There is not a memory of a holiday, school play, sporting event – anything –that I have that doesn't prominently feature my Nanni. She is talented as much as she is kind; she was always there to help me with art and science projects for school when I became frustrated. She was always so calm, so graceful. But she *taught* while helping and she helped while teaching how to be kind. This is what I see at JSL every day. Residents helping each other in the ways they can.

I have the pleasure and honor to know many JSL residents who are friends of my Nanni. I call them "all my grandmas." They are all friends, and they take care of each other. They care for one another in simple, but important ways. One friend of Nanni's sets the table in the café for her friends while she waits to have lunch with them. Another friend simply helps another straighten out her walker. It's the small things that are so 'big,' so important.

Our incredible residents make me think of my own best friends. We may not have the years and life experience like the JSL residents, but we are learning from them all the time and consider ourselves blessed to be able to do so. It may be bringing a favorite snack or a special treat for my best friend's kids instead of helping with a walker. Inspired by Nanni and the other JSL residents I've met, I've learned that even the slightest kind gesture can be meeting someone's basic needs.

As I sit with my Nanni every Friday for lunch, I always remind myself to be present, to listen, and I love watching her with other residents. They pay attention to each other. There's plenty of eye contact, even between those whose eyes have gotten a bit cloudy. There's a soft, friendly touch on the shoulder or a hand, even if slightly shaky. They are *present*. They have lived such full lives and continue to live – to thrive - at JSL, taking care of each other, together.