

No Barriers



Embracing the Eastern Michigan University School of Nursing philosophy of nursing, as both an art and a science, the EMU nurses in clinical rotation at Northeast Guidance Centers, Eli Z. Rubin Center, this fall also learned lessons in humility and stewardship. Treating people with respect, sensitivity, dignity, and as unique and whole beings -another of the EMU nursing philosophies-taught them that in the field of service there are no barriers.

During their clinical rotation EMU nurses volunteered to distribute warm coats to needy children at the Eli Z. Rubin Wellness Center; Project Warm Coats is a NEGC annual initiative. This year the nurses in addition to handing out warm coats arranged the nearly 800 coats ranging in sizes 3T to 2X, hung signs for easy access and helped the children to pick their favorite color.

Nurse instructor Melinda Pate, RN shared that "the NEGC clinical rotation experience is a blessing. The nurses are up close and personal with the consumers with no barriers." She shared that the students are able to see, and act in real time with what many of the nurses may have been taking for granted. Being at NEGC this fall and volunteering for Project Warm Coats the students have found that there are literacy issues, people without running water, no warm coats,



Eastern Michigan University nursing students volunteer for NEGC Project Warm Coats

and no groceries stores; real urban issues. This experience will keep them grounded as many have aspirations to work in hospitals like U of M Ann Arbor. Nurse Pate said "she didn't want the student nurses to become jaded in their future nursing endeavors."

Sherry McRill, president & CEO said "I believe having the nurses learn in an environment where the subjects are the teachers is ideal. They are in a setting with no barriers where they are becoming competent professionals and learning to enhance health and quality of life within a global community."

Northeast Guidance Center, an integrated health clinic has allowed the nursing students to understand the treatment for persons with substance use disorders (SUD) and serious mental illness (SMI), many who need co-occurring treatment, interventions, and children, youth

and families who are provided treatment, prevention and educational services to help the child successfully function in home and school settings.

Sharon Common, Fund Development Officer at NEGC said that "having the nursing students interact with staff and persons served, asking questions and observing" has been a plus not only for the program but for the nurses as well.

The Northeast Guidance Center will welcome another class of nurses returning for the winter sessions.

The Northeast Guidance Center (NEGC) is committed to the health of children, adults and families by providing innovative community-based services through behavioral and primary healthcare. For more information about Northeast Guidance Center call 313-308-1400 or www.neguidance.org.