



Youth in Nursing Home Ministry

What youth will gain from ministering in a care home:

- A foundation for respecting elderly
- Social skills in building relationships
- Experience in volunteering/service activities

What youth can learn:

- That they have something of great value to share – time, friendship...
- The elderly have something of great value to share – wisdom, experience, understanding...
- Beauty fades
- Life is short – not always fun
- Friendships can be eternal
- It's not "all about me"

What youth can do: ~ Adopt a grandparent ~

Elementary age:

- Coloring with residents
- Board games
- Singing, Reading
- Making crafts – cards, decorations for room doors, etc.

Teenage:

- Write letters for residents
- Help residents email / Skype / Facebook
- Sing-a-longs / Talent shows/Plays / Music performances
- Read stories; ask advice

What residents can do:

- Mentor, coach, pray for the youth
- Share wisdom and life experiences
- Be a friend

Preparing youth to visit:

- Arrange visits and especially activities with the activities director.
- Prepare them for the "different" they may experience. Encourage them; help them to realize what a blessing they will be to these lonely people. They will be appreciated; they can be your friends!
- God is pleased with love/sacrifice.
- Keep things simple and enable them to learn, and perhaps be corrected as they go.

Does & Don'ts:

Do address residents with respect – Mr. or Mrs.

Do respect a resident's privacy

Do speak louder and slower when appropriate

Do not leave the visiting group without permission of leader

Do keep hands clean

Do not visit if you have a cold or other transferable illnesses