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Ferris State University

Nurs 325 – Spring 2011

Service Learning Proposal

Abstract

This paper is a proposal for a nursing student’s service learning project for NURS 325. It provides information on the assignment requirements and how the student plans to meet such requirements. The plan includes developing and implementing a free blood pressure clinic at a local parish in a rural community in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It includes a plan on advertising, conducting and evaluating the service provided. It highlights how the service learning project will affect the nursing student’s professional outlook and how it will enhance their learning experience while attending Ferris State University’s Bachelors of Science in nursing program.

Service Learning Proposal

The American Nurses Association (ANA) has developed a Code of Ethics for Nurses. In this code it cites, “the nurse collaborates with … the public in promoting community, national, and international efforts to meet health needs” (Kearney-Nunnery, 2008, p. 5). One way a nurse can meet this obligation is through community service. In the Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) completion program for Ferris State University (FSU), it is essential that graduating nurses must meet this requirement. To promote community service they have implemented a service learning project throughout the course of the degree.

In order to fulfill this requirement, I propose to provide my community service to my local church, St. Francis de Sales Parish. It is required to provide at least 20 hours of volunteer service throughout the course, with completion by the nursing capstone class, NURS 450.

**Agency**

St. Francis de Sales Parish was founded over 100 years ago in a rural community in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In 1883, Father Frederic Baraga established the first church three miles north of Manistique, but it wasn’t until 1883 that Father Theodore Aloysius Majerus was named the first pastor. A year later he erected the first church. This church suffered fire damage in 1953 which resulted in the building of the present church. This was completed the following year (“St. Francis,” n.d.). Presently the parish is home to many members and also St. Francis de Sales School. The school provides education to pre-k three year olds, pre-k four year olds, kindergarteners and all the way to eighth grade. Mass is offered throughout the week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Weekend masses are offered on Saturday at 5:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am and 11:00am.

**Volunteer Role**

In fulfillment of my role of providing community service, I propose to volunteer at St. Francis de Sales Parish. I plan on implementing a blood pressure clinic weekly, for one weekend mass. I propose to arrive one hour prior to mass and stay one hour after mass according to my schedule. I plan on providing a flier for the weekly bulletin explaining who I am, my credentials as a registered nurse and also my continuing on for further education. I plan on providing a detailed description of FSU’s Bachelors program and my service learning assignment. I will provide the flier one week prior to the mass I choose to begin my community service. Once the clinic has been established, I will post a flier in the church, parish office and school office weekly to inform parishioners of what mass I will be providing the clinic for the following week. I will track my hours weekly and will also provide a sign-in sheet for fellow parishioners to sign when they attend my blood pressure clinic. I will also design and provide cards for the attendees to help track and log their weekly blood pressures.

**Objectives / Activities**

By contributing and volunteering at my church for this service learning project I am envisioning becoming a more active member in my parish, growing in my faith, and applying my nursing skills to fellow parishioners by providing them with a useful service. This assignment will also help fulfill FSU’s the Context for Nursing Care Objective, to “coordinate the health care of diverse populations across the lifespan toward achieving the goal of healthy individuals, families, groups and communities at the local and global levels” (Ferris State University, 2007).

My ultimate goal is to incorporate this service learning project into the NURS 450 Capstone project. I understand that in this final course we have to participate in a leadership activity. I am hoping to develop and implement a parish nurse program. My thoughts include becoming a Eucharistic minister and provide communion and a mini-physical assessment to homebound parishioners. I was also interested in developing a presentation for the students of St. Francis de Sales School, educating them on the importance of physical activity and good nutrition. All the while, continuing my free blood pressure clinic.

I believe my fellow- parishioners will greatly benefit from my volunteer work. By providing them with the blood pressure clinics they will be able to monitor their blood pressure weekly. This will help identify any abnormalities and will be great way to prevent possible health events.

**Learning Experience**

This experience will help enhance my learning while I am enrolled in FSU’s BSN program by encouraging me to use my skills for the betterment of my community. It will also help me enforce the Nursing Code of Ethics that I have vowed to uphold. It will also support the development of my time management and organizational skills.

**Evaluation**

I will evaluate my contribution to the community by the success of my blood pressure clinic. If I do not receive many parishioners interested in the blood pressure clinic, I will have to reevaluate the times of the mass I have chosen, and my advertisement strategy. If the parishioners respond positively, and are monitoring their blood pressure more effectively, I will deem this a success.

I will evaluate how this service learning project is affecting me by objectively examining how I am interacting with fellow parishioners and how I am responding to the service on the basis of my faith. If I perceive myself as acting more Christian and following the Word more, I believe this will be a success.

**Agency Contact Information**

Agency – St. Francis de Sales Parish

Address – 330 Oak Street Manistique, MI 49854

Contact – Father Glenn J. Theoret, 906-341-5355

Sources

Ferris State University. (2007). *Ferris State University School of Nursing BSN Programs Organizing Framework.* Retrieved from http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/colleges/alliedhe/Editor/Files/SNUR%20Organizational%20Framework%2007-08.pdf

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