

Amazing Experiences with Young at Heart

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On April 3, 2003 I had the opportunity to participate in an amazing experience with some students with disabilities. Key Club sponsored a community service gathering called Young at Heart where senior citizens around the community came to interact with some of the high school students at Hopkins County Central. A select group of peer tutors and students with disabilities were asked to help out with the event. Who would have thought it would affect so many people?

Young at Heart was a blast! Watching the students with disabilities open up and communicate with other people made me realize how much of a regular life they can live if they are given the opportunity to do so. I saw the students in a totally new light outside of the classroom and outside of the daily math and reading work. They carried on conversations and worked at assisting everyone just like the peer tutors did.

Young at Heart not only helped the students with disabilities to interact with their peers and their community, but it helped me realize how incredible these students actually are. I honestly feel that I learned so much more from this experience than they did. I learned exactly how much they have to offer this world and how capable they are of doing things.

Hopefully this event also helped to impact the community's opinions on students with disabilities. I hope the senior citizens that took part in this experience gained a better understanding for people with disabilities and realized that they're people too.

I never would have thought a couple of hours would have impacted my life forever!