

RIVIER UNIVERSITY AND THE DAY CAFÉ

(From *Rivier Today*, Fall 2023)

STUDENT IMPACT



Isabella St. Laurent '24

My experiences at The Day Café taught me nursing skills that you can't receive from the classroom alone. It was a lot of personal connection, and it taught me about empathy and getting to know people that you would have

never otherwise connected with. One experience in particular was really impactful for me ... We were getting ready to do foot care, and I was partnered with a person who was going to be a challenge. As I was caring for that person, I realized I knew him. I used to work with him. That was really eye-opening, and it was a very odd coincidence that I would end up taking care of that person. It gave me a lot of perspective on caring for people — treating everybody the same no matter where they're at — and how important empathy is in your care, and not judging people based on what you see.

PATIENT IMPACT



John Blanchette at The Day Café

The first time I met the Rivier nursing students, I was at the Soup Kitchen; they had a health screening there. I said, 'I might as well go,' and I got my cholesterol, blood pressure, weight, and

A1C checked; it was good. I've had a good relationship with the nurses since then. I come here on Tuesdays, and I usually volunteer to have my feet taken care of but being a diabetic, I have to have a little extra treatment on my feet. It's nice when the nurses come; it's not even that they're necessarily doing foot care. Sometimes they're out there playing cards with us, learning how to play spades, and just talking to people and finding out how they're doing. It's the message of care, you know, 'we care about people.'