

Volunteer Spotlight: Keshet 13

Keshet 13 participant, Andrew, and his grandfather, John, discuss the importance of volunteering.

Why did you choose to participate in the Keshet 13 program?

John - I got the information at the training & we all thought it would be interesting. Andrew has a great grandmother in a local nursing home and we thought it would make him feel more comfortable.

Andrew - I wanted to help out.

Tell me a little bit about what you did as a Keshet 13 volunteer?

Andrew - I helped elders with their prayers and boosted their faith.

John - We shared our time, learning of their experiences and making friends.

How did the residents react to having you there?

Andrew - They were happy to see someone my age because it makes them feel better to see someone younger.

John - Anita fell in love with Andrew.

What did you learn through this experience?

Andrew - Patience. Because I'm not really good at that.

John - Better understanding of & respect for elders.

Has it changed how you feel about visiting with your great-grandmother?

Andrew - Yes. Now I want to visit and it made me want to stay longer when we go.

Why is volunteering important?

John - It's a mitzvah to make others happier. Just think if the roles were reversed. You'd want someone to visit you. I really enjoyed visiting with Andrew, hearing their experiences and getting to know them. I'm almost one of them!

Andrew - It's pretty cool!

What would you tell people who are considering becoming a volunteer? How does it feel to be able to help someone?

Andrew - It's a fun experience to do things that make the elders happy. It also helps you learn the prayers. It makes you feel good.

What are your future volunteering plans?

Andrew - To go back and help with the services.

John - It's just a small piece of your life that you share that makes such a big difference.