The Journey of HOPE

PROJECT NAME

HWPP PROJECT NUMBER 2007D-38

PROJECT SUMMARY

Describe the major purpose of the project, the need and how it relates to the Health Improvement Model. Briefly describe the project’s implementation plan, methods to be utilized and involvement of affected communities. Detail the community-academic partnership plan. Specify the evaluation method that will be used to measure feasible, quantifiable and significant outcomes and the impact the project will have on the health of Wisconsin residents. Do not exceed this one page.

In partnership with the Community Advisory Board (CAB), we will improve the health and nutrition competence of the community and provide health profession students with community experiential learning. Based on needs identified by the first year of Project HOPE, this project’s objectives are (a) to strengthen our partnership capacity through the delivery of health and nutrition community interventions; (b) to deliver an outstanding health professions educational experience for nursing students, to include joint activities with medical students and CAB members; (c) to evaluate and disseminate project outcomes and lessons learned; and (d) to incorporate project outcomes and lessons learned into sustained, long-range plans for community health initiatives. The project will address those at risk for health disparities due to limited educational opportunities, fewer resources, and lower economic status. It will also educate the community about the risks for obesity, heart disease, and other problems, thereby increasing the community’s ability to improve quality and years of healthy life, the Healthy People 2010 goal.

The methods for carrying out this project correspond to our objectives, listed above: (a) have the CAB participate in the planning and implementation of health-promoting activities addressing nutrition and exercise; (b) develop strategies to increase community involvement in improving nutrition and exercise attitudes; (c) identify, recruit, and involve health profession students in the activities; and (d) document the project history and activities in community-produced materials. The community members will become involved on several levels. First, the continued actions of the CAB will help to integrate it further into the Agape community. Also, through an increase in health-related activities, community members will find more ways to improve their own health and the health of those around them.

The Journey of HOPE will bring together key stakeholders to improve nutrition, exercise and community health. Cardinal Stritch University brings experience in implementing a previous HWPP project, community nursing expertise, and students seeking cross-disciplinary experiences in community health care. The Medical College of Wisconsin brings outcome measurement expertise and experience implementing community-based programs. The Agape Community Center offers more than 20 years of community building and community service experience, successful prior partnerships with the other partners, and well-established, long-term access and commitment to the focus neighborhood. Regular meetings of partnership members will be held for planning and organizing purposes. We plan to examine the progress made by the original Project HOPE and build The Journey of HOPE accordingly.

Process and outcome evaluation will be employed. Number of meetings, and number and type of activities and participants will be recorded. Pre and post testing about nutritional knowledge will be conducted with CAB members and other participants. CAB and community members will be interviewed to identify skills developed and knowledge gained. Community-developed materials will document the journey and will include process and outcome evaluation data. The number of materials produced and distributed will be tracked. Observation, journaling, and discussion will document student involvement and change in knowledge, attitudes, and skills. CAB involvement in planning and implementation of multi-age activities will demonstrate the institutionalization of the board into the Agape community.

Dissemination of project outcomes will target community members and health professionals. The community-based dissemination will consist of the production and dissemination of a literacy appropriate booklet that is suitable to continue to educate Agape community members about healthy behaviors, nutrition and activity levels. This project report will be distributed to families, faith communities, and key stakeholders in the project. Concurrently, peer-reviewed scholarly projects will be submitted locally and nationally. We will conduct process evaluation to determine how the partnership is moving forward and conduct product evaluation to determine the degree to which planned outcomes are being met.