

## Brownie troop spreads holiday spirit



Members of Scarsdale's Quaker Ridge School Brownie Troop #1959, celebrated the holidays at New Rochelle's United Hebrew Geriatric Center (UHGC) with cookies, carols and holiday cards. UHGC presented the troop with a certificate of appreciation for creating homemade cards and for spending time with its residents. Rita Mablí, UHGC president and CEO, called the troop members "an inspiration." Pictured are members of the Brownie troop with United Hebrew Geriatric Center resident Dorothea Farrow.

## Make a Difference Day touches hearts

Richmond Community Services recently hosted seniors from New Rochelle's Ursuline School for Ursuline's 10th Annual Make a Difference Day, where they helped lead the music therapy program and wheelchair dancing with Richmond's individuals.

Community service is an important component of the programming at the Ursuline School. Students volunteer their time for various community service projects during this day of giving. Since the program's inception, more than 150 students have visited 14 different sites annually and touched the lives of nearly 1,000 individuals of all ages, ranging from toddlers to elderly.

The goal of the program is to teach high school students that reaching out and making a difference in someone's life is rewarding for all involved. The program encourages students to embrace individual differences and give back to their communities after they graduate.

"The Ursuline students' visit made a tremendous impact on our individuals. We would be happy to welcome them back next year," said Edward Spauster, Ph.D., president and CEO of Richmond Community Services.

Meg Mackay, director of Personal Development Education at Ursuline School, said



Top row (standing) left to right: Elyse Allbee, Manager of Recreation and Volunteers for Richmond Community Services; Tatiana, Direct Support Professional, Richmond Community Services; and Gina Borges and Mariana Gomes, Ursuline School students. Bottom row, left to right: Patrice McDermott, Social Action Coordinator at The Ursuline School; Alan, resident, Richmond Community Services; Monica Perrigno, Ursuline School student; and Miguel resident, Richmond Community Services at Make a Difference Day, which recently took place at Richmond Community Services.

that the students chose which site they wanted to visit to "make a difference."

"This program is mutually beneficial to individuals and our students alike. We hope it will instill in them a lifelong commitment to volunteering their time and giving back to their communities," Mackay said.

Patrice McDermott, Social Action Coordinator at The Ursuline School, accompanied the Ursuline students at Richmond.



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