

Shruti V. arranges concerts for the community

Shruti led a group of young girls from her neighborhood and arranged couple of concerts and parties to entertain the senior citizens in the Greatwood Retirement Home and Assisted Living. The project was intended to make the senior citizens feel at home and show them that the rest of the community cares for them. Her group performed on the concert day, took care of decorations, gifts and party logistics at the community. At the end of every concert, the group served refreshments and socialized with the senior citizens.



For a holiday concert the girls distributed cards that they made for the senior citizens. In preparation for the big events in the community, she held several workshops on techniques of playing the music pieces on violin, how to comfort the senior citizens and socialize with them. I supervised their practices, held several meetings regarding decoration techniques and trained them to make flyers for the concerts. As the holiday season approached, they decorated the halls and the tree at the community.

Shruti chose this project after first visiting the community center and observed that the residents were missing their families. "I love to play the violin and thought it would be very encouraging and entertaining to bring cheers to the senior citizens through music. Also I like to work with young girls. Thus the whole project was designed for young girls to give back to their community."

"The most successful aspect of my project was that I was able to bring cheers to the senior citizens especially during the holiday season when they like to be amongst friends and family. I was really touched when they all sang along with our music and wanted us to come again. Also, it was satisfying to see all the girls help me with vigor and enthusiasm in every activity. It was a pleasure to see some of the girls open up and improve their art skills throughout the project."



She had a group of 10 girls who helped her from day one in her project. Apart from the girls, the parents of these girls were extremely helpful. They donated food and holiday decorations for my project. "Also my friends and family members helped me to a great extent. I would like to thank Elizabeth Varela at the Greatwood Retirement Home and Assisted Living for working with to schedule the concerts and parties. My violin teacher Amy Mathis, also my project consultant in giving me teaching tips and helping choose music for the concerts. I would like to thank Sherry Barr, my project advisor, for giving valuable tips for my project and reviewing my work."

"The advice I would like to give other girls who are about to start the Gold Award is plan the project well in advance and collect as much information before starting on it. This helps in following a good time line and also one should record the hours as soon as the activity is done because it becomes overwhelming towards the end."

Shruti has been a Girl Scout for six years. She earned the Bronze and Silver Award and is a trained and certified Program Aide and plans to help during Girl Scout activities in future. "I still remember my first day with my Girl Scout in fifth grade. That was the day my journey with Girl Scouts began and loved every moment in the journey thereafter. It is the most memorable day I will cherish as a Girl Scout because I attended the meeting on this day to explore what the girls do and immediately made a decision to join and since then, there has been no looking back. The day was filled with anxiety, fun and curiosity."

She is a sophomore at Awty International School. She hope to be a pediatrician in the future.