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CIS- Reflection

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Beginning my time at United Hebrew I was not very excited or eager to be involved. However after orientation my thoughts and feelings changed. I saw how beautiful the buildings were and how cheerful and sweet the elderly were that I met. They were so excited to get started in the class and to learn everything about computers! I felt welcome and greatly appreciated by the elderly which made me feel enthusiastic to start the program with them and work at United Hebrew.

I spent my weeks at United Hebrew working with a little woman named Elvina. She was sweet and eager to learn. The one thing I liked most about her was that when she accomplished something or anything made her happy she would immediately have the biggest smile on her face. Her smile was contagious and made me feel good. Aside from Elvina being a wonderful woman, every time I walked into the building all of the elderly sitting in the common area would greet me and be so charming about everything. All of the elderly were fantastic and just really great people.

Each week working with Elvina and teaching her new things about the computer was very rewarding because I knew I was making a difference by teaching her these things. Knowing that I could make her day a little bit better made me happy. Not to mention that my ongoing fear of the elderly has subsided. I no longer think all old people are mean and bitter, but rather warm and affectionate.

Apart from teaching Elvina about computers I also got to work with some other residents when teaching them how to play the wii. This was a lot of fun because I got to see some of the seniors competitive nature. I found that they liked tennis and baseball the most and bowling was a little too hard for he majority of them. To me a piece of technology such as the wii is normal for my generation. However to them, it is one of the most fascinating pieces of technology they will ever see and get to experience. It was exciting to see how the elderly laughed and enjoyed themselves just like my friends and I do.

I use a computer every single day to accomplish something that I need to do. It is a piece of technology which has been a part of my life for years now and something I don’t think I could live without. However the computer is a very new piece of technology to the majority of these elderly people. Learning a few things about it, and how to connect with the world and other people they know through it probably changed their lives.

All in all I got a tremendous amount out of this class and program. I enjoyed working at United Hebrews beautiful facility with these incredible people who have fascinating history’s and stories to tell. My perspective on the elderly has changed completely and I really enjoyed the experience overall.

This also helped me in some aspects that deal with my major. I am going to be working with little kids doing speech and language and I am going to need a lot of patience with them just as I did with Elvina. I’ve have never had to teach anyone something from scratch, but because Elvina didn’t know anything I did and got to have that experience. Over the past few months I feel like I accomplished a lot at United Hebrew and I made a difference in someone else’s life.