

Switching It Up With Richa and Friends

Tuesday, July 19:

Today we did "The Life Story Of.." which is a packet that asks you questions about your past and answer them, and the your done you have a book of memories. We thought this would be really help the residents with memory recall and allow them to reminisce about their youth. This activity did not go as good as we had hoped, one reason being that it was a full moon and only 5 residents showed up. Out of the 5, one of them was working on her drawing from Friday. The residents did not get the the concept of the packet, many could only recall very few memories and they quickly became fatigued from the writing. Although, there was one resident (Theresia) who remembered so many memories and it was very enjoyable to hear her stories and see her happiness at being able to talk about her life experiences.

Wednesday, July 20:

Today we are giving the residents who did not participate the first time an opportunity to tie dye towels. A lot of the residents who tie dyed last week showed their fellow residents their towels which made them want to make one of their own. This session was definitely as successful as last week's tie dye session. Everyone was enjoying themselves and the activity. Some residents came back to do another towel because they liked their first one so much. First time tie dyers at this session were a lot more excited than last session's because they had a vague idea of how the end product would look. We had a pretty great turn out as well, almost every seat was filled! It was another amazing experience and I'm really enjoying getting to know all of the residents, I've really established a relationship with quite a few of them.

Thursday, July 21:

Today we played with sand and play doh. We also revealed the tie dye towels that were made yesterday! This session was not our biggest success in terms of the amount of people there, but the residents reaction to their towels was amazing! We showed them the towels before the actual activity and they were so happy and surprised that they made something so beautiful by themselves. Many of the residents left after the "big reveal" so it ended up being only 3 residents and I. One thing that was different and good about this session was that the project was not the main focus, it was the residents. This activity ended up being more of a "all about me" because the residents started telling stories and we all were talking and enjoying each other's company. It was awesome to get to know these residents on a personal level and hear about their life stories.

Friday, July 22:

Today was the last day of "Switching It Up With Richa and Friends". We made a triller video to show off the tie dye towels that were made on Wednesday. The video turned out really cute and I'm glad I have it to remember my time here. The residents did not quite get the concept of triller but were amazed to see the technology used to make and show the video. The main part of the session was saying "see you next year" to all of my friends that I've made over the past 2 weeks. I am so incredibly blessed and thankful to have met so many amazing people over my volunteer-ship, and am so excited to see what kind of new activities next summer will bring. I will never forget the memories I have made here.