**Sole Care Ministry**

Compassion for those who are important to God became an opportunity for Faith Community Nurses to develop a relationship with the Hope Warming Center for the homeless. The Hope Warming Center is located in Pontiac, Michigan in Oakland County. It is Oakland County's only shelter that no person is turned away, and they do not require sobriety. Individuals in the shelter had experienced frost bitten feet during the winter months. A few people had toes amputated due to frost bite. **The purpose of our initiative** is to prevent injury to the feet caused by frost bite, wearing the wrong size shoes, no socks on the feet during extreme cold weather, and lack of education in caring for their feet. Feet washing allows assessment of the feet, identify unhealthy feet and chronic diseases, and to provide access to medical care. **Our design** included a proposal to the CEO of the Warming Center requesting the permission for The Faith Community Nursing department to **serve the homeless population.** A University of Michigan Flint Campus nursing student, assigned to the department, for her nursing experience for the fall term assisted us with the project. The student selected the Sole Care Ministry as her teaching project. She learned about Faith Community Nursing and she served the homeless population. The Faith Community Nurses donated four hundred forty six new pair of socks for the Sole Care Ministry.

The **outcome** for the project was very successful. Each person signed a waiver to participate in the learning project. Next each person completed a pretest. The participants were educated as to how to care for the feet. The education included routine foot care, and prevention of frost bite to the feet. A posttest was given. **Measurement of outcome:** questions that were missed on the pretest were correctly answered on the posttest. There were thirteen participants all participants passed their posttest. Those individuals who needed assistance in reading the test received help. There were seven Faith Community Nurses, one Nursing student, one Health Ministry person who participated in the project.

The Hope Warming Center provided their facility, the water, disinfecting, washing, and drying the towels. The Faith Community Nursing department provided the basins, disinfecting the basins, and dial soap dispensers. The shelter has a volunteer Nurse Practitioner who keeps a record on each person in the shelter. Each participant who needed follow up was referred to the Nurse Practitioner. Medical care was provided. Lastly, with permission from the participant each nurse intentionally prayed for the person. An instruction card was given. On one side a prayer, the other instructions on caring for the feet. Each participant received a new pair of socks and a new pair shoe or boots if needed. The boots and shoes were donated by Trinity Health and Target.

Lastly, The Hope Warming Center was asked by a church to provide breakfast and a bible study on the Tuesday morning before the Sole Care Ministry. The timing was impeccable. The shelter would like to have the Sole Care Ministry next winter. The Faith Community Nursing Department received a letter from the Hope Warming Center, CEO praising and thanking the Faith Community Nurses for serving the shelter. The staff expressed the gratefulness for the generosity of the Faith Community Nurses.

Submitted by: Deborah Dixson, BSN, RN-BC, Lead Faith Community Nurse, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital, Pontiac, Michigan.