

I-M

Coiley Dahlquist
1st Place Middle School
Linsley

It is true that patients in places like nursing homes and hospitals are not getting visited very often. It use to be a routine activity for many people. On Sunday afternoons, whole families would go and visit homes as a weekly tradition. Somewhere along the way though, this tradition has been lost. The people in these places are lonely, bored, and depressed. With few visitors, they see the same nurses and staff every single day. What makes things worse is they used to get visited much more often. Groups like 4-H and Girl Scouts use to go and visit places like nursing homes as an act of community service. Many of the community service projects included activities such as crafts, music, and singing. Such events brighten patients days. They especially enjoy seeing children, even if it is only once in a while.

It only takes one person to decide to make a difference! If four people each go once a month then they have made a huge impact. A visit can be short and unplanned it will turn frowns into smiles. Taking in older church hymns, Christmas carols, or singing lullabyes is an easy approach to an unplanned visit. Everyone would benefit, and the task is not hard, it could even be fun. Different groups could come in and do a craft or sing, anything to make the people living there enjoy themselves. Lets all start making this an important part of our own schedules.