Introduction
In 2002, the Calvin College Nursing Department initiated a community-based nursing curriculum. They sought to spread community experiences across the curriculum and have those experiences be driven by the health needs of the community.

Background
- Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR): a collaborative approach to inquiry where community and academia are co-teachers and co-learners.
- Emphasizes shared power, building community capacity, and joint research with the goal of improvement of the health of the community.
- Empowers the community to identify health concerns and solutions.
- Connects resident voice to nursing student practicum experiences in community-based curriculum.
- Partnerships formed with 3 urban, underserved neighborhoods in 2002.
- Between 2002-2004, qualitative and quantitative data gathered through focus groups and door to door surveys to assess neighborhood strengths and health concerns.
- Neighborhood meetings to report data and have residents identify top 5 health concerns & solutions.
- Strategic plan documents top health concerns and links with nursing student activities.
- One example of a neighborhood driven solution to address lack of access to care was developing a Community Health Worker (CHW) Program where residents are trained in basic health care and work with students promoting health and access to care in the neighborhood.
- Between 2009-2011, students and CHWs collaborate on repeating same research process as in 2002-2004.
- Update strategic plan.

Funding for CBPR and CHW program received from Calvin College, Spectrum Health Healthier Communities Department and a HUD Community Partnership Outreach Grant.

Focus Groups
Focus groups conducted by the Calvin College Nursing Program between 2002-2004 and repeated in 2009-2011.
- Encourage residents to share views about neighborhood strengths, day to day concerns and health care.
- Three focus groups conducted per neighborhood (results from 2010 focus group in Baxter/Madison neighborhood below).

Neighborhood Strengths
- Good Neighbors who take care of and watch out for each other.
  “We all kinda link to each other and look out for each other…”
- Community and Neighborhood Resources
  “I like the Baxter Community Center cause I’ve been going there since I was 15.”
- The Churches
  “I think there are 7 churches in the Baxter area.”

Barriers to Health Care
- Limited or no medical / dental insurance
  “They cut all of us off of Medicaid and there’s no reason why.”
  “There is a large percentage of people that just don’t have any coverage.”
- High cost of health care
  “A community of people with no outlet, no help.”
- Transportation
  “People don’t know where to go…”
  “Long wait for an appointment or insurance
  “It’s a long time you have to wait…and that’s crazy to me!”

Top Health Concerns
- High Blood Pressure
- Diabetes
- Mental Illness/Depression
  “Every woman is on some…depression medication.”
- Asthma
- Alcohol / Drugs
  “A community of people with no outlet, no help.”
- Obesity
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Neighborhood Survey
Door to door health surveys conducted by the Calvin College Nursing Program between 2002-2004 and repeated in 2009-2011.
- Encourage residents to share ideas about their health and the health care system.
- Systematic random sampling used to conduct health survey in each neighborhood.
- Survey in 2009-2011 conducted in partnership with Community Health Workers (CHWs).
- Between 128-191 surveys completed per neighborhood.

Strategic Plan
- Based on focus group and survey results, neighborhood residents identify top health concerns and solutions.
- Strategic plan identifies neighborhood strengths, top health concerns, strategies to address concerns, and evaluation measures.
- Top 5 Health Concerns of Baxter / Madison:
  1. Lack of Access to Health Care
  2. High Blood Pressure
  3. Unintended Pregnancies and STI’s
  4. Depression / Anxiety
  5. Obesity

Resident Driven Solutions
1. Community Health Worker Program
2. Knowing Your Body Kit
3. Depression / Anxiety Support Groups

Evaluation
Baxter / Madison Neighborhood

References