This past January, we were fortunate to welcome Boston College psychology and communication major Hanan Sjah to the Brookline Senior Center as part of her Clinical Fieldwork in Psychology class.

Over the past several months, Hanan became a valued member of the Senior Center team. She started by assisting at the Reception and Information & Resource Desks, where she answered calls and helped seniors sign up for services and programs. She also contributed to our SHOP program by making mid-year check-in calls to seniors, conversations that often turned into meaningful exchanges and connection. “Even simple questions led to stories and advice,” she shared.

Beyond her administrative support, Hanan actively participated in several of our programs and events. She observed various support groups, joined a social worker on a home visit, and even designed and led a creative craft and poetry session. Reflecting on that experience, Hanan said, “The seniors showed me how much I can learn from others’ experiences and what they create. Their curiosity and creativity were inspiring.”

During her one on one interactions with seniors, Hanan observed firsthand the importance of meeting people where they are. “I really appreciate some of the seniors’ humor and wit. I learned about their careers, life experiences - it has been great!” Hanan reflected.

Hanan graduated in May from Boston College with her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Communication. We are grateful for her thoughtfulness, enthusiasm, and creativity, and we wish her all the best in her next chapter!