Sign Martha and mike’s name to bottom of their write up

The first night I went to the N Street shelter with Kirsty for an overnight supervision. An overnight supervision is when volunteers come to the shelter to help the ladies with the night. The shelter allows the women to stay as long as they like, though they typically stay for six months to a year. The shelter is located on the floor above where we are staying in the hostel. At 9:00pm on Friday night we went upstairs where the manager of the night shift greeted us and took us into the office. She let us know about the rules and procedures and our responsibilities for the night. She then oriented us with the shelter and we met some of the ladies in the dining room. We chatted and watched part of a movie with them until about 10:00pm. At this time the manager locked the outside doors gave us the keys and left. For another hour we got things for the ladies as they needed them and spent some more time with them in the kitchen and dining area. At 11:00 we turned off the lights in the dining room and made sure the area was all clean and locked up. We then had to wait for two other ladies who were coming in late from work. We had to buzz and let them in since it was already locked for the night. In the morning, we had waking up the ladies at 7:00. Throughout the morning we made small talk with the ladies and got their medication for them as they needed it. By 9:00 they all needed to be out of the building so we could turn off the lights and lock everything up.

This was a great opportunity. All of the women were very friendly and in high spirits. As soon as we got there they started joking with us. We talked to different women about their crocheting, school days, what we came to Washington for, and the bracelet Kirsty wore. One of the women enjoyed dancing despite her broken foot and blasted music in the morning. Some of the women told us a little about their personal lives. One of the older ladies explained to us how she had to deal with inflated prices for her medication. Another lady told us how she tried to keep positive despite a stressful job at the airport. Another woman had come from an event where she was recognized for her poetry. All the women were interesting and so friendly to us. It was a comfortable and peaceful night and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Gianina Galatro