“When I was hungry . . .” is both a metaphor and a lived experience for student learning. Combining service and learning, baccalaureate nursing students collaborate with community agencies to create specific programs that serve vulnerable, marginalized populations.

Karen Boardman, MS, RN, CS • Stephanie Stockard Spelic, MSN, CS, LMHP • Beth Furlong, RN, PhD, JD

I was hungry and you gave me food

School of Nursing

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.

Diversity

I was naked and you gave me clothing

Learning

I was in prison and you visited me

Social Justice

We were in the prison of addiction and you helped us move out of that. You, Blanca, Jessica, and Riley, educated staff who will help us with addictions. You, Liz, Laura, Jeanie, Liz, Maureen, and Staci helped us see the prison of our grief that led us into our addictions. You, Michaela and Amber helped develop a telephone crisis protocol that will help us. We were in the prison of mental illness and you helped open those prison doors. You, Beth, Erin, and Jennifer helped us on our journey.

I was sick and you took care of me

Dignity

We were thirsty for knowledge in how to care for ourselves. You, Wendy, Traci, and Mary Jane taught us how to take better care of ourselves. You, Wendy, Jennifer, and Amy taught us to manage our pain.

We came from Mexico or Central America, speak a different language, and are old, isolated and without many resources. You, Erin, Chelsea, Jennifer, Jonice, Laura, and Emily truly listened to our stories. Our voices are being heard. We came from an agrarian, war-torn African country and culture. You, Kimberly, Kate, Jonie, Emily, Sammy, and Laura identified obstacles to understanding health care and created tools to help us understand.

We grieve over the losses in our lives—disabilities, illnesses, deaths, jobs, and more. You, Danielle, Kathleen, and Megan addressed these griefs and how best to live and thrive through them.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

We are some of the many homeless who walk Omaha’s streets. We are Katrina refugees now living in Omaha. We are church members or employees at Trinity Cathedral. You, Libbie, Megan, and Monica made Omaha more inviting with your map of resources and your brochure for those who have needs and for those people helping to meet others’ needs.

We are one of the many students who walk Omaha’s streets. We are students on the cutting edge of nursing research and development in the School of Nursing.