

Listen

When an average person thinks of helping the elderly they would probably come up with some cliché idea such as helping an old lady cross the street, singing Christmas carols at a nursing home, or playing checkers. But is that really what the elderly want? Sure they think that it's a nice gesture but it's not what will really make them satisfied. So, what can a person do to really impact the life of the elderly? Simply put, make them immortal. And this is perhaps one of the easiest things to do.

Now there's a big difference between living forever and being immortal. No one lives forever. But there are many which have been immortalized. What a person wants more than anything is to be remembered when they are gone, for someone to know their story. So instead of singing to an older person or telling them about your life let them tell you about theirs.

People do things for the elderly all the time, but for the most time it's for selfish reasons. They want to be able to say that they helped the elderly and could almost care less what their actual reaction was, as long as they get their community service hours.

But it's the simplest things that someone can do that really would make an elderly person happy. Senior citizens are usually grouped together and do not see much of the younger generations. Therefore it is hard for them to have someone younger to talk to and to help them live on. If I were to impact the life of a senior citizen all I would have to do is listen. I would sit down and let them tell me the stories of their life and their childhood, their lessons learned and their hardships. Then I would tell these stories to my peers. Just from this I can make a person immortal.

A person can go but their story can always live on. They can be remembered and that's really what would make them happy. But just the stories are not what make a person immortal. It's the lessons that they teach. Any single lesson that I learned from them which sticks with me and affects my life will always help me remember. It's one of the best ways for a person to really have an impact on the world.

If I were an elderly person this is what I would want. I could care less about Christmas carols I've heard thousands of times over. What would really be on my mind is if I was going to be remembered. If anyone will know who I was 6 months after I passed. If what I did on this earth really had any effect at all. And by one person sitting down and just listening to what I had to say, my advice about the world, I would be happy. So that is what I would do to impact the life of the elderly.