

GRAND FRIENDS PROGRAM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AT UVM

➤➤➤ PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The Center on Aging at UVM provide intergenerational and educational opportunities for students and older Vermonters. The Grand Friends' Program is an opportunity for older adults to meet with students, build relationships, wisdom, and ultimately increase socialization and knowledge for both parties. This upcoming Spring of 2024, each Grand Friend (GF) will be matched with 2 bachelor-level social work students in their junior year. Social work students will practice foundational skills that they will then integrate in their learnings into various assignments required for the completion of their class. Class title: Theory and Integration Preparation Seminar

➤➤➤ ROLES:

Grand Friends: offer valuable experiences, stories, and insights.

Social work students: learn to integrate social work values, approaches, skills, and practices, and build professional identity for senior year field practicum.

➤➤➤ MORE ON THE ASSIGNMENTS:

Two of the major course assignments ask students to demonstrate these skills and principles by recording themselves (one with videotaping and one with written verbatim recollection) in order to analyze their own practice.

The recordings are used to invite a deep examination of "self" as "social worker," and are also the conduit for developing the artful skill of giving and receiving constructive feedback.

➤➤➤ FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:

- Students and Grand Friends will meet 5 times over the course of the Spring semester. The very last meeting is an in-person celebration.
- Each meeting will follow a certain agenda, provided ahead of time
- Student and GF will meet both as a small group and individually
- Students will be responsible for coordinating the meetings with their GFs.

➤➤➤ FORMAT OF MEETINGS: IN PERSON OR ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

TESTIMONY:

“THIS CLASS...HAS CHANGED THE WAY I SEE MY PARENTS, MY GRANDPARENTS, AND AGING AS A WHOLE.”

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SPRING 2024 PROGRAM, EMAIL AGING@UVM.EDU WITH "GRAND FRIENDS" IN THE SUBJECT LINE