

Kids make Valentine cards for senior citizens

Stanton youth trek to Rowntree Gardens; elders delighted

By Loreen Berlin

Rowntree Gardens, a Quaker Garden Senior Community in Stanton, held a special Valentine's event this year. Youth from the Boys and Girls Club of Stanton gathered at the club's facility to hand-make Valentine cards for the seniors.

This was a two-part process.

First, the kids cut, pasted and wrote cheerful greetings in the club's craft room, while enjoying cookies furnished by Rowntree.

Then, on Wednesday, Feb. 15, a dozen of the club's young people converged on Rowntree Gardens, via a special bus-trip, to deliver their greetings in person. The event was held in the afternoon, so students would be out of school and could participate.

Faces lit up as the senior citizen

residents realized the sixth graders had made a special trek to personally hand each Rowntree resident a colorful Valentine card made with love and care.

Public Relations Manager Jolene Campbell said they partnered with not only the Boys & Girls Club of Stanton, but with some local schools and organizations to make the Valentine greetings.

Other schools and organizations helping to make the 175 Valentine cards were the Stanton After School Program, Harry Bridges Span School, Lawrence Elementary and Walter Intermediate School.

Rowntree was decorated with a Valentine's Day theme and festive cupcakes, lemonade and ice tea

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Photo by Loreen Berlin

A boy from the Boys & Girls Club of Stanton delivers a hand-made Valentine's Day card to a senior at Rowntree Gardens in Stanton. Looks like he made her day, doesn't it?



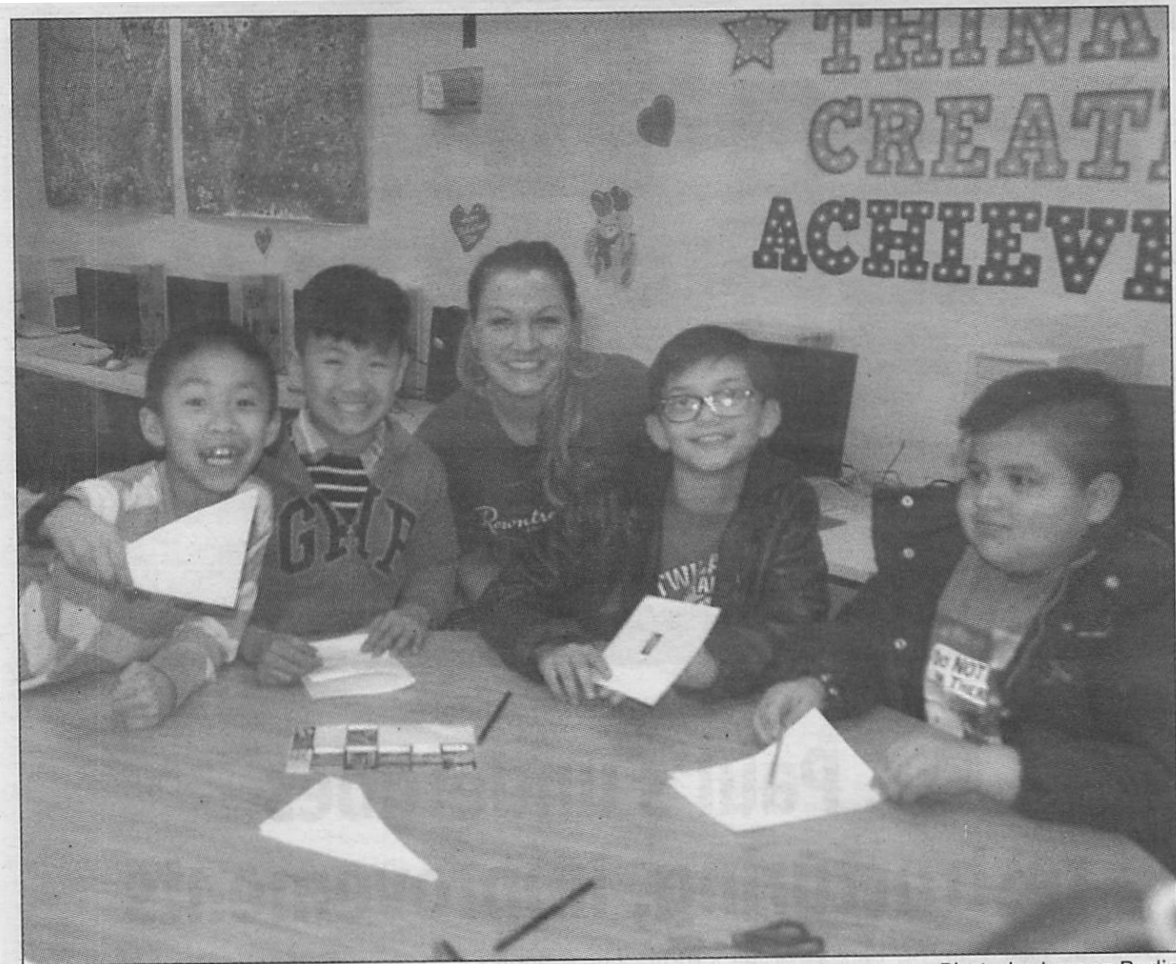


Photo by Loreen Berlin

Rowntree Gardens PR Manager Jolene Campbell helps boys from the Boys & Girls Club of Stanton make Valentine's cards for seniors at Rowntree.



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were served to the seniors and students.

"Everyone seems to have a wonderful time at these type of events and we always have a great turnout," said Campbell.

One couple, married for 62 years, said they met at a roller skating party organized by their church. The husband said his friend pointed out a "cute blonde" at the other end of the rink and so he quickly skated over to be first to ask her out on a date.

She had just moved west and was uprooted during her high school days and not happy about it. However, she said her mood improved when she met her future husband that night and, "They've been merrily rolling

along ever since."

Another couple, married 58 years, said they met at a bachelor and bachelorette square dance that he organized for the purpose of "meeting girls." He, a seasoned WWII pilot, and she, someone who thought of flying one day herself said, "Our relationship took wing and I became a charter member of the Orange County Ninety-Nines, the local chapter of the International Organization of Women Pilots founded by Amelia Earhart in 1929."

Dancing made another couple realize they not only liked to dance, but also loved big-band music, singing in the church choir and each had a strong faith in God that has kept them together for 55 years.

Married for 28 years, this couple met while coordinating the social dancing program at Cal Poly,

San Luis Obispo. He wrote her a letter asking her help in keeping the school dance program going, which she was happy to do.

The next year, while waiting for a bus at the National Dance Alliance Convention, he noticed her name tag and thanked her for her earlier help.

She said, "All you owe me is a dance at the mixer tonight," and they're still waltzing through life together.

Tips from seasoned couples:

Be willing to forgive your spouse and yourself.

A good marriage is when there is one forgiver. A great marriage is when there are two forgivers.

When you make the positive choice to forgive and set aside negative emotions, your feelings follow your choices and happiness is in your future.

You can't agree on everything, but you need to agree on the main things. From the very beginning, agree how to raise children and handle finances (pay cash for everything you can).

Be honest and fair.

You don't always have to prove that you're "right," because you end up being "right" together.

