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During today’s clinical experience I continued to take blood pressure measurements of those in attendance at Grand Street Settlement. It was interesting to see how after several weeks many of the attendees were now familiar faces to me and vice versa. I witnessed the male and female that I wrote about last week telling their stories (extremely similar down to the details) to fellow classmates of mine, and it made me smile. I started to think about how the attention they were receiving from my classmates and I, as well as, from others working at the center were affecting them socially. It was hard not to think of how many of the older adults we were meeting and talking with are living alone and lonesome, how for many of these people the 10-15 minutes we spend with them discussing their blood pressure would be there sole interaction for the day. With that being said, I started to pay closer attention to their interactions with my classmates. I saw how many of the clients were chatty and excited to share information about their lives. However, I also took note of my classmates’ reactions to the interactions with the different clients they worked with and I am proud to be working alongside them. Each classmate that I observed was engaged and attentive. They were laughing and smiling and happy to be involved.

As nurses, we can often get caught up in the negative occurrences surrounding the profession, which will ultimately have an effect on our interactions with our patients and clients. It can be difficult to avoid, but I hope we each never lose sight of who we are and the responsibilities of our profession. Our patients and clients deserve to be treated as more than just numbers and diagnoses – they deserve to be treated as human beings, as I was glad to see my classmates doing just that.