

KD polishes fingernails for residents

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Personal Care Center, Inc. in Mifflintown, which is a center for elderly, mentally handicapped adults and adults with mental health issues.

KD showed a strong interest in polishing nails, says one of her teachers, Angela Clark. So, for the past four months, KD has been polishing nails for the female residents at the center.

KD provides filing and polishing services on a monthly basis and also during special events at the center, usually for two hours at a time. Clark says these visits to the center take place during normal school hours.

"I just like doing nails," KD says.

Michelle M. Berry, administrative assistant at the center, says the residents really seem to enjoy her. Residents at the center also had many good things to say about KD.

"People really like it, they stand in line," resident Anna Schoen says.

Residents Dotti Bolger, Anna Snook, Marilyn Cargill and Rhetta Wright are some of the residents who've had their nails polished by KD. Wright, Snook and Cargill each say they prefer a color, such as red.

But resident Helen Lantzr prefers a little more. Lantzr says she allows KD to polish her nails with a sparkly color, something KD says she has been able to talk the residents into trying.

However, Bolger says she just has her nails polished with a clear polish.

"I don't want any of that fancy stuff," says Bolger.

Clark says as part of the preparations before starting at Berry's, KD was responsible for making a list and purchasing the needed supplies. Each time KD travels to the center her basket includes polishes, finger nail polish remover, cotton balls, lotions and filers.

Also included in the basket are several of KD's favorite polish colors, such as pink, purple and sparkly colors. KD

says she chooses the colors for the residents' nails based on their skin complexion and sometimes the color of their clothing.

While polishing residents' nails, KD says other residents often gather around to talk.

"They mainly talk to me about their families," she says.

In addition to gaining work experience, KD says she has gained a sense of time management, trust, responsibility and interpersonal skills.

KD says she has to manage her time because she could have up to 10 residents scheduled for her two-hour time at the center. She also is responsible for making up any missed schoolwork, Clark says.

A number of the residents have shown their appreciation by giving her trinkets and other items, KD says.

"One lady buys me nail polish from Bon-Ton," she says.

As far as plans for after high school, KD says she hasn't made up her mind yet. Clark says if KD were to decide on a career in cosmetology, a career and technology center offering that field of study could be an option.



KD brings a vast array nail polish for the ladies to choose their favorites.



KD polishes Isabella Yoder nails.



Sentinel photos by BUFFIE BOYER

KD Miller



"I just like doing nails."

— KD Miller

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