Behaviors That Interfere with Giving Support

- Rushing to tell someone that he/she will be okay
- Acting like someone is weak or exaggerating because he or she isn’t coping as well as you are
- Giving advice without listening to the person’s concerns or asking the person what works for him or her
- Telling them they were lucky it wasn’t worse

When Your Support is Not Enough

- Let the person know that experts think that avoidance and withdrawal are likely to increase distress, and social support helps recovery
- Encourage the person to get involved in a support group with others who have similar experiences
- Encourage the person to talk with a counselor, clergy, or medical professional, and offer to accompany them
- Enlist help from others in your social circle so that you all take part in supporting the person