Elijah had trouble focusing in class and completing his work without distraction. When he was encouraged to work harder, he would respond with, “I don’t care if I get my work done, so why should I do it?”

No matter the encouragement he received, he did not care. Elijah’s City Year volunteer decided to encourage him with walks outside, if he had completed his work that day.

While originally a reward and a way for Elijah to expel energy, it turned into a great way for the two of them to get to know each other’s.

They learned of each other’s shared interest in writing which sparked many discussions about the stories Elijah liked to write. However, Elijah was still not interested in writing when it came to the classroom, as he did not like to complete the class’ writing prompt.

Eventually, Elijah’s City Year volunteer decided to create a writing notebook for him, a place for him to explore his creativity once he turned in his in-class assignments.

Since then, Elijah’s teacher has seen him excel when it comes to completing his assignments because he is excited to continue writing.

“Helping a student discover passion for something and rediscover a love for learning, as well as stay on track academically, will only help set him up for continued school and life success.”

- City Year Volunteer

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community.

Learn more at www.graniteuw.org.