**Eli Benitez**

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**SKILLS SUMMARY**

* 3+ years experience with assisting elderly clients in extended care facilities
* Quickly develop a caring, supportive relationship with clients of varying ages and stages of life
* Exhibit excellent judgment regarding clients, issues, and referral of appropriate services
* Creative thinker and excellent teacher with experience training peers and community members

**EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Arts, Social Work, May 2024**

*Southeastern Louisiana University*, Hammond, LA, GPA: 3.8

Related Coursework: Social Welfare Policy, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Social Aspects of Aging, Crisis Intervention, Marriage and Family Life

**RELATED EXPERIENCE**

**Volunteers of America, Hammond, LA, November 2021 – Present**

*Direct Support Professional*

* Work in partnership with 15-person team of healthcare professionals and use a person-centered approach to maximize the independence, well-being and choice of special needs elderly clients
* Effectively ensure patient safety by closely following organizations’ policies and procedures
* Coach clients to create and reach goals and improve quality of life
* Advocate for clients’ needs and best interests with empathy and compassion
* Maintain confidentiality and prepare reports using effective written communication to ensure proper documentation

**Southeastern Louisiana University Family Resource Project, Baton Rouge, LA, January 2020 – November 2020**

*Discovery Intern*

* Successfully maintained client portfolio of approximately 10 families from the Office of Community Services (OCS) and Families in Need of Services (FINS) through establishment of rapport and trust
* Collaborated with supervisor to teach approximately 7 parenting classes ensuring distribution of information through effective communication
* Built knowledge base through continuous research of articles, videos, and books on diversity and various methods for developing relationships with individuals from various cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds

**LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**Social Work Club, Hammond, LA, August 2021 – May 2022**

*President*

* Professionally facilitated and attended 10 bi-weekly meetings
* Actively recruited club members and appointed all 5 officer positions
* Oversaw fundraising efforts, with a team of four raising $300 in one semester
* Created and sent weekly emails to Correspondence Officer for distribution to club members

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

HOPE Scholarship Recipient, Presidential Scholar, Dean’s List

**CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Social Work Club**, *Member*, **August 2022 – Present**

**Hammond Nursing Home,** *Volunteer,* **May 2022 – August 2022**

**Habitat for Humanity**, *Volunteer*, J**uly 2019 – August 2019**