

CARMEN ARACE STUDENTS BECOME HISTORIANS WITH DUNCASTER RESIDENTS' HELP

BLOOMFIELD, CT. Mar. 7, 2008 -- Students from the Carmen Arace Intermediate School will become personal historians for some of Bloomfield's older adults on Monday, March 10 at 1:30 to 3:15 p.m. Twenty-three eighth-graders will build scrapbooks that will document the lives of ten Duncaster residents (and one participant from the Bloomfield community) as part of the "Ingenuity Grant" program.

Eighth-grade teacher Carol Mamlok created the project which she calls "Tell Me a Story." She describes the project this way: "Eighth grade students will collaborate with senior citizens from Bloomfield to create an oral history project...Students will have a first-hand opportunity to use senior citizens as a primary source for learning about such a sensitive and timely topic as tolerance. Reflecting on their own...personal experience, students will gain tremendous insight into the past of how people struggled with, dealt with and overcame obstacles based on their cultures."

This is the third visit the students have made to Duncaster as part of the "Tell Me a Story" project. Previously they met the residents and recorded their stories in notes and photos as part of their field research into their personal histories. On Monday they will work with a professional scrapbook instructor to put the information and photos they have been gathering into journals that will document their research.

Janet Lamenzo, Director of Duncaster's Resident Services, was intrigued by the project as soon as she heard about it and she's even more excited now that it is underway. "The residents have some very powerful stories to share, and are impressed with the students' enthusiasm and interest.. All of these young people have volunteered to participate in this project, which in itself is commendable. We are delighted to take part in this program - made possible by the Bloomfield Education Foundation."

About Duncaster

Duncaster is Bloomfield's signature life care retirement community. This campus of 190 independent residences, assisted living and the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center is designed to provide a lifestyle of security and fulfillment. Aquatic and fitness center activities, ongoing education and a myriad of social and cultural programs energize and enrich residents' lives. For more information, see www.duncaster.org or call (860) 380-5005.

