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# Personal Reflections from ePortfolio: AHRC New York City

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## Dana's Wordle



### My Biography - What I Am Bringing to AHRC New York City

Hello, my name is Talin. I am a Senior Accounting Major here at Pace University. I'll be turning 21 on September 29th. I live in Williston Park on Long Island so that makes me a commuter. I am half Cuban and half Armenian. I am obsessed with my dog Buddha, he is a pit-bull mix. I am an active member in my churches youth group called Holy Martyrs ACYOA (Armenian Church Youth Organization of America) Seniors. Our ages range from 18-30. We give back to our community by visiting old age homes, soup kitchens, helping raise money for good causes and aiding the younger children with their assignments.

### My Personal Journey on the Project at AHRC New York City Critique of 9/16/14

#### Student Critique 1

- Evaluate the feature functionality of 3 non-profit Web sites that advocate for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

I evaluated The NYSARC: <http://www.nysarc.org/>, The Arc : <http://www.thearc.org/> and Special Olympics <http://www.specialolympics.org/>. Each website is very straightforward. There are sections with Blogs, Advocacy & Action, and Programs & Events. It also provides pictures of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities alongside loved ones including their parents, grandparents, and friends. It also provides sections to learn about the different developmental and intellectual disabilities and illustrates different ways to help. Each page is also big on Donations and providing ways to help out the cause whether it's through advocacy, money or taking action.

- Evaluate the feature functionality of 3 applications (apps) on an i-Pad that may be helpful for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

I evaluated the Apple website to find out which features could be most helpful for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Three applications found within the apple product that are very helpful include Guided Access, Speak Selection, and Photo booth. Below are the Statements Apple released regarding why each application is helpful in aiding individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities:

**Guided Access:** Guided Access helps students with autism or other attention and sensory challenges stay on task. A teacher or therapist can limit an iOS device to stay on one app by disabling the Home button, and even restrict touch input on certain areas of the screen. So wandering taps and gestures won't distract from learning.

**Speak Selection:** Hearing a word as it's being read can help with comprehension for a wide range of learners. Speak Selection can read a student's email, iMessages, web pages, and ebooks out loud. Double-tap to highlight text in any application, tap Speak, and the device reads the selected text. Students can have words highlighted as they're being read so they can follow along. And the voice's dialect and speaking rate can be adjusted to suit students' needs.

**Photo Booth:** Students can use Photo Booth to take and share snapshots, giving them another way to communicate. For instance, students who struggle with personal interaction — like answering a direct question — may find it easier to see their own face on the screen in order to begin communicating. And because Photo Booth is integrated with the built-in iSight camera, it displays images the moment they're captured.

## Student Critique 2

- Google "The Rights of People with Cognitive Disabilities to Technology and Information Access" and highlight important rights that may benefit individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

- Access to comprehensible information and usable communication technologies is necessary for all people in our society, particularly for people with cognitive disabilities, to promote self-determination and to engage meaningfully in major aspects of life such as education, health promotion, employment, recreation, and civic participation;
- Security and privacy must be assured and managed to protect civil rights and personal dignity of people with cognitive disabilities;
- Ensuring access to technology and information for the 28 million people with cognitive disabilities in the United States will create new markets and employment opportunities; decrease dependency on public services; reduce healthcare costs; and improve the independence, productivity, and quality of life of people with cognitive disabilities.

### Blog of 9/30/14

Today I met my new friend Dana. I was so excited to finally meet her and I could tell she was just as excited to meet me. She heard about this class through a friend and she was telling me that her friend had such a great experience during her time in it and that she was ready to have a great experience too. I learned today that we have a lot of things in common. I'll list a few: Her sister is an accountant and that is currently my major, we both love flowers, dogs, the back street boys, and coffee. We decided to take a trip down to the café for a quick coffee break and bonded with our iced coffees. We talked a little about the projected. She is not sure what she wants to do yet, but together we will work together to figure out the right project for us to accomplish. I am excited for next week to learn more about her and what we will be doing for the next few weeks to come. Overall it was an awesome day!

### Critique of 9/30/14

According to Houtrow and her colleagues the reason why the number of individuals with developmental disabilities is higher in 2014 than it was in 2004 is due to the changes in diagnostic criteria, increase in awareness and higher rates of autism. The article "Developmental Disorders More Common Than A Decade Ago" by Michelle Diamant continues to talk about a 16 percent increase in the number of kids diagnosed with disabilities between the years of 2001-2011. I agree with Houtrow and her colleagues' conclusion because the world today has been highly influenced by technology, which has made diagnosing children and spreading awareness easier than it was in the earlier years. One piece of technology that has been a great help to children with disabilities that wasn't around in 2004 is a tablet. As we learned at the AHRC, tablets have not only helped children stay focused, but they also provide children with disabilities that have trouble communicating vocally their very own voice. It is incredible what technology has been able to do for these children and their families.

### Blog of 10/7/14

Today Dana and I focused more on the project. We started off talking about what happened during this past week and then got straight to business. We decided together that we would combine all of her favorite things into one project and the easiest way to do so is to make a PowerPoint presentation. Since she loves photography we plan on taking pictures to attach them in the slideshow. We were able to get

two slides done. The slides include text with different colors and pictures we saved from Google. I guided her with simple directions and I also helped her spell out some words that were difficult for her. She was so proud of herself because she was able to do everything without me having to take over. Close to the end of class we decided to stop working on the project and walk around for a little. We ended the day with some fun selfies. I am so glad Dana and I communicate so well and that we are able to have some fun with each other. I look forward to next week!

#### **Critique of 10/7/14**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has definitely benefited my partner in so many different aspects. This act prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities and allows them to perform daily life activities as if they were anyone else. Two major benefits that my partner gained through this act was the ability to take college classes and to get a job. These past two classes she told me her biggest accomplishments was attending a college near her house and having a job at CVS, although she only went a few times and realized it wasn't the job for her. I am happy this act exists in the world today because it gives everyone a chance at equality and everyone deserves to try anything they put their hearts and minds to.

Honestly I am not sure how frequent incidents like the one that occurred at Papa John's happen in today's world, but I assume this isn't the first time someone with down syndrome has been discriminated against in a work environment. After reading the article "Suit Accuses Papa John's Of Violating ADA" by Shaun Heasley, I was upset to learn that Scott was fired from his job because he needed the assistance of a job coach. I believe if Scott was doing his job correctly he shouldn't be discriminated against if he needs extra help from a job coach. This coach gives him an equal opportunity that is promised by ADA and he should be able to exercise his rights. One statement that I completely agree with from the article states, "Many disabled persons are qualified, ready and willing to work. All they need is an equal opportunity. Job coaches are one form of reasonable accommodation that allows employees with intellectual disabilities to be able to work." Papa John's should be ashamed that this occurred under their brand and I hope everything works out for Scott.

#### **Blog of 10/14/14**

Today Dana brought her camera with her to class. She showed me some really nice pictures that included a vacation with her family, pictures of her three dogs, and pictures with her friends and mentor from AHRC. We decided to upload the pictures onto the computer and we went through them to find some we can add to our power point presentation. We were able to accomplish two slides today and also went down to Starbucks to get some coffee. She introduced me to her friend Kristin, who also gave an inspirational presentation on self-advocacy during today's class. Kristin is the reason why Dana decided to join this program with Pace University after telling Dana about her experience. After Dana and I got back from our coffee break I surprised Dana with the selfies we took last week. She was excited to have a picture of us so she could show her family who I am. We also began taking funny selfies with our drinks. Next week we plan on going to a park with the other students from the Staten Island AHRC. So far its been great getting to know Dana :) !

#### **Critique of 10/14/14**

It is hard to compare and contrast actors with disabilities and actors who don't have disabilities, but are playing a role of someone with disabilities because I cannot think of a movie where this is true, but after reading the article "TV Networks Featuring More Characters With Disabilities" by Shaun Heasley I am glad to be informed that the number of characters with disabilities appearing on broadcast television is on the rise. I am also happy to see that one of my favorite shows, Grey's Anatomy, is expected to gain characters with disabilities played by those who actually have the disability being written about in the storyline. In the article we learn that when actors who have roles of individuals with disabilities, but do not have the actual disability it actually "reduces the accuracy and authenticity of the characters and the stories." I believe this is true because all the acting classes in the world cannot truly help a person transform into the mindset and body of someone with a real disability. I also believe that if a disability is being written into a storyline it should be played by an individual with that disability because they deserve the chance to be starred in a television show or movie covered by their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Blog of 10/28/14**

Today Dana and I worked on one slide of the slideshow presentation. We decided together to work on one slide and then spend the rest of the class time bonding outside because it was a beautiful day out. I was happy to see Dana's improvement with PowerPoint. Today she was able to do mostly everything on her own. The only thing I helped her with today was spelling a few words. It's a great feeling knowing I have been successful in teaching her how to use the software. When we were done with the slide our first stop was to Dunkin Donuts because she loves coffee. After we sat outside and shared some stories with each other. We decided to take some cool selfies so we could have a lot to choose from for the buddy selfie submission contest. Our goal is to have the best one so we could win a prize. As a surprise I decided to take Dana to the Pace Bookstore and let her look around and pick out something so she could remember her time at Pace and the class. She was very happy because she said she always wanted something with a college name on it and she was excited to show it off to her friends at home. Next week we decided to spend more time on the project since we didn't work on it too much today. I hope her growth continues!

### **Critique of 10/28/14**

To Siri, With Love by Judith Newman was definitely an interesting read. I never really thought of Siri as the article portrays it to be. It was fascinating to see how a relationship with Siri could influence someone who doesn't pick up on social cues, encourage polite language, provide a nonjudgmental friend and teacher, and establish valuable lessons in etiquette. With regards to my partner I don't think Siri would be an inspiration. My main reason for this is because she does not have any apple products, therefore Siri might scare her a little. I remember the first day of class she told me the computer scares her because she doesn't know how to use it. However, if introduced in a slow manner I think Siri could be beneficial to Dana in some ways. Dana tells me sometimes when she's home alone and bored she talks to her dogs. If she had Siri she could talk to her and Siri could provide Dana with a nonjudgmental friend and teacher.

### **Blog of 11/4/14**

Today Dana and I worked on two slides of our project. I was so proud of her because she didn't need my help at all. She remembered how to add a slide, change the color of some words, add bullets and insert some pictures. We even decided to add a video into the PowerPoint of her favorite song. She is so excited to share her PowerPoint with the class. By the time we finished up there was an hour left to spare so we decided to take a walk around Pace and got some Starbucks. We drank our coffee outside because the weather was awesome today. Dana had a long weekend so she was extra tired today, but we still had a great time together. She told me about her new Job that she is starting this weekend. I hope she likes this job better than her last job at CVS. I am excited to hear how her first day goes next week. When we got back to the class one of Dana's friends from AHRC, who is also from Staten Island, was alone because her partner had to leave early so she joined our group for the remaining 10 minutes of class. We spent the whole time taking selfies and laughing, which they really enjoyed.

### **Critique of 11/4/14**

I thought the article "Accidental Genus" by Darold Treffert was very interesting. I never heard of acquired savant syndrome before and I found it quite fascinating to learn about. I think anyone can unleash buried brilliance with a little help from the people around him or her. If I had to choose a hidden talent for my partner from AHRC New York City Adult Day Services I think it might be her artistic side. She loves to take pictures and to sing along to country songs. When I First met Dana she was very reserved. She slowly started opening up to me and told me about her secret love for singing to country music. Throughout the semester I have been trying to elevate her hidden talent by embracing it and playing her favorite songs. The joy that comes over her face once the song starts is priceless. More of her artistic abilities became apparent while teaching her how to use PowerPoint. Each slide is carefully put together with pictures that she has taken and each slide is decorated with all sorts of different colors. Whenever something doesn't look right she is eager to fix it right away. I hope that after this class Dana continues to show off her artistic side with her hidden talents of singing along to country and taking awesome pictures.

## **Blog of 11/25/14**

Today Dana and I officially finished the project. It really came together quite nicely. Dana is excited to share it with the class so they can all get to know a little about who she is and what she likes. Dana came into class a little down today because of issues she had at work. However, I did my best to make her feel better by making her laugh. I treated her to some Starbucks, which has become our usual activity after completing the work we had for the day. In the beginning of class we voted for who took the best selfie so we rushed back to class to find out the results. Dana was definitely a little bummed that we didn't win, but she thought everyone had great funny selfies. I am in total shock that this class only meets one more time before the big presentation. I can't believe how fast time has flown by this semester!

## **Critique of 11/25/14**

I had no knowledge of the T-4 Program so I gathered information from a bunch of different websites that I found through the Google search engine. When researching the amount of people with disabilities affected by the T-4 Program it ranged from death tolls starting roughly at 70,000 and went as high as 250,000 individuals. Germany's major response to the T-4 program came from the Catholic Church and a few doctors. However, there was not a strong global response to the T-4 program because Hitler and those in charge took extraordinary measures to keep this program a secret. Even after Hitler ordered a halt to the program medical professionals and healthcare workers resumed the killings. I don't believe something like this could happen in 2014. There are a lot more advocates who would shut something like this down within hours, including programs like the AHRC. In the 1940s people were not educated enough to help stop this behavior. Plus Hitler was a feared man back in those days.

## **Blog of 12/2/14**

Wow I can't get over the fact that today was the last official class with Dana. It has been a great semester and I am so grateful to have her as my partner. Even though we finished the PowerPoint Presentation last class we decided to add some more minor things to the project. On Google Dana wanted to search her dad's fire department to see if we could find a picture of the front to add to one of her slides. We were surprised to see there were actual pictures of Dana's Dad along with the other firefighters from his department. The smile on Dana's face was ear to ear because she loves her dad so much. She kept shouting "Look that my Dad this is soo cool!!" When we officially finished I took Dana to the computer lab on the second floor to print out the presentation so she can practice it at home. She confessed to me she was a little nervous to present it to the whole class because her reading isn't so great, but I assured her that I would be standing next to her the whole time and if she needed help I would be there to help her. This set her at ease. I know she's going to do just fine!

## **Critique of 12/2/14**

Dear United States Congress,

My name is Talin Dursunian and I am a former senior at Pace University. This semester my class paired up with the AHRC and I had the pleasure of being partnered with an amazing individual with a disability. I applaud all the hard work the United Nations Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has done to ensure the rights of those with disabilities. Because of treaties like these my partner Dana is given rights and a number of different opportunities she would not have if she had been born 10 years ago. One of these opportunities is the ability to work. It is stated " States parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labor market an work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities." This is so important to Dana as she is searching for the perfect job for her. So far she has worked at CVS and a local Bowling Alley and they were both positive experiences where she was able to learn new things and feel great about herself. I hope you continue to do everything in your power to improve the rights and opportunities for those with disabilities worldwide because they deserve the same rights as you and I.

Thank you for your time.

## Blog (on Presentations) of 12/16/14

Today was the day of presentations. When I first saw Dana I could tell by the look on her face she was sooooo nervous. She told me she didn't realize there would be so many people in the room and all the attention would be on her, but when I spoke to her I was able to calm her down and assure her that everything will go smoothly. Since it was the last class and close to Christmas I decided to get Dana a gift. I created a photo book with every selfie we took this semester so she could keep them for herself. She loved it and she told me she couldn't wait to show it off to her family. Everyone's presentation today was unique and awesome. I enjoyed the talent of each AHRC member as they got up to present their projects. I was so proud of Dana after she presented her project. She read each slide perfectly and it came together great. I am really going to miss being around her every Tuesday, but we already made plans to get together soon since the class is over. 😊

### My Project at AHRC New York City

Dana decided for her project she wanted to create something to show people her world. Together we brainstormed ideas and decided to make a PowerPoint Presentation. In the presentation Dana describes all the things that she believes best describes her world. In each slide we attached pictures she has taken before and throughout the semester. We even added a slide describing her future dreams so hopefully one day she can go back to the PowerPoint and add new slides once she accomplishes them. She is really excited to share her world with the whole class.

### Sneak Peak of Dana's Powerpoint



### View My Technology

For technology we used Microsoft PowerPoint. We also used the internet. I taught Dana how to search things on Google and YouTube. She was super excited learning these new things and hopefully she can continue to explore them once the class is over.

### My Mid-Term Reflection Journal on [Book] Miracle Boy and on My Project

#### Miracle Boy Reflection Essay

*Miracle Boy Grows Up* by Ben Mattlin is an inspirational read for every kind of individual. Not only does it provide the reader with an interesting insight into a world of someone with disabilities, but it also educates the reader on the increase of rights given to those with disabilities from the 60's all the way to around the year 2006. Ben Mattlin's memoir brings us on a journey of his life starting from early



adolescence and leads us into his adulthood life. Ben was born with spinal muscular atrophy, but he didn't let this disability define him. He lives his life to the best of his ability and lets very few things stand in his way.

An important figure in Ben's life was his mother. "Look out for yourself; Don't wait for a handout; step up to the plate, Speak up; Don't be shy; Ask for what you need; People aren't mind readers; You've got to speak up; Light a candle instead of cursing the darkness," are a list of phrases she instilled in Ben throughout his early adolescence, which he carried with him throughout his life. He was also brought up to "keep moving forward, never to pause for pity. Pity is useless, the enemy of self-esteem and industry." All of these positive vibes from his mother kept Ben moving day to day and helped him gain self-confidence in believing he could be anything he wanted to be when he grows up, and that he did. Ben graduated from an Ivy League school Harvard with cum laude rankings and a degree in writing. He grew up not to be a fireman like presented in the full page magazine ad, but a NPR commentator and frequent contributor to many financial magazines. He has also written his own memoir, articles on disability and other topics that have been published in prestigious newspapers and magazines including the New York Times, and he has appeared on numerous well-known television channels and programs.

Throughout Ben's life he has had many daily attendants come and go, but one in particular stood out above the others. Austin who was also his first camp counselor introduced Ben to Orthodox Judaism. After learning about Orthodox Judaism and comparing it to his Reform version of Judaism he decides the structure and rules are something he wants to follow. He soon vows to keep kosher. In his mothers final days Ben recites a passage from the Torah to her, which later turn out to be his last words. He was satisfied with this and he couldn't think of a better goodbye. Austin ends up sending Ben a book about Jewish mourning customs. I thought it was nice Austin was able to influence Ben's life not only as a friend but spiritually as well.

One thing that surprised me in this memoir was the fact that Ben did not want to be associated with other disabled children. He believed he was not like them. Growing up his parents kept him isolated from other handicapped children and even when asked if he wanted to be in programs with other handicapped children he always said no. Except for the time when he attended summer camp, however this was because he was sick of staying home all summer, while his brother was up at his summer camp. In the book he describes other handicapped kids as being "spastic, talk funny, and drool."

After Ben's long life of rejection with girls it was refreshing to learn about his relationship with ML, that blossomed into a beautiful partnership. After hearing the line "I've never thought of you that way" time after time it really takes a toll on people, but Ben never gave up. The memoir ends with Ben saying, "ML and I are both growing older, more fragile. Yet whatever happens, I know we're a good team. Deep in my osteoporotic bones and atrophied muscles I feel we were designed for each other. We keep planning, mourning what's lost, celebrate what's gained, and then going on. That's just the way out lives are. Try not to be too jealous." However, I am jealous. I hope to one-day meet someone who stimulates me in the ways ML has stimulated Ben and vice-versa. They now have a beautiful family that include two daughters and live life the best they can.

After reading this memoir I can think of some similarities between Ben and my partner Dana. Although they both have different disabilities and Dana is not confined to a wheel chair, she is head strong just like Ben. I see this trait in Dana week by week working on our PowerPoint project together. When we first started using the computer Dana warned me that she is very bad with computers and sometimes is even afraid of them. However, she told me her mom says she can do anything she puts her mind to. When reading how inspirational Ben's mother was in his life it made me think of the moment Dana referred to her mother. Today in our third week of the project Dana can now add information to slides, pictures, color, add bullets and change the different font sizes with little help from me and she is so proud of herself. I've seen such a great improvement from the first week.

Just like Austin inspired Ben, Dana has also been inspired by one of her attendants from the AHRC. Although it was not spiritually Dana said her attendant helped her stay in her classes during college and inspired her to read and write better. Dana told me one day she wishes she could help people in the future like the way her attendant has helped her. Not only did her attendant become her mentor but she has also become one of Dana's closest friends.

Although Dana has not graduated yet and isn't attending classes at Harvard I believe she is on the right path to create the best life she can for herself. When I asked Dana what her dreams were she shared with me her dream in becoming a kindergarten teacher one day and I believe she can do it. She had a job at CVS, but decided she did not want to limit herself to the work she was doing because she knows she has more potential than to be restocking shelves. I believe the future for Dana is bright just like Ben's future was.

I would definitely recommend this book to my peers and others who would like to learn about a life with a disability and how the disabilities rights movement progressed over the years. Ben Mattlin is an inspiration to us all. This book has inspired me in many ways and I am glad it was a requirement for this course. The phrases said by Ben's mother should be the motto for all of our lives and most importantly what I will take away from this book is to never give up no matter how hard the situation may be.

### **My Final Reflection Journal on My Project**

Wow where do I even begin! I feel like my emotions during this semester have been on a never-ending rollercoaster. I walked into this class not knowing what I was getting myself into. The description of the course is Computer Information Systems: Web Design for Non-Profit. Here I thought we would help make a website for a Non-Profit organization, but boy was I wrong. I remember leaving the first class so confused. I had no knowledge of the AHRC and learning that we would be paired with partners for the whole semester scared me. I have never worked with or really been around an individual with disabilities before and didn't know what to expect. However, after going home and thinking it over I came to the conclusion that I needed to go into this class with an open mind.

I remember the first moment when we were being introduced to our partners. Dana's AHRC group was running late because they missed the ferry from Staten Island. I was watching everyone get matched up and I was sitting there so nervous hoping I would be paired with someone who would like me. When Dana finally arrived my nerves were at ease because I could sense we would get along just fine. She was so open with me and it helped me be open with her. We share so many of the same interests, which include our love for dogs, coffee, photography and so much more. Week by week our relationship grew stronger and stronger. I loved showing Dana the college experience. Although we couldn't travel much because she only had one staff member with three people to look after, I brought her all around Pace. Her favorite place was the Starbucks in the Cafeteria because of the coffee and we pretty much escaped there every class to get a yummy refreshment.

Right from the start Dana was great to work with, which made this class so enjoyable. She was so eager to learn and it would always brighten up my day to see her smile after accomplishing something she never thought she could do. One of the first things Dana shared with me was her fear of the computer, but together I showed her that the computer isn't so scary and that she could accomplish many things by using it. She told me she never goes on the computer at her house, but hopefully after this semester she will become more open to using it. One of the first things I taught Dana was how to use YouTube to find her favorite songs. It was cool because while showing her how to use YouTube I was able to find out her favorite music and songs. Later in the semester after we finished our project I showed Dana how to use Google. I think this was one of my favorite things of the semester because of Dana's reactions. She thought it was so cool that we were able to search her dad on Google and actually pull up pictures of him and his firehouse.

I am so proud of Dana and how far she has come with the computer. When we decided to work on a PowerPoint Presentation she told me she never in a million years thought she would ever make one. She was familiar with what a Power Presentation was because she has seen them when she went to a couple classes in CSI, but she never worked with the program before. In the beginning she was hesitant in holding the mouse, but after the first week I made her do everything with me guiding her with instructions. By the end of the semester she was doing everything without me even saying a word. She was able to insert word boxes, pictures, bullets, new slides, and also how to change the font color and sizes. It was so impressive because she picked it up so quickly. I remember it took me forever to remember where things went when I first started using PowerPoint.

Aside from the fun stuff I feel like I am taking away so much knowledge from this semester. The weekly critiques on stories from the disability scoop website and the simple interactions with Dana including hearing her stories about her day to day life has opened up

my eyes to so much. Before this class I had little to no knowledge about different non-profit organizations, the rights of those with disabilities that are included in The American with Disabilities Act (ADA), the discrimination and bullying people with disabilities endure on the streets, school and/or workplace, and the impact technology has on those with disabilities. After being in this class I am more interested in learning about the improvements our society has made for those with disabilities. Knowing that there are ways Dana's life could be improved is important to me after becoming her friend this semester. One thing that I will take away from this course is to have respect for everyone, no matter who they are whether they have a disability or not. Everyone deserves the chance to live and be respected in his or her own environment. I believe this course has helped me grow as an individual and I couldn't be happier that I stayed in this class. Dana has changed my life for the better and I couldn't be more grateful for this experience. I will definitely be recommending this course to my other friends at Pace.

#### **My Other Service During or Since the Semester - What I Have Been Doing in Service**

Other service I participated in during the semester was with my church. We visited the New York Armenian Home and spent time with the elderly patients who live there. It was a great experience. We sang and played songs for them, the guys played card games, and we painted a few ladies nails. It was a rewarding experience hearing their life stories and putting smiles on their faces. I also participated in a spin-a-thon to raise money for a special needs school in Gavar, Armenia. We raised enough money to help build an elevator so the second floor can become accessible for those in wheel chairs.

#### **My Certificate of Service Learning Participation**

