

Leadership and Social Responsibility in Nursing

**Helping new graduates take an upstream
approach... Is it possible?**

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Objectives

- Examine the experiences of nursing students in community clinical settings working with vulnerable populations.
- Discuss the challenges faced by new graduates to incorporate knowledge of social justice and the social determinants of health once they have transitioned to the workplace.
- Explore possible solutions and recommendations for nursing practice, education and research.

Background

- Community Clinical Course - 4th year
- Clinical placements
- Service learning model
- Community health concepts





Photo Credit: Sara Shuster

Faraday School

**Inner city
elementary school**

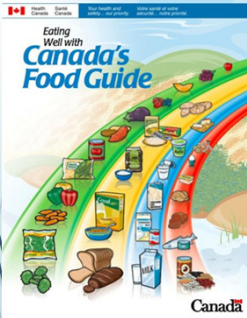


photograph courtesy the City of Winnipeg

Key activity: Consultation
School administration
Teachers
Public Health Nurse
Dietician

Assessment
Strength: Community
Need: Nutrition education

Faraday School



Determinants of Health
Healthy child development
Personal health practices

Action
Classroom sessions centered on nutrition education using the guidelines in the Canada Food Guide.

The front cover of Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide may be reproduced as is, without further permission. Source: Health Canada

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

**Aboriginal Community
Organization**
(Win Gardner Place)

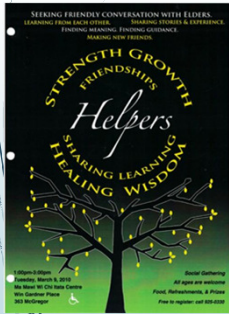


photograph courtesy Andrew Wach Architects

Key activities: Facilitation & Program Development
Ma Mawi staff/administration
Elders

Assessment
Strength: Elder Community
Need: Social Networks between Elders and younger population

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre



Determinants of Health Social Support Networks

Action
Create a supportive environment and build on the capacities and strengths of the community members.

Facilitated two "Helpers Gathering" meetings that allowed Elder population and members-at-large to engage in discussions about community issues and to share life stories.

Lessons Learned

Shift to socio-environmental approach to health

"I have a better understanding of the social determinants of health that could only have resulted from such a community clinical experience."

"The nursing education focus up to year four was on medical aspects, but I learned firsthand that there are broader factors which are beyond the control of individuals and communities that affect health."

Lessons Learned

Access and equity should be every nurse's responsibility

"Upon entering my semester of community health, I viewed it as a final hurdle to receiving my degree. I had practiced skills, studied anatomy, completed all hospital-based rotations and thought this class was only applicable to those entering community-based careers. I had not anticipated I would learn lessons that would be at the essence of nursing practice."



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Lessons Learned

Leadership and social responsibility

"We have the skills, knowledge, and trust of the public, we should be doing more."



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Challenges

Lack of role models and opportunities

- Is this really nursing work?
- Focus on service delivery and mandated health programs

Hospital settings and their limits

- Is social justice/ equity only related to community health education and practice?
- Focus on curative care and bed utilization

Nursing education

- Is nursing education doing enough?
- Leadership and social responsibility are not introduced until 4th year

Implications for Nursing

Education

- Curriculum changes
- Service learning models in clinical

Practice

- Shift in public health nursing practice model
- Huddles and Social Justice Day

Research

- Outcomes related to service learning model
- Sustaining critical thinking

