



---

## HONG GAINS REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE AT VALLEY HEALTH SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2020

Contact: Connie M. Castellano, Director of Community Relations and Fund Development

Tel. (315) 866-3330, ext. 2329 | ccastellano@valleyhealthservices.org

---

Herkimer, NY – Alexandria Hong, senior at Central Valley Academy, Ilion, has spent most of August 2020 gaining real-world career experience at Valley Health Services in the Activities Department. While many students may be enjoying their leisurely summer vacation, Hong’s priorities are engaging and making connections with residents through her daily visits.

Hong has been working alongside staff, providing one on one and/or group activities for residents, following social distancing protocol, in an effort to provide social interaction and alleviate feelings of loneliness. Hong’s impact has been the one-on-one visits, at a sensory level, with residents who are not able to have conventional recreation. For some residents, she introduces them to range of motion games. Additionally, Hong leads and/or calls Bingo, one of the residents’ favorite activities.

“Alexandria engages without hesitation with the residents,” states Kristen Lenaghan, Director of Activities and Adult Day Care. “She is bubbly and bright; the residents love seeing and visiting with her.”

Hong is working with Valley Health Services through a partnership with Herkimer County Summer Youth Employment, Working Solutions Career Center. Hong’s academic pursuit beyond high school is to attend MVCC for Nursing. “I want to be an RN,” says Hong. In her leisurely time, Hong enjoys drawing and outside activities such as running, swimming and hiking. Hong lives in Ilion with her mom, Karen Zhang, and her cat, Gucci.

#

