The Spirit of Collaboration: An Interprofessional Health Literacy Program at Holy Name School

Ann Ryan-Haddad, Kelly Nelson, Teresa Cochran, Kathy Fleck, Kate Martens-Stricklett, Riva Miloshi, Sofie Kocks, Jenny Bradley, Karen Smolinski

Men and Women for Others

In the Spirit of Collaboration, an afterschool health literacy program was developed in 2010-11 by faculty and students in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and the Office of Interprofessional Scholarship, Service, and Education in partnership with Holy Name School. Our community partner, Holy Name School, has 148 students in Kindergarten through 8th grades.

The goal of the project is to teach life skills to children so they will have the tools to live a healthy life. The school principal identified basic health- and self-care information as a priority need because many of the students may not get this information at home. The project was created to provide health information on a variety of topics to students during an afterschool program.

Creighton students work in teams leading interactive presentations for the Holy Name students. Creighton students follow a curriculum that includes a brief health education presentation, hands-on learning activities, and physical activities. Educational handouts detailing the health education topic are also provided to parents.

In the Fall 2010, 22 health science students participated in 2 longitudinal (4 weeks) service experiences. These students provided 200 service hours during these sessions. In the Spring 2011, 10 pharmacy students participated in 6 afternoon sessions (61 service hours).

Following the success of the afterschool program, the Principal of Holy Name requested full day programming for Fall 2011. Four full days of health literacy education was provided to Holy Name students by 78 Creighton students (448 service hours).

Forming and Educating Agents of Change

The program provides interprofessional service-learning opportunities for Creighton students to develop cultural awareness and to enhance their communication and critical thinking skills. Approximately 68% of the students at Holy Name are of minority race including African American, Sudanese, Hispanic, and Vietnamese.

Creighton Student Reflections

- “Patience is golden. Service at any level is fulfilling. Sacrifice of time makes a huge impact on appreciation of the experience.”
- “Getting to know someone personally can make a big difference in the opportunities to serve.”
- “We benefit just as much from the service as the people we serve.”
- “You can relate to anyone-regardless of culture or background-on some level.”
- “I discovered how important patience is when working with diverse groups.”
- “Minorities/prejudice in kids don’t exist.”

Cura Personalis

Creighton Students Reflections

- “Kids desire and deserve attention. They know more than we think.”
- “Leave judgment at the door.”
- “Children love attention and learning. Commitment builds relationships. Struggles can be dealt with over time.”
- “Everything you do or say makes a big difference in the child’s life.”
- “The need for positive figures and examples.”
- “Every child has a different personality so you need to adjust your approach to each one.”

Holy Name Parent Feedback

- “My daughter was full of new information about the weekly topics!”
- “We planned out a menu of healthy snacks from the handout list of examples.”
- “My daughter really enjoyed the Creighton students. In fact, looked forward to attending Tuesdays.”
- “They seem to enjoy the program thus far. They didn’t want to leave.”
- “My child came home every Tuesday talking about the activities….and would talk about things throughout the week. The activities were great! Good Job!”

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Dogman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.