

REACHING HIGHER: BLUE VALLEY CAPS PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH VILLAGE SHALOM

With the nursing demand higher than ever, training the next generation of caregivers is vital. Village Shalom has met this challenge by hosting certified nurse aide (CNA) students during their clinical training through the Blue Valley School's Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS).

The mission of the CAPS Program is to offer high school students in the Blue Valley School District a "collaboration of education, business and community, providing students with a unique, immersive experience, resulting in highly skilled, adaptable, global innovators and leaders." Launching in January 2014, the CAPS CNA program chose Village Shalom as its partner to fulfill the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) requirements in practical training. The CNA course, which is under the supervision of Johnson County Community College, is a total of 90 hours with a minimum 25 hour clinical training in a licensed adult care facility.

"Village Shalom is a model for person-centered care so it is an ideal learning environment for our students," said

Jennifer Bauer, Blue Valley Schools' Business Development Specialist. "They are learning to be their best, from the best."

During their clinical experience, CNA students learn best practices in caring for the senior adult population by shadowing Village Shalom's nursing staff. The benefits of this partnership bring more than community relations. Many students enjoy their experience at Village Shalom so much that they go on to join our staff.

"Village Shalom has been very creative in hiring our students," Bauer said. "Their PRN (per diem) program is perfectly suited for our students. They love being able to come home from college for breaks, or in the summer, and fall back into working at Village Shalom."

According to Bauer, CAPS helps many students who wish to go into the nursing or medical fields, as many programs require a CNA certification. As a first introduction to a healthcare work environment, Village Shalom stands out for many students.

"It speaks volumes Blue Valley chose our

campus to help train their CNAs," said Paige Wheeler, Village Shalom Vice President of Health Care Services. "We are honored many students begin their careers at Village Shalom after their training is complete."

The CAPS program partnership with Village Shalom extends beyond its CNA program. This past winter, CAPS participants taught CyberGenerations at Village Shalom, a series of workshops geared toward senior adults to educate them on password management, common internet threats and scams, fraud, and social media safety.

"The Blue Valley Schools CAPS program is such a fruitful partnership we hope it continues for many years to come," said Wheeler.



Clockwise from left: Blue Valley CAPS students often practice patient skills on each other in class; The students learned proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) procedures in their studies; CyberGenerations courses were presented to Village Shalom residents; A CNA student assists her partner in a mock patient exchange; The program provides hands-on training for students learning how to turn patients.

