

BLUE BELL'S YOUNGEST AND OLDEST GENERATIONS GET TOGETHER

For The Times Herald • December 6, 2011



Submitted Photo Bernice Williams, 82, a resident of Blue Bell Place, shares age-old traditions with Blue Bell youngsters during a pre-Thanksgiving visit to the Goddard School.

Eula Green's face lit up the moment she walked into her assigned classroom at The Goddard School® and spotted the 2-year old students wearing pilgrim hats and listening to a story about turkeys.

A great-grandmother, Eula has always loved children and was excited about visiting with the youngsters the week before Thanksgiving.

She was part of an enthusiastic group taking part in an intergenerational visit arranged by Blue Bell Place.

The assisted living and memory care community is located a short drive from the Goddard School in Blue Bell.

Upstairs, Eula's neighbor Penny Padworny played peek-a-boo while Bernice Williams danced with the 3-year-olds.

In the 4- and 5-year-olds' classroom, Teresa Stong and Phyllis Shisler were greeted with a chorus of "Remember me? Remember me? Remember me?" The same kids had attended a fashion show and trick or treated at Blue Bell Place last month.

"It was great to hear that the children remembered us as well as we remembered them," said Emily Cuff, who helped arrange the intergenerational events for residents of Blue Bell Place.

Once meal time arrived – dinosaur-shaped chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, corn, mashed potatoes, peas, apple juice boxes and frosted cookies for dessert – Penny adopted a motherly approach, advocating the importance of eating your vegetables.

"See, I am eating my corn, let's eat the corn together!" she encouraged.

Meanwhile, Bernice led her table in song.

When they found out her birthday had just passed, the children broke into a rousing rendition of the 'happy birthday' song and Bernice grinned ear to ear.

Before heading home to Blue Bell Place, the grateful visitors made a quick stop in the infant room, where all hearts melted, according to Cuff.

It was the perfect end note to the pre-Thanksgiving Day feast which united young and young-at-heart alike in age-old traditions.

"We can't wait for our next event with the Goddard School," Cuff said.