

# RITE NOW @ ROP



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Positive Youth Development research shows that children who participate in volunteer activities, such as talking with senior citizens, experience an increased sense of civic engagement, an enhanced motivation to learn, and a moral understanding of service.

Four Sierra Sage Academy students recently committed themselves to creating life stories for elderly residents of a local care home. The girls each interviewed one resident, gathering the details of their lives, then spent two weeks typing the story and creating scrapbooks to show the important moments of lives well lived. Each of the residents had unique stories for the students to capture: Jan was a celebrity hair stylist, Basil was a school principal who fought in the Korean war, Diane and Norma were proud of the children they'd raised and their triumph over adversity.

The students who participated in the project were struck by the life lessons -- "Always keep your smile," "Don't marry too young," -- and the many accomplishments of their partners in this project. The girls were delighted to read the "life stories" aloud to the men and women who had shared them.

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