

# Speaking Russian with the Elderly

Russian is a language spoken all around the world. Through this service-learning experience, with the help of “Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly”, we were able to help elderly folks from:

Donetsk, Ukraine

Nikopol, Ukraine

Moscow, Russia

Minnesota

Detroit

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Aside from just speaking, our students helped in a multitude of ways:

- Translating basic word necessary for communication in English
- Playing board and card games and entertaining the Russian elderly
- Communicating with language isolated adults
- Teaching the elderly how to check their email and download apps

Our students volunteered for a total of:

50 HOURS

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Throughout this entire experience, many words of appreciation were left for our students:

- “[The student] was great to work with. [They did] a great job of answering the older adult’s questions while simultaneously engaging with everyone in an enthusiastic and friendly way. [They have] never been anything but positive while at the site.”
- [The student] always comes in with a smile and brings great energy to the program. [They are] great and always engaged.

**And while the rest of comments were all said in Russian, to summarize:**

- The students always cheered up the elderly upon arrival.
- The elderly were very grateful for the experience to talk to and befriend the students.
- The elderly were always eagerly awaiting the next session to continue their conversation with the students.