Empowering Homeless Individuals Through an Interprofessional Campus to Community Engagement

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Introduction

- One-day outreach program providing a “one-stop-shop” for health & social services to people who are homeless
- Hosted at Creighton University since 2007
- Post-event follow-up health care & social services
- 400 individuals who were homeless in 2015
- In 2015, 330 health science volunteers provided 1,734 service hours
  - 285 students (1,483 hours)
  - 13 faculty (171 hours)
  - 10 staff (65 hours)
- In 2015, 404 navigators provided 1 on 1 guidance with clients

Innovative Collaboration

**Internal**
- University-wide support
- OISSE infrastructure
- Schlegel Center for Service & Justice
- Health Science and undergraduate student, faculty & staff champions

**External**
- Ed Shada – Founder
- Private funders
- CDHC – Homeless Clinic
- Homeless Shelters – Sienna/ Francis
- Multiple Non-profit Organizations
- Civic & Government agencies
- Veterans Affairs

“...by collaborating together, the individual needs of the patient can be addressed…” – IPE 413 student

Client Empowerment

PHCO Services & Deliverables:

- Personalized Health Report Card: Health status documentation & self-care recommendations
- Health care & treatment follow-up appointments: Dental, Medical, Mental Health
- Social & civic service follow-up care
- Intentional personal counselling for need prioritization

Student Involvement

Interprofessional Education & Community Engagement

- Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Social Work, Healthcare Administration Policy, and other CU Undergraduate Programs
- Beyond Simple Volunteerism
- Interprofessional Advocacy for Vulnerable Populations
- Mission-based Professional Formation & Career Development
- Engagement linked to Coursework & Accreditation

Volunteer Reflections

“Todd worked on getting disability and social security already, and Community Alliance found a 1 bedroom apartment for him, with utilities paid for 6 months. He was smiling from ear to ear. I was very pleased to see all of this in action. There is now one less homeless person on the streets. What a fantastic end to 5 years of shelters and living on the streets for Todd.” – PHCO volunteer

“I received a phone call at home Sat. morning from a gentleman who had a job opportunity for my guest. I was able to get his phone number and left a message at the homeless shelter for my guest to call this potential employer. This was a really neat follow-up action. Also, I was totally impressed with how polite and appreciative our guests were. They were very grateful for anything that was done for them.” – PHCO volunteer

Did you access any services that you have not access before today?

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Why you need it?

- 60
- 40
- 20
- 10
- 0

Creighton University
College of Nursing
Office of Interprofessional Scholarship, Service and Education (OISSE)-School of Pharmacy and Health Professions
Schlegel Center for Service & Justice