

Dear Replacement,

May 6, 2019

Congratulations on your placement as a volunteer at Governor's Pointe! Governor's Pointe is an assisted living home in Mentor that will be so much more than you probably expect it to be.

Volunteering at Governor's Pointe will always hold a special place in my heart. Going in, I had no idea what to expect because my classmate and I are the first PSL students to volunteer there. I never thought the residents would have such a big impact on me personally as I first visited to meet the supervisor and take a tour of the building.

When you first visit Governor's Pointe, you will meet the facility supervisor and the activities director. When I was there, their names were Nicole and Melissa, and I think they will still be around for some time. They are incredibly kind and very good at what they do. Melissa will help with introducing you to the residents and planning activities for the first couple weeks, but after that you will be on your own. It sounds a bit scary, but I promise you it's really a lot of fun.

Now on to the most important part: the residents. There is a lot involved in getting to know the men and women who live at Governor's Pointe. You have to

remember that you are coming in to volunteer in their living space. They can't leave the facility the same way you and I can. Unless a family member takes them out to lunch or something like that, most of the residents don't leave the building. That being said, you play a very important role in their lives. Many people living at Governor's Pointe don't get visitors because their families live far away, they're the only one still living, and other reasons. You will be the reason they smile for a little while every week and I can't put into words how great of a feeling that is.

The easiest way to get to know the residents is by talking to them and finding things you have in common with them. Sitting at a table and talking is always good because so many of them love to talk. Ask them questions about their lives, their families, show them that you care. They are people too, not someone you have to treat any different because of their living situation. There will always be people that won't want to talk or join in on any activities, and that's okay. Not everyone is a social butterfly.

There are things that you should be careful asking about. Asking how they like living at Governor's Pointe or if they're adjusting well could upset some people because they didn't make the choice to live there. Don't be worried if you do, though.

because sometimes they need to say what is on their minds. Be there as someone to listen to them, it makes your whole experience so much better.

The really fun part of this volunteering is coming up with activities to do every week. The most popular activity among the residents is baking. It's something you can do and people can watch or help if they want to, and everyone can talk and enjoy the product at the end. Crafts always go over well too, some of the ladies love to make bracelets and jewelry. It'll be a good feeling for you too when you come back the next week and they're still wearing the bracelets you make. Try new activities, there will always be someone willing to try what you're doing.

If you have any questions or problems, the nurses are super helpful and very nice. Mr. Soder and Mrs. Trentanelli will always be willing to help you out as well. My last bit of advice is take advantage of all the amazing opportunities PSL will give you. Make the most of it and it'll make your final year at Perry one to remember.

Good luck and have fun!

Mandi Schuergen

Class of 2019