

Monthly Newsletter May 2021 Edition



Handmade cards by employees of Excellus BlueCross/BlueShield for nursing homes

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

May is Older Americans Month and we want to celebrate our seniors with a campaign called, **Penny for Your Thoughts**. The name says it all; donate your spare change and share a memory about a grandparent, grandfriend or senior neighbor with a note, story, video or photo. We will share your memories on social media or you can do so using **#IFWsparechange**. Don't forget to tag InterFaith Works of CNY.

Please consider sharing with your friends, family and neighbors. Donations support our efforts to help adults stay active, socially connected and age with dignity.

Click [here](#) for a video featuring One to One Volunteer Samantha A.

To drop off your spare change contact:
Toma Tracy, 315-449-3552, ext. 203

OR

Donate online:

<https://checkout.square.site/buy/R6NYHOUC3L2LJWH3QSWWHT6G>

VOLUNTEERS

This month marks one year of service for:

Megan M.

Alison G.

We appreciate you! Thank you!

Special thanks to Samantha A. for helping with Penny for Your Thoughts!

The One to One Program increases joy and socialization for residents living in skilled nursing or assisted living facilities, through the power of volunteers.



A WORD FROM OUR VOLUNTEER: MELONIE U.



Melonie U. and Shirley take a selfie

Where to start - I can't begin to tell you how much the One To One Program has blessed both myself and my senior, Shirley. I believe that God had a hand in who I was paired with to visit.

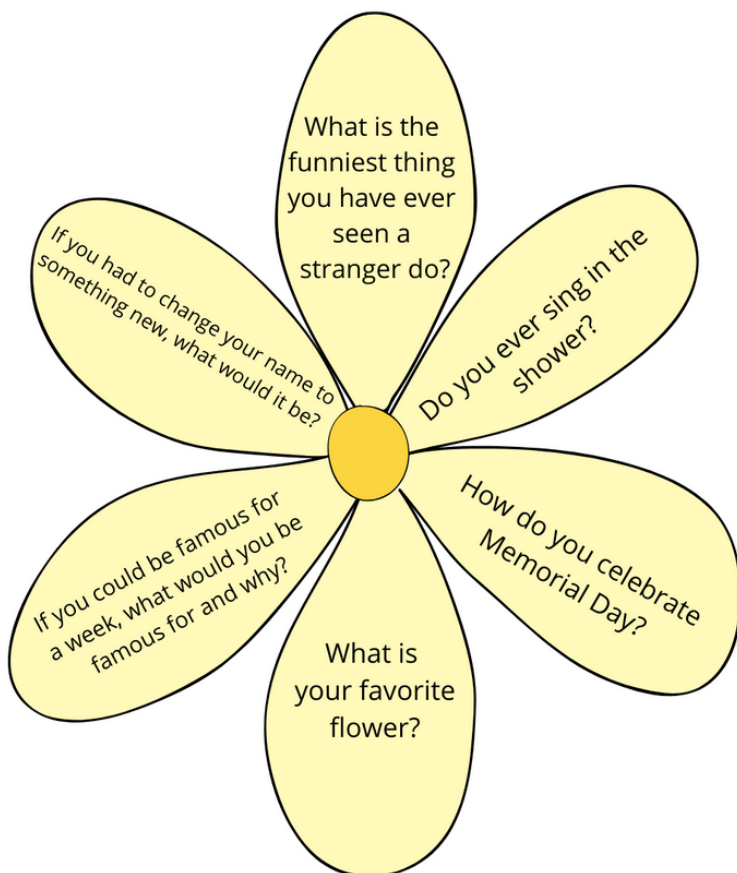
I didn't know what to expect, but I can visit with anyone. On my first visit, I found that we had so much in common, in fact, I may have seen Shirley in my younger years. Shirley and her husband were part of the ski patrol at Toggenburg Ski Center in Fabius, where I skied as a teenager. Shirley went to Oran Church and sat right beside my mom's best friend, Ruby.

Many other things in common have come out over the time of our visits, especially our love of piano music. Some days, when I would get to Shirley's room, she would be very depressed. I would put classical piano music on my phone and you could just see the depression slip away.

It was so fun showing her things that I could do with my phone. We even took a selfie 😊.

The pandemic put a halt to our in-person visits, so I leave messages on her answer machine for the nurses to play for her and I send her cards and letters. I keep in touch with her son as to her health and well-being. I can't wait til I can go visit her in person!!

TOPICS FOR CALLS



COMMUNITY TO YOU

Our loved ones living in nursing homes have been missing us as well as the opportunity to be "present" in their own community. So, we want to bring their community to them.

We have taken on a fun project called "Community to You" and we need your help! Get outside and record a short clip showcasing the monthly theme. We will edit a collection of submitted themed videos into a "movie short" for our residents to enjoy.

Check out our Youtube channel for inspiration and to see what we have done so far: "Snowy Days" and "Spring Has Sprung." The current videos showcase winter fun activities and signs of spring in our community.

For May, we are asking for videos of what we love about America and patriotic events in our area. They include things like family events, BBQs, how your town shows love and appreciation for America, or how you celebrate the values of your community. Please follow the COVID-19 safety practices while you create short videos of no more than three minutes to submit to us. Contact us today for more information!



'About Me Posters' sent by residents of Sedgwick Heights to students at Parkview Academy

SAVE THE DATE

June: In-service at the
Rosamond Gifford Zoo

CONTACT US

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InterFaith Works affirms the dignity of each person and every faith community, promotes racial justice and religious equity, and builds relationships and understanding among us.