

They Grow So Fast...

Stories about "growing up" at the Villa

My experiences at Villa St. Joseph really began when I was born in January 2004! My mom, Chris Gebhart, is the Activity & Volunteer Director at the Villa and therefore took me to the Villa for visits and baby therapy even before I knew it! As I grew up, I began to ask if I could come to the Villa and help push the "roller chairs." I enjoyed helping to take residents to and from the fun activities going on each time I visited. I have participated in the annual Halloween Parades, Easter Egg Hunts, and continue to help during Light Up Nights and Family Fests, too. I like to make popcorn during the Family Fest events and even had a sand art table one year. I was in the Villa Talent/Variety Show a few times. Once, I sang the National Anthem, and another time I played the flute for the show. My friend, Eileen, and I came to the Villa a few summers and played the flute and cello out in the Rose Garden for the residents. They always clapped for us and told us that we were doing a good job. I enjoy helping out at the Villa. I know many residents and like to talk to them when I visit. I like arts and crafts and have helped during intergenerational art classes. I helped to make murals along with two other boys from my school and some residents. This past summer, I helped prepare all of the art work that the residents made for the art exhibit. My mom even had me come in and help her organize the CARF binder this summer!

I am now 12 years old and still enjoy coming to the Villa for events and volunteer help. I am looking forward to making more popcorn for the Car Cruise on October 1st! I like to come to the Villa and escort residents, go on outings, help at parties, or just sit and talk with someone. It is fun and helps to make a difference for the residents and myself!

Meghan Gebhart

Daughter of Chris Gebhart, Activities Director



When I was three, my mother accepted a job at Villa St. Joseph as the medical records director. I would often come with her, starting out on her hip, and then showing off my new skill of walking, then eventually on my own for a school project or just to volunteer. Some of my fondest memories were coming to the Villa to visit my grandmother when I was still very young. If I was on my best behavior, I could choose a gift from the café. I always wanted the small farm animal toys they sold and I still have at home. Everyone always treated me with kindness, no matter what age I was. I've known some of the employees at the Villa for as long as I can remember and consider them a second family. As a 16 year old, 13 years after the Villa opened, I accepted my own job in Dietary as a Dietary Aid working three hours a day after school. Soon after graduation, I accepted a full time position as a Dietary Team Leader and began learning the ways of supervision. I then accepted a position as the Diet Clerk, working in the office, side by side with the dietician and manager, always receiving the most amazing support, direction, and coaching. I am currently taking online Dietary Management classes and hope to take Dietary Technician classes soon. This building has not only been a place of work for me, but a place I call home. A place of support and encouragement, with a group of people that make me feel comfortable, familiar and proud to represent the Villa St. Joseph.

Vitoria DePace, Diet Clerk

Daughter of Jeanmarie DePace, Medical Records Director

It started even before I came here from Guatemala City. Sr. Muriel, as well as many of the other Sisters, prayed for me to get here safely, and my middle name is Joseph because of it. While Sr. Muriel lived at the Villa, I visited her often. She gave me her very precious St. Joseph medal which I still treasure on the shelf in my bedroom. I have been to the Villa often after school, waiting for my mother to finish her day. The other employees and longtime residents always fuss over me saying, "How I've grown," and, "I knew you when you were a boy." Because of the Villa, I have a greater respect for elderly people – opening the doors for others and remembering to be polite. I can only hope the smiles I try to put on the faces of the residents make Sr. Muriel proud.

Zach Miller

Son of Jill Miller, Director of Admissions/Social Services