

Senior Companion Volunteer Profile

Evelyn Hayslett has volunteered for the past 11 years as a Senior Companion at the Friends for the Day Program. It is an adult day program that is a part of the DeMay Living Center. She has assisted participants with many activities, but one of her favorite activities is poetry. She has written and enjoyed poetry for as long as she can remember. With the encouragement of the adult day program staff Evelyn started the Poet's Corner Program.

Through Evelyn's love of poetry, the participants of the Friends for the Day Program have learned to enjoy writing, listening and creating poetry. Poetry has many benefits for the participants in that it encourages cognitive activity, creativity and discussions of current literature and events.

Twice a year Evelyn takes on the daunting task of putting together poetry for a recital that includes poems that the participants have helped write. Evelyn and the staff at Friends for the Day lead the Poet's Corner group through the hour long recital, while others enjoy listening to it. The participants experience so much pride in sharing their poems and they are all able to experience or contribute to the poems in some way. It has been nothing but a positive experience for everyone involved.

The DeMay Living Center's Friends for the Day Program received the Adult Day Health Care Innovation of the Year award for its 'Poets Corner' Program. The Adult Day Health Care Council is an affiliate of the New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

Staff say that Evelyn is a joy to have as a Senior Companion at the Adult Day Program. "She goes above and beyond to help participants with various activities."



Evelyn Hayslett