



Language can potentially convey and reinforce beliefs and myths about cancer that could be detrimental to the social and emotional well-being of people impacted by it. As a community of people who are learning how to live with cancer, and as professionals who are communicating about, facilitating and administering the Gilda's Club Kansas City Program, we pay great attention to the language we use that supports our philosophy, and we avoid language that would reinforce popular misconceptions about cancer.

Key Messages

Gilda's Club Kansas City utilized a particular vocabulary to describe the program, the experience of the person with cancer, and cancer itself.

What we say and hear impacts how we think, feel, and relate to one another about cancer, influencing and solidifying our beliefs.

At Gilda's Club Kansas City, people are living with cancer, not victimized by it.

Examples include:

PEOPLE LIVING WITH CANCER	--- NOT ---	CANCER VICTIMS OR PATIENTS
LEARNING TO LIVE WITH CANCER	--- NOT ---	COPING WITH CANCER OR FACING A LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS
REGAINING CONTROL & WELL-BEING	--- NOT ---	BATTLING, STRUGGLING WITH CANCER, OR FIGHTING FOR RECOVERY
OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN WITH OTHERS AND SHARE EXPERIENCES	--- NOT ---	BEING HELPLESS OR IN NEED OF HELP
CLUBHOUSE MEMBERS	--- NOT ---	CLIENTS
A PLACE TO EXPRESS A FULL RANGE OF FEELINGS	--- NOT ---	A PLACE TO "STAY POSITIVE"