



*Valley Manor*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** April 17, 2018

**CONTACT:** Alison Miller, 546.8439 x3716 or 330.2923 (cell), [abmiller@EpiscopalSeniorLife.org](mailto:abmiller@EpiscopalSeniorLife.org)

## **SJFC STUDENTS AND LOCAL SENIORS HOST CAREER DAY FOR RCSD STUDENTS**

Senior residents from Valley Manor, along with students from St. John Fisher College (SJFC), hosted a “Career Day” for School #20 (Henry Lomb School) students today, Tuesday, April 17 at Valley Manor, 1570 East Avenue. The collaboration is the culmination of a semester long sociology class at SJFC, Helping Professions in Action.

Residents from Valley Manor, part of Episcopal SeniorLife Communities, and students from SJFC, worked together this semester through a structured curriculum that incorporated hands-on service learning. As part of their exploration of human services needs in the community, SJFC students partnered with seniors of Valley Manor to create an enriching program for students in the Rochester City School District. The team combined the philanthropy and non-profit experience of residents with the student’s knowledge of new approaches to social work in multicultural communities. They held a “Day at Fisher” for School #20 students to give them exposure to college possibilities, and this vocation day was an opportunity for them to learn about various professions in cosmetology, food service, library science, laundry and housekeeping, the medical field and security. This is the third year of the partnership but the first year of incorporating “Career Day”.

The partnership between Valley Manor and School #20 has been strong since 2005 and there are a number of Valley Manor seniors who serve as tutors, volunteering their time every week; some help with the parties each year (Breakfast with Santa and the End-of-the-Year celebration); others make generous donations to the school.

“Career Day at Valley Manor was a wonderful example of reciprocity and mutual benefit through service-learning,” said Lynn Donahue, Director of Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement at St. John Fisher College. “St. John Fisher students and Valley Manor residents together learned how to organize and run an event that provides the students of School #20, with assistance from the teachers, exposure to careers. It also is a great tie-in to the ‘Day at Fisher’

(Continued)

event as the children learn the link between college majors and careers. This project demonstrates the positive impact of intergenerational collaborations.”

“The residents here at Valley Manor truly value the partnership with SJFC and School #20, and were pleased to be able to support both groups of students in a variety of ways,” said Gail Reeves, Manager of Resident Services. “It was wonderful to see the students ask questions and participate in hands-on activities at the various vocation stations throughout the building. We truly enjoyed seeing the benefits of the first ever ‘Career Day’ as an addition to the annual end-of-year celebration.”

This partnership recently received the Reciprocity Award from SJFC at the Civic Engagement Awards Celebration which recognizes partnerships that are models of beneficial relationships among partners, faculty and students.

###

**Episcopal SeniorLife Communities has been helping older adults  
live life to the fullest since 1868.**

**About Episcopal SeniorLife Communities:**

Founded in 1868 through the generosity of the local Episcopal community, the original Episcopal Church Home has grown to provide a full range of highly regarded, not-for-profit, residential service for seniors known as Episcopal SeniorLife Communities. Our communities include: The Episcopal Church Home, The Center for Rehabilitation, River Edge Manor, Brentland Woods, Rockwood Center, Seabury Woods, Beatrice Place, Valley Manor and Pinehurst.

**Visit us on the Web:** [EpiscopalSeniorLife.org](http://EpiscopalSeniorLife.org)

**Check us out on:** Facebook ([facebook.com/EpiscopalSeniorLife](https://facebook.com/EpiscopalSeniorLife)), Twitter ([ESLC\\_Rochester](https://twitter.com/ESLC_Rochester)), Instagram ([ESLC\\_RochesterNY](https://instagram.com/ESLC_RochesterNY))