When I was Hungry: Integrating Learning & Service

“When I was hungry . . .” is both a metaphor and a lived experience for student learning. Combining service and learning, baccalaureate nursing students collaborate with community agencies to create specific programs that serve vulnerable, marginalized populations.

Karen Boardman, MS, RN, CS  •  Stephanie Stockard Spelic, MSN, CS, LMHP  •  Beth Furlong, RN, PhD, JD

I was hungry and you gave me food

We were hungry for knowledge. As school principals in parochial schools, we operated on restricted budgets to provide education and some health care for our students. You, Jade, Jessica, Kimberly, Kerry, Jil, Ellison, and Danielle provided the educational information and resources for cardiovascular health for the school's website. You, Angela, Ashley, and Julie provided the resources for a website so we can refer students to needed school resources. We were adolescents and hungry for knowledge in an alternative school setting. You, Catherine, Carly, Ashley, Skannon, James, Andrea, and Megan assessed for our health risks and provided education on health topics of concern to us.

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.

We were thirsty for knowledge in how to care for ourselves. You, Wendy, Traci, and Mary Jane taught us how to take better care of ourselves. You, Mary, Jennifer, and Amy taught us to manage our pain.

I was sick and you took care of me

We came from Mexico or Central America, speak a different language, and are old, isolated and without many resources. You, Estin, Chelsea, Jennifer, Jessica, Laura, and Emily truly listened to our stories. Our voices are being heard. We came from an agrarian, war-torn African country and culture. You, Kimberly, Kari, Jessie, Emily, Sunny, and Lauren identified obstacles to understanding health care and created tools to help us with understanding.

I was naked and you gave me clothing

We are some of the many homeless who walk Omaha's streets. We are Katrina refugees now living in Omaha. We are church members or employees at Trinity Cathedral. You, Libbie, Megan, and Monica made Omaha more inviting with your map of resources and your brochure for those who have needs and for those people helping to meet others' needs.

I was in prison and you visited me

We were in the prison of addiction and you helped us move out of that. You, Blanca, Jessica, and Riley educated staff who will help us with addictions. You, Liz, Laura, Jeanne, Liz, Mireya, and Suse helped us see the prison of our grief that locked us into our addictions. You, Michaela and Amber helped develop a telephone crisis protocol that will help us. We were in the prison of mental illness and you helped open those prison doors. You, Beth, Faith, and Jennifer helped us on our journey.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Service

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School of Nursing

Diversity

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Learning

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Social Justice

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Dignity

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Collaboration

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