The Nana Project

As a caring, compassionate profession, we encourage our COMD students to serve in the community. The Nana Project is a unique service opportunity at St. James Place with the geriatric population that is near LSU! Our mission is to engage the residents of St. James Place in activities that promote communication and socialization. This is not speech-language therapy, but a setting for students to facilitate interaction with patients during activities such as card games, crossword puzzles, crafts, signing, dancing, reading, reminiscing, and bingo. We hope NSSLHA members will gain an appreciation for the various cognitive and physical limitations of this population in a nursing home setting. As professionals, we treat patients with dementia, aphasia, and TBI. Our students will meet many wonderful residents who have a diagnosis mentioned above and would benefit from the energy and time donated by a COMD student.

If you would like to get involved with the Nana Project, we encourage you to create your own schedule, but it needs to be a weekly, semester-long commitment. No amount of volunteer time is too small! If interested, please email the coordinator, Megan Bourgeois, at mbour58@lsu.edu.

Why the name, “The Nana Project”? Mary Abshire was a resident of a nearby assisted living home and was affectionately known as “Nana.” Nana is the mother of Mrs. Jumonville, the coordinator of clinical services and undergraduate advisor for COMD. It became apparent that Nana and her fellow residents would benefit from social conversation and stimulation. And so the Nana Project was born!