

# YOUR LIFE

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## VOLUNTEERING

# Never too young to lend a hand

Submitted by DePaul

CANANDAIGUA — Josh Cole, 11, had just wrapped up his role as Leroy in the Canandaigua Middle School production of “Bugsy Malone” when he began seeking something else to fill his time after school. He searched the Internet and inquired about volunteering at a local hospital but was told he was too young.

In February, Josh made a call to Horizons, a DePaul Senior Living Community. A tour from Activities Director Curtis Sanger of

Horizons’ Canandaigua facility was all it took.

“This place looked like a happy place, so I came here,” Josh said.

National Volunteer Recognition Week, April 21-27, is a chance to give thanks for community members who dedicate time doing things like making crafts and playing games with residents. Volunteers come in all ages and from all walks of life — and Josh is the youngest volunteer to ever serve at Horizons.

In addition to making room visits, Josh is helping

with games like Wii bowling, hangman and shuffleboard as well as crafts.

“The residents are great because you can learn stuff from them and you find you have things in common,” he said.

The seniors have interesting stories to share, like the female resident who holds the record for catching the largest trout in Canandaigua Lake; or Josephine Mardis, who just loves to chat.

“She’s just got such a happy mood,” Josh said. “She makes you put a smile on your face.”



**Josh Cole, 11, of Canandaigua visits Josephine Mardis at Horizons, a DePaul Senior Living Community.**  
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Mardis enjoys Josh’s company just the same. “He’s very honest and intelligent, and I try to keep up with him. He’s bright as can be.”

“He’s bright, mannerly and sensible,” she said