

Seniors and Millennials are Closing the Generation Gap at Credit River Retirement!

As a young millennial, working at a retirement residence has been an incredible learning opportunity. It has provided a young man like myself a work experience I never thought I would have. Overall I would have to say the most rewarding part of the job is interacting with the residents. It's an incredible feeling being able to build a relationship with a resident and hopefully make someone's day a little brighter. Of course working at a retirement residence, one could easily point out the generation gap between myself and the residents that occupy the building, but that doesn't hinder interactions between us, in fact it enriches it. It is quite a privilege to be able to hear the stories and life experiences that many of our residents have gone through such as their careers, marriage and raising children. Often times it makes me reflect on my own life thus far and the future I may lead. From the moment that I began working here there have been many conversations I have had in which a resident has touched my life in an interesting and positive way. One instance that comes to mind was when I was speaking to a resident about my field of study, which at the time was in the direction of entertainment and arts. They gave me honest advice on the realities of that particular field, such as it being a rewarding field to pursue, but advised that it's never harmful to have a back up as sometimes it doesn't always work out. It gave me a great perspective from someone who was in a similar industry and made me analyze what I was currently doing, which in turn helped me re shape my path by making me realize that it never hurts to broaden my horizons and branch out



to different aspects in the world of careers. With the amount of life lessons that the residents here teach me, being able to work alongside them also gives me the opportunity to pass on some of the knowledge I have picked up over the years, for example technology. Being a part of the millennial generation, I like to think that my knowledge of modern technology is well versed, so working at this residence gives me the ability to help our seniors increase their knowledge and understanding of the ever-changing technological advances occurring in the modern day. Often times this requires time and patience, but it's worth it when a resident learns something new and is able to further immerse themselves in the digital world. Working in a retirement community continues to be an incredible experience that I hope to continue in the near future. As a young person I highly encourage my generation to get involved and engage with the senior citizens in your community. It's an opportunity to gain a perspective of the past generations plights and struggles as well as being able to share ours.

-Jacob Santos-Rodriguez