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Final Reflection Paper

This semester I decided to take a risk with my AOK 1 course. I choose to work in a nursing home, where I would go each week to teach older adults basic computer skills. To my surprise, I really enjoyed it. It has become one of the best decisions I have ever made. I had two wonderful students who were at completely different levels of computer knowledge and taught me so many different things about myself. I found myself excited to see them each week. Their continuous excitement and pleasantness as the weeks passed was contagious. It was definitely a nice break from my busy Monday schedule to travel over to the Hallmark and work with these two ladies who were always so eager to learn.

My first partner, and admittedly my favorite was Myrtle. She is the sweetest and most appreciative person I have ever had the joy of meeting. With her I had to start from square one, with her having almost no computer skills. On our first lesson we could not connect to the internet, so I showed how to turn on the computer and double click with her mouse. She was amazed by the smallest abilities of the computer. It was great to see her excitement over the abilities of our technology that we overlook every day. It was really life changing to see how much she appreciated learning such minor details. It made me realize that I too should appreciate little things more to have a better outlook on life. Myrtle and I spent the remainder of our lessons learning how to navigate her yahoo email account. She familiarized herself with yahoo and became able to sign onto her email and send out emails by herself. She was always so excited to find that I had responded to her emails. She thought that I would be too busy or uninterested in replying but she was so excited to see that she was wrong. We had such a great time researching book and movie reviews through Google and finding professional information on her family members. Myrtle was a true pleasure to work with throughout this semester. She always came to our lessons in good spirit and eager to learn more about the computer. I will definitely keep in touch with her in the future.

My other partner was Dorothy. She was always interesting to work with, I felt like I learnt something new each session. The type of work we did differed dramatically from the work I did with Myrtle. Dorothy and I started our work with her scanner and how to attach scanned documents to her emails. By the end of the semester we were applying this concept to actual, legitimate documents. Dorothy had received an unclaimed funds letter stating that at her old apartment address she had money to claim in her name, but she needed to prove that she lived at that address. So over the next few weeks Dorothy and I made it a project to scan this document and send it to her children explaining her situation and asking them to search their birth certificates for this address. Luckily one of them found proof of the address. I am still waiting to find out what happens with the unclaimed funds. I plan on emailing Dorothy soon to follow up with her on it. I learned a lot with Dorothy this semester. Surprisingly the work we did together I found very interesting and each week I grew more eager to meet with her and continue our work. I can’t wait to hear from her.

Overall this course was a pleasant surprise. I never expected to enjoy the volunteer work as much as I did. I can’t even put into words how happy I am to have been able to meet Myrtle and Dorothy and all the rest of the students at the Hallmark. They are such an inspiration to be working to learn the computer so late in their life. I can only hope to be as driven as them when I reach that point in my life.