

MARBRIDGE VILLA RETIREMENT HOME VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR HOSA #1912!

VOLUNTEERS *In Action*

On Thursday April 22, 2004, HOSA #1912, sponsored by Susan England, MSN, RN, was named Marbridge Villa Retirement Home Volunteer of the Year.

Currently, **59%** of teenagers volunteer an average of **3.5 hours per week**- that's **13.3 million volunteers**. It is with pleasure that some of these extraordinary teenagers are at Marbridge Villa. For the past two years, HOSA #1912 and Susan England have not only given of their time but also their hearts.

As one ventures down the hallways and into the dining room of Marbridge Villa on Friday mornings, it is not uncommon to see teenagers and residents engaged in meaningful conversations or completing group projects. Nor is it uncommon to hear the energy of 20 youths and over 70 residents competing against each other in a volleyball game.

Because of this interaction, the HOSA #1912 volunteers stand out from others for many reasons. **First, they are dependable and fulfill their commitments.** Because a volunteer does not get paid for their services, depending on a volunteer group to fulfill their duties can be a risky venture. In general, the motivation for a volunteer group to follow through on their commitments must be a high level, and this group's constant dependability and loyalty to their mission proves that they are motivated to help the residents of Marbridge Villa. **Second, this group has a desire to learn from the residents.** Their goal is to learn what it takes to become compassionate and thorough healthcare professionals, which makes them more observant to the residents' behaviors and more responsive to their needs. Members of HOSA #1912 genuinely enjoy spending time with the residents and getting to know them. It is outstanding and unique to meet a group of teenagers who would choose to come to a nursing home dance on a Friday night, and not only enjoy themselves, but bring their friends to volunteer at the nursing home as well.

In his State of the Union address on January 22, 2002, President Bush issued a national Call to Service urging Americans to dedicate two years or 4000 hours over the course of their lifetime to serving their communities. It is with pleasure that Marbridge Villa benefits from this Call to Service. It has truly made a difference in the lives of the residents at Marbridge Villa, instilled a sense of community responsibility in the youth and has broken down the negative stigma of nursing home life in our community. For this, HOSA #1912 was recognized for providing the vehicle to reap the benefits and for instilling volunteerism into the youth of our community.

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