**Cross Cultural Partnerships**

While the local community continues to be the focus Nebraska Methodist College’s outreach efforts, we are working to expand our presence outside the Omaha area. Over the past several months, the College has been involved in numerous events that demonstrate the importance we place on cultural competence and inclusion of all communities. Central to the mission of the Center for Health Partnerships, these efforts have focused on providing access to basic healthcare and health care education to underserved populations, and have provided learning experiences for our students that reach across the globe.

**La Salud de Nuestras Familias**

“Our Families’ Health” is a community education program that prepares individuals to engage as health promoters in their own communities in the states of Iowa and Nebraska. Participants in the program receive instruction in leadership, communication, interpersonal skills, service coordination, capacity building, advocacy, teaching, and health literacy. Our Families’ Health—La Salud de Nuestras Familias—specifically targets Spanish-speaking communities in this outreach effort. There are currently 65 families participating in this program.

The Our Families’ Health program is currently partnering with OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc. in a grant provided by the Office of Minority Health. This grant focuses on training Spanish-speaking **promotoras** for outreach in Sarpy and Dodge Counties of Nebraska. The program utilizes the **promotora** community education model to increase the number of Latinos who receive culturally appropriate education, diabetes prevention and early detection services. As part of their learning experience, the **promotoras** are actively engaged in developing the diabetes education programming. They are assisting Dr. José Villegas and OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc. Program Lead Maggy Gutiérrez in the development and implementation of diabetes education and screening programs. NMC nursing student, Claudia Cervantes is also taking an active role in assisting with the **promotora** program.

**Article by Jose Villegas**

“The world is before you, and you need not take it or leave it as it was when you came in…”
~James Baldwin
Mobile Diabetes Center Update

The Mobile Diabetes Center continues to visit established community sites including: the Benson Food Pantry, Intercultural Senior Center, Macy/Winnebago and Omaha Housing Authority Senior Towers. Additionally, Mohm’s Place in Council Bluffs, Tri-Community United Methodist Church, Oakland Foods of Iowa, the Veteran’s Hospital Health Affairs in Grand Island and Omaha, Bere’s Daycare and several outlying Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA) senior centers are now receiving services through the MDC.

From September to December 2011, 465 people were screened by NMC nursing students and faculty. In addition, another 67 people were screened by the NMC promotora program.

This past fall the MDC expanded the number and types of services provided at screenings. Foot care, including toenail trimming, was offered by senior nursing students. Vision screening, in partnership with Nebraska Prevent Blindness, was offered by junior nursing students at two locations. Finally, in cooperation with Methodist Health System Community Benefits, nursing students and faculty administered approximately 500 free flu shots to underserved and uninsured adults at risk for diabetes in the Omaha area.

The MDC outreach continues to have a profound effect on the lives of individuals screened. As an example, the nursing students recently provided a blood glucose screening for a local pilot. His blood sugar was high during the screening and he was referred to his primary provider and subsequently diagnosed with pre-diabetes. As a result of the screening and subsequent doctor visit, he has lost weight and exercises regularly to control his blood sugar and to prevent type 2 diabetes. He is very grateful that he can continue to fly, and credits the screening for alerting him to his pre-diabetes condition. A pilot cannot fly if diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, especially if insulin dependent. He frequently shares his story with people; encouraging them to get screened also.

The MDC Coordinator, Christine Clancy, will be presenting a poster titled, Collaborative Partnership takes Free Diabetes Related Health Screenings to Urban and Rural Communities in Nebraska and Iowa, at the Nurse Educators Institute in Branson, Missouri in April of 2012. The poster highlights the partnership between Nebraska Methodist College and Cosmopolitan International Cornbelt Federation, as well as the impact of the preventive diabetes-related health screenings and education that are provided.

Article by Christine Clancy

Omaha Housing Authority Medication Aide Cohort

The Omaha Housing Authority has received grant funds to support a cohort of 16 Medication Aide students in March 2012 at Nebraska Methodist College. The 16 students will be selected from among the graduates of NMC’s Nurse Aide program. The class is designed to provide Nurse Aides with additional training and the necessary skills for providing routine medication distribution to those in their care. The selected participants will attend an on-campus orientation on March 2, and will begin class on March 5. Amme Melegrito will be the instructor for this cohort.
As we look forward to this upcoming semester, we are reminded to look back with gratitude. We are grateful for our wonderful students and families who are dedicated to the Upward Bound program and infuse NMC with energy and excitement. We are also grateful for the wonderful NMC community that supports our Upward Bound program. During this holiday season, the NMC community “adopted” eleven families by providing gifts for each family member. Thank you, NMC!

We have some great activities planned, this spring, including ice skating, FAFSA Night, Prom Dress shopping, some new seminars, and a few college visits. Look for great pictures and updates in the next newsletter!

If you are interested in learning more about the program, or volunteering in any capacity, please contact Allison Kinney-Walker at Allison.kinney-walker@methodistcollege.edu, or (402)354-7121.

Article by Allison Kinney-Walker

NMC Giving Tree

Each year, around the holidays, the Center for Health Partnerships organizes a Giving Tree that helps to support one of our community partners. This year, the recipients of the gifts from the Giving Tree were individuals in our own NMC community. Students involved with NMC Upward Bound were able to submit a request for assistance this past Christmas. Individual ornaments were placed on a tree that identified two or three “wish list” items for each family member of participating Upward Bound students. Gifts and donations were collected and then wrapped during the Methodist Health System’s annual “Christmas Luncheon” by faculty, staff and students of NMC. In total, eleven families, nearly 50 individuals, were supported by the generosity of NMC and its people.

“The manner of giving is worth more than the gift.”
~Pierre Corneille
Providing Education to Students in Ireland

This past December, seven NMC students traveled to the Republic of Ireland. This trip served as a capstone to the five months of study the students had participated in to learn about the history of Ireland and the Irish healthcare system. Paige Abrahamson, Kaitlyn Ferdig, Schyler Pauba, Melodie Schoeneck, Rachel Schultz, Molly Watsabaugh, and Megan Wessling spent their first three days in Limerick, visiting the Cliffs of Moher, the Rock of Cashel, the 15th century Dysert O’Dea and Bunratty Castles, and Waterford, which included a tour of its famous crystal factory. The following two days were spent in Galway; trip highlights for the students were outings to the University of Ireland-Limerick and the Midwest Regional Hospital. At the University of Ireland-Limerick, students had the opportunity to hear from nursing and midwifery faculty, and received a tour of their nursing lab. Ask the students about The Hungry Manikin! At the hospital, students were presented an overview of the hospital and were subsequently broken into small groups to learn about the different areas of the hospital – e.g., outpatient, radiology, “theater” (i.e., surgery). Students came away from this experience with a new understanding of both the differences and similarities between the Irish and American healthcare systems. Students ended their trip with three days in Dublin, visiting St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the Guinness Brewery, Trinity College and the Book of Kells, the site of the 1690 Battle of the Boyne, and Newgrange, prehistoric tombs built around 4000 BC.

In addition, NMC students had the opportunity to interact with other healthcare students from Clarkson College and BryanLGH College (in Lincoln), as this experience was created as a collaborative endeavor among the three colleges. Clarkson College led this effort, and NMC was very fortunate to be able to benefit from their experience and provide this academic travel abroad experience to its students. Dr. Kristin Mattson, Director for the Center for Health Partnerships, served as the NMC liaison and coordinator for this experience and traveled to Ireland with the students.

Through this academic travel abroad experience, students will earn college credit toward the fulfillment of required coursework within the Division of Arts & Sciences. To complete their course requirements, NMC students will be making presentations this spring about their experiences in Ireland and what they learned. Student participants, Paige Abrahamson and Schyler Pauba were invited to present to the NMC Board of Directors.

The next academic travel abroad experience is scheduled for December, 2012 when students will be traveling to Italy. NMC is excited to be able to continue offering this experience to students as part of their development as educated citizens.

Article by Dr. Kris Hess
Laredo Immersion is a Long Standing Partnership

For the sixth straight year, students and faculty from NMC have immersed themselves into a cultural experience that sheds light on immigration in one U.S. border town. Over the winter break, nursing faculty, Corlis Hayden, and two nursing students, Katlin Kinnison and Barb Sullivan, participated in a service immersion to Laredo, Texas.

The three worked with Servicios de Salud or Health Services of Mercy Ministries of Laredo and their promotoras, as well as the Laredo-Webb County Habitat for Humanity affiliate. During their time, they were able to make a few house calls in the surrounding Laredo area, and meet the family whose house they were helping to build.

Upon her return, Barb Sullivan reflected on her experiences in Laredo. She said, "The Sisters of Mercy do a fantastic job of taking care of the community by going out into their homes. I also really enjoyed working with Habitat for Humanity and hope to continue building here! I have had a lot of valuable new experiences that I will be able to take with me and use wherever I go."

Over the years, NMC has developed a strong relationship with the Habitat for Humanity affiliate as well as the Sisters of Mercy. The goal is to continue with this partnership and expand upon it for future immersion experiences.

CfHP Announces Spirit of Service Award

We are delighted to announce the advent of a new award recognizing faculty and staff service to the College and the community, called the Spirit of Service award. Each year, recipients of the Spirit of Service award will be recognized during the College-wide May Forum and presented with an invitation to travel with others on the December Academic Travel Abroad trip with Clarkson College and Bryan LGH College. Included in this award is the cost of airfare, hotel, admissions costs, and several meals. The first award will be for the upcoming trip to Italy in December 2012, which will visit Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento and Positano over the course of 10 days. We are excited about this opportunity to recognize our faculty and staff and their commitment to serving the College and the community.

This award program will be administered through the Center for Health Partnerships. Applications will be scored by a panel representing different sectors of the College community. Self nominations are being accepted through March 19th and the recipient will be someone who demonstrates an excellent record of service to College and/or the larger community and embodies the mission of NMC—impacting the health and well being of our community.
Community Scholars Program

The Center for Health Partnerships is pleased to announce the creation of the new Community Scholars program. The Community Scholars program is designed to offer senior nursing students, who are interested in public health, an opportunity to further explore those interests and develop skills for effective health care provision and promotion in the community. As Community Scholars, students will identify a public health issue on which to concentrate during their senior year. Scholars will be provided with an opportunity to work with community health agency addressing that issue and participate in guided reflective activities.

We have secured the funding to award four $4000 scholarships annually (two in spring semester, one summer, one fall). Over the course of their scholarship, Scholars will be required to complete 250 hours of community service working with community agency addressing the public health issue identified by student. Up to 10 of these hours can be completed with the community agency as part of NRS 470 (preceptorship) with permission and guidance of NRS 470 faculty. Scholars will also participate in guided reflection sessions facilitated by NRS 350 faculty and the CfHP Director, as well as complete a Community Scholars portfolio presentation in the senior capstone course, SSC 465. This presentation will include a community and on-campus component and be developed by the Scholar in collaboration with the community agency and the CfHP Director.

Students who are interested in applying to be a Community Scholar will apply at the conclusion of NRS 350. Application packets can be picked up from Tina Knauss, Administrative Assistant. Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of the Vice President of Student Affairs, faculty members from NRS 350 and NRS 245, CfHP Director and Outreach Coordinator. Applicants will be notified concerning acceptance by the last week of the semester.

MLK Day of Service 2012

In recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service 2012, the Center for Health Partnerships sponsored a food drive in an effort to fill The Pantry at Benson Baptist Church. Donations will be delivered to The Pantry through the assistance of nursing students during one of the monthly diabetes education and diabetes screens offered by the Mobile Diabetes Center at Benson Baptist Church.

CfHP Says Goodbye to a Good Friend Laura Leticia “Leti” Luna Peña

CfHP wishes to say goodbye and thank you to Laura Leticia “Leti” Luna Peña, family member of Jose Villegas, who recently passed. Leti was a great friend to the Center for Health Partnerships and the Our Families’ Health Program in particular.

Leti was very active in developing learning opportunities for NMC faculty and students in Xalapa, Mexico. In one such effort, she connected NMC students sixth graders at the Emilio Zapata Elementary School. NMC students have been able to build their language skills in Skype communications in large part due to her efforts. She also was influential in creating connections for the CfHP with Xalapa leaders, including the mayor.

Leti... you will be greatly missed.
Reaching out to the Somali-Bantu Population

Members of the Somali-Bantu Association presented the College with handmade quilts during All College Forum this January. Sief Mahagoub, MA, Community Health Educator from the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity accompanied the Somali-Bantu representatives for the presentation.

The College began working with the Somali-Bantu in 2011, when Mr. Mahagoub requested assistance with health education for this community. Through the coordinated efforts of Dr. Meg Blair, students in the Accelerated Nursing Program (ACE) began by demonstrating proper house cleaning and food storage during in-home visits. The Somali-Bantu are refugees who are unaccustomed to living with modern amenities such as electricity, working plumbing, and are unfamiliar with cleaning products and techniques.

This partnership has expanded to include demonstrations and health education workshops at the Somali-Bantu Association’s center. This spring, the ACE students hope to bring the Mobile Diabetes Center to the Center for blood pressure, blood glucose, and cholesterol screening.

Beginning in mid-February, one ACE nursing clinical group took the initiative to host a diaper drive for the Somali-Bantu people. Through donations of diapers and funds, they hope to provide this community with a common American resource; one that is an unfamiliar commodity in the Somali-Bantu community.

Article by Dr. Meg Blair

Donation Drives

Members of the NMC community generously participated in a number of donation drives during the past several months. Children’s coats were collected to support Omaha Housing Authority’s “Operation Keep Warm” during the month of December.

Additionally, a clothing drive, sponsored by the Omaha Cosmopolitan Club was held with donations benefitting the Open Door Mission. A group of students, who participated in the fall break service immersion trip to Rosebud, are collecting winter weather gear through March 9. The collected items will be donated to the residents of Rosebud during the College’s next visit.

Partnership Expands with Omaha Tribe

Santee Sioux Indian Tribes. NICC has campuses in Macy and Sioux City. In this collaboration, NICC will provide the opportunity for students to take the Nurse Aide course through NMC. The Nurse Aide course will be taught on both the NICC Macy campus and the Josie Harper Campus. Amme Melegrito, the instructor for the course, will travel to Macy to offer the first week of classroom instruction and to oversee the clinical experiences at the end of the course. NICC will provide daily transportation for the students to come to the Josie Harper Campus for the other weeks of instruction and for the State testing at the conclusion of the course. A final reception to celebrate the successful completion of the class and testing will be held on May 11th in Macy. We are very excited that our partnership with the Omaha Tribe continues to deepen.

Article by Amme Melegrito
The Center for Health Partnerships

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“Impacting the Community through Education and Service”

Mission Driven:
Nebraska Methodist College educates health care professionals who positively influence the health and wellbeing of the community.

C/HP Mission
The Center for Health Partnerships, a division of Nebraska Methodist College, promotes healthy communities through partnerships that focus on providing basic health care, health care education, and related learning opportunities to underserved populations.

C/HP Vision
The Center for Health Partnerships actively eliminates health disparities through health care access and education.

  The C/HP will be synonymous with excellence in diabetes education and prevention efforts.
  The C/HP will be synonymous with excellence in educational advancement for at risk individuals.

Important Dates

March 9
Last day to donate winter clothing for Rosebud Reservation residents

March 21
5:00—7:30pm
Ronald McDonald House Dinner

March 22
11:30am—1:00pm
Dr. Bob Rauner, M.D. presents:
“Using School Health Data to Drive Childhood Obesity Policy in Nebraska”

April 2
5:00—7:30pm
Ronald McDonald House Dinner

April 12
3:30—5:00pm
Central High School Careers in Science

An Upward Bound student being tutored in the afterschool program.

Katlin Kinnison taking a break from her work with Habitat in Laredo with fresh coconut milk.

NMC promotoras prepare for a community flu shot clinic.