

York University Students Creating Education Sessions with Residents!

For the first time ever, OARC's *Through Our Eyes: Bringing the Residents' Bill of Rights Alive* program became the basis for a unique and powerful student placement. The program is designed to link a team member and resident together in the co-creation of education on the Residents' Bill of Rights. Three months ago, Spencer House, a long-term care home in Orillia, managed by Sienna Senior Living and home to 160 people, welcomed three York University nursing students who readily embarked on the creation of an education session for team members. Each student was partnered with a resident and together, through the course of several in person meetings, created and delivered their respective session, from the residents' perspective.



York University Student
Michelle Burns and Bruce



York University Student
Jack Hunt and Bunny



York University Student Shannon Fox,
Freda Poirier, RNAO and Helen

Dee Lender, Executive Director of OARC, was thrilled to attend all 3 sessions last week. Each session was unique because of the varied personal stories, topics, approaches and delivery methods. All were powerful! The students shared with Dee that the placement experience was 'the best', was 'awesome and inspiring' and relevant to their learning. Each resident shared with Dee that they truly enjoyed building personal relationships with 'their student' and they didn't want the experience to end. Dee witnessed the effects of this resident-centred education as she saw team members experience an emotional reaction to what they were hearing. Several team members attended more than one session and commented on how valuable the experience was to them.

A very special thanks to RNAO (Registered Nurses Association of Ontario) regional coordinator Freda Poirier who advocated for this incredible learning opportunity in the home, and to the management team of Spencer House who embraced the project without reservation. Thanks also to the students themselves who demonstrated their commitment to building authentic relationships with each of the residents they worked with!

OARC welcomes this and other opportunities to support a richer educational experience for our 'next generation' of long-term care home team members!