

# CMP PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment Program

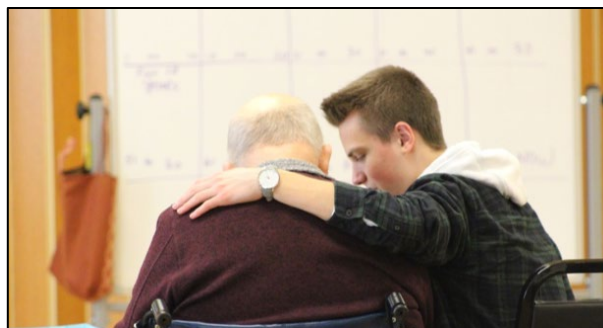
## CMP Project Enables Youth to Help Seniors Share Their Stories in “Write Your Life”

Park View Health Center in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, matched 16 of their residents with local high school and college students for an innovative program, “Write Your Life,” led by program founder Ibtisam Barakat. Over four days, Barakat facilitated engagement between nursing home residents and students through a workshop designed to engage participants with music, poetry, and art. Residents shared their memories with the students using mementos provided by the nursing home residents’ families. After their days together, the group reunited months later for a “book party,” where seniors were presented with a printed book of the memories they shared. Two project goals, according to Kathy Glander, Administrative Coordinator and one of the project leads, were to “provide a memorable impact in relationship building between young adults and our elderly and/or disabled residents, and to give our resident participants a means to share and preserve valued histories for their loved ones.”

*“I would say the thing I am most proud of is just seeing the residents come out of their shells. The pride they felt after sharing their stories. Just seeing the satisfaction and gratification of the residents was rewarding,” said Marleah Keuler Grahek, Administrator, Park View Health Center.*

## Celebrating Resident Life

Park View Health Center staff continue to use many of the methods they learned from Barakat to engage the residents at this 168-bed nursing home. The residents continue to benefit from the project: several maintain friendships with the students with whom they were partnered, one resident makes sure each of his visitors sees his completed book, and some residents continue to write more chapters about their lives.



Local high school students bonded with the residents during the workshop, and many have continued to volunteer at the nursing home.

### Project Details

**Focus:** Helping senior citizens record memories from their lives

**Project Duration:** 2017-18

**Project Funding:** \$7,500

**Funded Entity:** Park View Health Center, Wisconsin

**For more information:**

<http://www.ibtisambarakat.com/write-your-life.html>



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