



Arielle, 30, grew up in Pennsylvania and recently moved to Crown Heights, Brooklyn. She currently manages the Community Services for Public Health Solutions' Neighborhood WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program. Arielle joined Friendly Visiting NY in 2013 and continues to visit her current senior friend, Margolit.

Arielle's passion for seniors was clear and we knew she was a great fit for the program. "I was fortunate to be surrounded by grandparents and great-aunts and great-uncles growing up and have always loved working and volunteering with seniors since then. Some of my previous positions have including caretaking for a 96-year old lady in Washington, D.C. while in college and also at the Department of Aging for the Pittsburgh area before moving to NYC in 2013. When I moved to NYC for my job, I missed working with seniors, so I decided to volunteer!"

Arielle has been visiting Margolit for over a year now! The first visit was in September 2015, when she knew this would be someone she would truly enjoy spending time with. "From the beginning, we had a very nice rapport. I was very interested in learning about my senior (and her with me!), so we dove right into getting to know each other." Because Margolit is visually impaired, Arielle assists with reading documents, articles, or anything that may be hard for Margolit to see. The two also discuss politics, life lessons, and also try to squeeze in a Spanish lesson at every visit since they are both always trying to improve their Spanish! Arielle describes Margolit as a strong, independent woman who had faced a lot in her past. It is evident that these experiences have defined much of her outlook on life, which is important to take into consideration when visiting with her. "She is a very interesting woman with a breadth of experiences – from being a Holocaust survivor to a dedicated language teacher. She is a piano player, mother, and grandmother, and also multi-lingual."

When asked why she enjoyed volunteering so much Arielle expressed how she felt good about herself after helping those who needed it. In describing the importance of volunteering, Arielle said "it's a really rewarding way to spend your time! So many seniors just need people to socialize with regularly and the Friendly Visiting Program is a great way to connect them to people they may never have had the opportunity to socialize with. I can't stress enough the power of young people as companions for older adults—we have so much to learn from them and having some youthful energy in a room can really do a lot to bring excitement and joy to a senior. My senior loves getting my opinion on current events and always asks me to look up things on my "smart phone" for her!"

We are happy to be able to showcase Arielle's accomplishments and thank her for her commitment to Friendly Visiting NY and the frail elderly of our communities. This is a true example of the impact our program has on both seniors and volunteers.

