her spirits that day, to the point where she smiled...briefly. Literally a few hours after meeting her, she called me to let me know she received an offer from the job she had applied for. I'll remember that for a long time.

I guess what I saw was someone who was barely holding it together. She had such a wall up when she walked into the office where I volunteered. She was so

~~~~~ |

Updated July 6, 2013

For more information see the Girl Goodwill page at [speakingfromtriumph.com](http://speakingfromtriumph.com)

# Girl Goodwill

## Success & Equality Step 9

Speak words to give other girls and women confidence.

---

afraid of the unknown, which was the only promise in her future. She rejected my recommendations that networking were just as important as applying for jobs. I reminded her (in a polite way) that insanity by definition is doing the same thing over and over while expecting different results. She had been looking for work strictly by applying for jobs online but was afraid to go to Meetups or other networking events because that was time she felt she could be spending in front of the computer looking for work.

She asked me a question, I don't recall specifically what she asked but it had to do with what I thought about her. I think it derived from talking about her in person interview skills. So, I was honest with her and told her I didn't find her at all rude, but simply unapproachable. We talked on the subject a little more and the greatest reward was that she smiled. I remember I touched her wrist/arm just to reassure her.

After a few weeks I got the following reply to an email I sent inquiring about her new job:

Don't ever forget the impact you have on people like me. You gave me encouragement to hang on a little longer and I thank you so very much, Maria.

Maria Holdsworth  
Fremont, California