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Linsley

A-M

The number of elderly in nursing homes is increasing every year. Many nursing home residents do not get many visitors because they either have no family living close, or their children are too busy with their own lives. My dad is a physician and I have gone with him when he sees patients at the nursing home. At first I was afraid to talk to anyone. After spending time with the people, I realized that all they wanted was a little attention.

Once I started talking, the residents really opened up to me. They told me jokes and asked me so many questions. I didn't realize that many of them were so much like my own family members. We played cards and other games. It made me sad that many of them never get visitors. My dad told me that one of his patients asked about me every time he went back. I knew my visit meant something to them.

I think that the residents in nursing homes need more than just being fed and cared for. They need to interact with people and play games and laugh. Schools, youth groups, and clubs should get involved and send young people in to spend time with the elderly in nursing homes and give them the attention they deserve. It really makes the residents happy to have visitors. It also is very rewarding to make a difference in someone's life.