

## **Nursing Home Visits**

**By Linda Filewicz**

Students visited residents at a local nursing home and decorated the residents' doors. Students played games on various occasions with residents when they visited. The students then planned a week of festivities celebrating the time they had spent with the residents of the home. All of the students kept a journal of their experiences.

**Meet a recognized community need:** We are trying to bridge a gap between teenagers and the elderly and trying to eliminate the stereotypes that each group held about the other.

**Achieve curricular objectives:** Our objective was to get the students to see the knowledge the seniors have to offer them. We wanted students to learn what the seniors had lived through and what they were like when they were young in an effort for students to experience a living history lesson.

**Reflect through the service-learning experience:** We had a picnic where students and the residents of the nursing home both shared their feelings about each other and what they had learned. The student kept a journal of their experiences at the nursing home.

**Develop student responsibility:** Students made choices and decisions about what to do with this project.

**Establish community partnerships:** We worked with a local nursing home.

**Plan ahead for service-learning:** We needed to coordinate visits and activities with the nursing home staff and connect lessons about the elderly to our curriculum.

**Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service:** A staff member of the nursing home visited students to answer questions students had about senior citizens and the nursing home. Students discussed their stereotypes about nursing homes.