Notes for Neighbors

Identifying a Need

Lauren Naser, Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education major, worked to meet a community identified need during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a soon-to-be masters student in Speech Pathology, Naser understands the importance of communication to an individual's well-being and relationships.

Naser reached out to assisted care centers in Cache Valley and learned about the “Notes for Neighbors” program through the AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP director, Hannah Cragun. Together they partnered to meet the need of connecting community members during a challenging year.

The Purpose & Plan

The community goal is to build connections and uplift people in the community, specifically those living in Assisted Care Centers.

This project addresses this goal by engaging elementary students, USU students, and families in creating uplifting notes for the residents at local Assisted Care Centers, and others.

Engagement hours were spent recruiting volunteers and participating in creating notes.

"It means the world to these residents to receive something thoughtful and handmade. During the pandemic, this was a little happy reminder that they aren’t alone, that they were thought of. Many kept these notes for months on their wall."

- Hannah Cragun, AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Director

Outcomes

- Engagement of 75+ unique volunteers contributing a meaningful impact.
- 500+ notes have been created and delivered to individuals in Assisted Living Centers.
- Partnerships were developed with elementary afterschool programs and community service nights. Individuals also participated on their own time.

Reflection

For project sustainability, further engagement hours have been spent spreading awareness about the project through social media and individual contacts.

Naser is also currently recruiting volunteers ages 55+. These volunteers will have opportunities to become phone-friends with the residents at the care centers and make notes. These local volunteers will help the program to be sustainable for future years.

Thank you to everyone who helped!

Lauren Naser - Community Engaged Scholars - Community Action Project
Partnered with a local community program - "Notes for Neighbors" - Cache Valley, UT