

# THE Neighborhood

## A SUCCESS STORY



Karen Lea

Associate Professor

Saint Luke's College of Health Sciences, Kansas City, MO

COURSE NAME: Community-Centered Care • CREDIT HOURS: 10 (7 hours in class)

COURSE FORMAT: Hybrid • THE NEIGHBORHOOD USER SINCE: 2012

TEXTS: *Community Health Nursing: Advocacy for Population Health*, 5/e by Clark & *Maternal and Child Nursing Care*, 3/e by London, Ladewig, Ball & Cowen

*“Our students now understand patient and family care in ways that they never have before.”*

**COURSE INFORMATION** This course is required for all nursing students and is taken in the third semester of our four-semester BSN program. It is the only course that students take in their third semester.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES** This course presents a multi-systems approach to caring for individuals, families, and aggregates across the lifespan within dynamic community environments in a changing health care system.

### ASSESSMENT

- Unit Exams (5): 37%
- Preparation/Quizzes/Class Participation: 25%
- Online Learning Activities (The Neighborhood): 13.5%
- Online Learning Activities (Other): 13.5%
- Comprehensive Final Exam: 9%
- ATI Practice Exam: 2%

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPLEMENTATION** In summer 2012, we restructured our curriculum to accommodate enrollment increases and limited opportunity for clinical experience. In doing so, we combined OB, pediatrics, mental health, and community nursing into one integrated 10-credit course. We initially struggled in bringing these courses together, but we then discovered The Neighborhood. This program became the foundation of our new course. The Neighborhood and assignments are a major part of our online learning activities. In addition, we use the characters and families from The Neighborhood in our class discussions, and to create exam questions.

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS** When I first saw The Neighborhood, I thought “this is our course!” It became a guiding principle for the course that we were creating. The characters, families, and their relationships demonstrate how the various types of nursing are brought together. In addition, The Neighborhood provides practical applications for the concepts that we are covering in class, and it gives us a common ground for discussion. Students can now relate course concepts to actual people with voices and faces, instead of just discussing them in the abstract. The characters from

*“I find that The Neighborhood exposes us to a variety of illnesses and patients that we may not encounter at clinical sites. This is extremely useful.*

*—Student*

The Neighborhood often seep into our class discussions—even when that was not intended! Additionally, instructors in our fourth-semester courses have indicated that students are very well prepared for the “Complex Care” course.

**CONCLUSION** The Neighborhood lends itself remarkably well to our course. It has provided a great framework to teach students how to think about nursing. Our students now understand patient and family care in way that they never have before. The Neighborhood is a big part of that. I am amazed at this product!

ALWAYS LEARNING

PEARSON