

# Service Learning to Enhance the Curriculum for Nursing Students

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# Importance of Nursing in the Community

**Over the past decade, the healthcare landscape has changed drastically**

**Major changes in many of the available public health services**

**Closing of rural hospitals (43 since early 2010 )**

**Fewer hospital admissions, shorter stays.**

**The homeless population continues to grow**

**These changes call for more creativity in service learning**

**Our students need to be comfortable promoting health in multiple settings**

# Service Learning in the Community

Most nursing specialties should be involved in some aspect of the community.

Community Health Nursing focuses on health care to promote quality of life and health care of communities and populations and is a great fit for service learning.

Service learning also provides opportunity for cultural immersion and value clarification..

# Getting started

Faculty need to make initial connections in the community:

- Reach out to community leaders and healthcare professionals to identify a population group or aggregate.
- Identify gatekeepers and key informants
- Successful community selection depends on:

Accessibility & Openness

Established partnership



# Partnering with the Community

- Service learning is a partnership.
- Focus on the mutual benefits for your students and the community
- Community aggregates can be any age: Church Preschool, Head Start, Schools, After school program, Senior centers, Groups addressing special needs in the community



# Community Assessment Assignment

- **Windshield Survey** (data collection while driving through the community)
- **Analyze existing data** (public documents, health surveys, statistical data, health records)
- **Interview key informants**
- **Develop a problem/need list**
- **Work with faculty and group leaders to determine the service learning intervention**

# Community Characteristics

(Sample Windshield Survey)

**Library**

**City Hall**

**Police  
Department**

**Fire department**

**Train Station**

**Bank**

**Weekly News**

**“Moon’s Home  
Medical” Store**

**Apple Festival**

**Dot’s Soup  
Kitchen**

**United Methodist  
Church**

**Baptist Church**

**Ingles**

**Hardee’s**

**Subway**

# Childhood Obesity



- Following community interviews & assessment, we identified childhood obesity as the largest growing health concern.
- With a fallen economy in this rural town, many mothers are working full time. After work, they pick up fried foods for their children, or quickly cook unhealthy foods at home.



# Plan for Sustainability



1. Recipes sheets
2. Pamphlet on healthy choices at fast food restaurants
3. Shopping Guide on coupons and sales
4. Price Analysis of homemade versus restaurant foods

# Service Learning Project

*In order to attract people to our event, we sent flyers to the town library.*

*We advertised free food, healthy kid-friendly recipes, information on healthy eating habits and lifestyle choices.*



# Head Start



*I look forward to scheduling vision/hearing screening and physicals for our children ... know your services are greatly needed. DB, RN, BSN  
SHARE Head Start*

## Junior level Health Promotion Class

*“I really enjoyed doing the community project. This project helped me to solidify my confidence in what I have learned thus far in nursing. It was also a great opportunity to apply what we have learned in the community and interact with people outside ...the University.”*



# Health Fair



*“I loved the opportunity to brainstorm with the school administration over needs identified by students and faculty. It was very neat to brainstorm, come up with ideas then put them into action, and know that we could be saving lives.” Nursing student*

*“Thank you for your support of our wellness fair again this year. The students did a great job. [We need to value our health.] Everyone learned something, even me. Clemson nursing students are a blessing!” Bishop M.A., Holy Ground Church*

# Recent service learning projects

## Project

Basic hand washing, hygiene & first aid

Sex education

Development of health education tools

Auto safety, school wide assembly focused on risk behaviors: texting, alcohol, lack of seat belts

Promotion of Breast feeding

## Population

International group in Bahamas

Special needs group

Crisis Pregnancy Center

High school with 6 auto deaths prior year

Local mall with community partners

# Head Start



*I look forward to scheduling vision/hearing screening and physicals for our children ... know your services are greatly needed. DB, RN, BSN  
SHARE Head Start*

# Commitment to Service

Clemson University School of Nursing is committed to the goal of developing nurses who are educated to provide nursing care that improves the health and quality of life for people locally, nationally and internationally.

To provide this care, students are **taught how to go to the client's** environment and work with other health care team members to provide holistic health care.

JG, Senior Lecturer



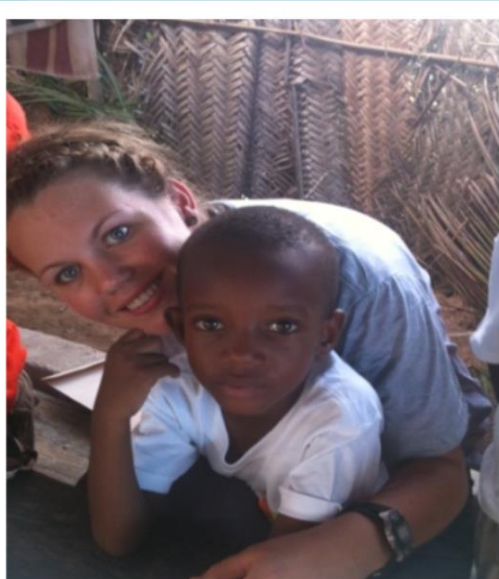


Additional preparation may be required, here simulation enhances cultural competence



Scenarios addressed cultural issues among the Amish, Hindu, and a homeless Latino.

Nursing students, (undergraduate & graduate) pose with faculty & hosts before leaving Dominican Republic.  
Clemson Nursing faculty also take students to Guatemala and the Bahamas



**International Service Learning**

# Evaluation

Student report should include  
Project evaluation by recipients,  
key informants  
student experience  
what went well  
how experience could be improved  
# served  
follow up



Faculty reflection on experience including  
evaluation of student performance,  
ways to improve experience

# **Integrating service learning for Accelerated 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Nursing Students**

**Nursing has a long history of working with  
communities to improve health**

**We wanted our students to embrace the  
concepts of advocacy and social  
responsibility early in their education**

# **Service learning for Accelerated 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Nursing Students**

**In our Accelerated Second Degree Nursing program we implemented service learning in their first semester.**

**This was a win-win because it met course objectives related to advocacy, social responsibility, and self-care.**

**We partnered with Momentum Bike Clubs to provide this opportunity for middle school aged girls living in an underserved community**

# Momentum Bike Club Director, David Taylor, facilitated introductions with key community leaders



**Pastor Darian Blue, local community leader, was instrumental in the success of our GIRL POWER group. His support in the local community helped us work successfully with the community.**



**“I was definitely a little bit nervous. What if we couldn’t find any girls to join? Would the girls like us and feel like they could talk to us? However, after talking to Pastor Blue and getting our 1<sup>st</sup> girl to join, I knew this bike club was going to be a success.”**





**Girls who commit to ride for one year are able to earn their bikes! Many of these kids remain active and continue cycling.**



**Our male nursing students were given the opportunity to ride with groups that were not exclusively girls. One of our students, an experienced cyclist, chose to ride with the challenge group**

**“There are many social barriers between the various communities in Greenville. People tend to want to spend time with people that share their interests, affiliations, and socioeconomic status. Momentum Bike Club-by its very nature-helps to break down those barriers. This club showed me that I have as much or more to learn from the middle school aged riders as they do from me.”**



# Student Comments

“Many of the girls have very different upbringings than I had, but it has taught me to appreciate every walk of life. Regardless of how we are raised, everyone wants to be loved and choosing to love despite the differences has been life changing.”

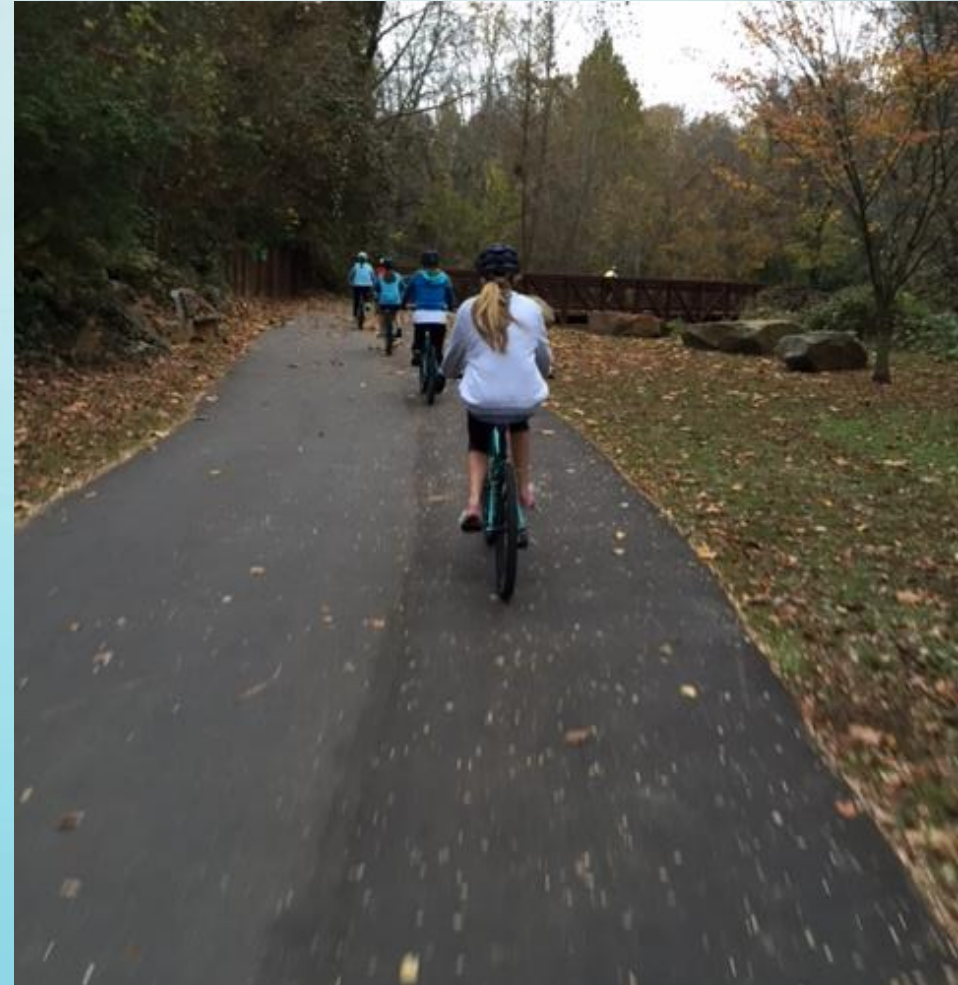
“Before becoming part of the bike club, I was completely unaware of how important it really is to serve in your community.”

“In relation to nursing it has made me realize the importance of holistic needs with every individual.”

“Many of them don't have anybody to talk to...sometimes having someone else to talk to is just what I need. The girls can really be themselves and open up to us.”



**Some of the girls report this is their only opportunity for exercise all week!**



# **Learning benefits for our students**

**Self-care:** All too often, nursing students (and nurses) do not care for themselves. Self-care is important so that we are in the best condition physically, mentally, and emotionally to care for our clients.

**Caring is at the core of nursing. Our students have developed caring relationships built on mutual trust between them and the youth they serve.**

# **Learning benefits for our students**

**Social Responsibility.** Students were provided an opportunity to give back to their community.

**Cultural competence.** We practiced cultural sensitivity while recruiting and riding with kids whose cultural backgrounds differed from that of the students/mentors.

# **Service Learning : a WIN-WIN!**

**More opportunities are opening up to our students that benefit the community as well as our students**

**Pastor Blue has approached nursing faculty with additional opportunities in service learning such as local health fairs and nurse practitioner clinics**

# **Service Learning : a WIN-WIN!**

**As a result, we are developing a community academic partnership that will support academic learning while improving the health of a local community**

**Students were thankful for the opportunities and were willing to volunteer above and beyond the service learning course requirements**



# Service Learning impacts us all!



**“What I didn’t know was how big of an impact the girls were going to make on MY life. Each week, I am so moved by what these girls are teaching me. It really does feel like our own bike club family! I am unbelievably excited to continue building my relationship with each and every one of them.”**