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Making a New Friend

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Keeping Elderly Minds Alive

**Ideal Service Program:**

The “ideal service program” would be direct contact with interacting with others who need help. The “ideal state” of a “ideal service program” would be one that makes the person do the actual time.

- **Service Side Approach To Issue:**
  - Paige Wilson, Activity Specialist at Silver Sky Assisted Living
  - Ms. Wilson has tried to establish control
  - She tries to make up new fun things as activities.

- **My Approach To The Issue:**
  - Direct service—volunteers having direct human encounter, working directly with those in need.
  - Everyone can do this and should do it twice a month.
  - These programs should include:
  - Mission trips, serving meals to the hungry, meeting and feeding the homeless at a shelter or clothing bank and working with people at Opportunity Village or Catholic Charities.
  - There are also places like Operation School Bell, Broken Chains Ministry, and low-income schools that need clothes and food during breaks. These groups help to ensure that people help others feel like they matter and they do.
  - Organizational support is service where help is needed.

**EXCEPTIONS VS. REALITY**

- Working with an older generation has made me realize that I do not think like other millennials do.
  - The elderly have lots of energy.
  - BINGO is life.

- This resulted my learning how to communicate better with these individuals and much more patience.
  - I now have more beneficial tools with working with people.

- I feel that my service learning project has made an impact on the elderly community.

- I helped them come together and enjoy life, with movies, food, games, outings and more.
  - I have changed how I view the elderly.

- I learned from this experience personally that all people need to feel loved.

- I also learned professionally that just treating people with respect counts a lot.

**SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

- My service at this site has made a difference in the way I view service learn since the seniors taught me to care more about others.

- Service learning is important especially now since many families take care of their older family members.

- I also learned that the elderly is just like everyone else.

- This social issue of elderly abuse is common and under reported.

- I found that Ms. Wilson did not like working with the elderly.

- She wasn’t willing to do more to make the seniors happy.

- My service at this site made a difference for the site itself by the fact that I will be making changes soon to the activities that the elderly do.

- I think this will help everyone there.

**Reflection**

- I served my community during my service hours by hanging out with the elderly at my grandmother’s assisted living facility.

- This would be a difficult job to do as I have found that the elderly can be just like children since they need attention just like everyone in the world.

- They should be cared for while treated as adults that they are.

- Activity Specialists do this job to keep the elderly entertained as they live out their lives with others their same age.

- I have found that keeping people happy and moving is quite important as one gets older.

- I have enjoyed getting to know new adults while keeping my grandmother and her friends amused.

- I have had the most fun when the girls and I gossip about what’s happening at the Silver Sky.

- They just need more people to ask them questions and treat them like people.

**Making A New Friend**

**Making A Better Future**

**Differences In My Own Views**

- The repetition of volunteering—I enjoyed seeing the same people over and over again.

- I learned even more about them and their lives.

- I was able to help with due to my service.

- Played Bingo.

- Called the bingo numbers.

- Read with the seniors.

- Hang out and discuss technology.

- Hear nostalgic stories from the past.

- Recommended movies that the senior may enjoy.

**Future Change, Effort, and Outcomes**

- The “ideal service program” would be one that allows for people to have direct contact while interacting with others who need help.

- I believe that more college students need to do service with the elderly.

- Everyone can do this and should do it twice a month.

- These programs should include mission trips if the person has a preferred religion, serving meals to the hungry, meeting, playing baseball or even a tennis match.

- "Community support is essential to the development of effective interventions in cases of elder abuse" (Morgan 5).

- Community involvement can help with senior support so they feel loved.

- Community involvement can help with senior support so they feel loved.

- This is vital to a senior citizen’s health.

- Also, there is a “series of surveys reported here measured the breadth of community definitions of elder abuse and the willingness of community members to criminalize elder abuse” (Morgan 5).

**Differences I Made For The Site**

- Called Bingo.

- Brought up movie night.

- Tried to encourage field trips.

- Gossiped with the girls.

**References**


By: Taylor Fireman