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Scholarship, Education, and Service: 2003 Healthy Cities Health Fair

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The Indiana Healthy Cities project started in 1987, in seven select cities around the state. The Fort Wayne Healthy Cities Committee was established and oversees several community projects, one of which is an annual health fair for uninsured and underinsured adults. In November 2003, Healthy Cities Health Fair completed its 13th year of providing free health services, screenings, and referrals. A total of 800 individuals were served. In addition to health services, participants also received free winter clothing, personal hygiene items, haircuts, blankets, and lunch. This broad based, totally volunteer, community event is sponsored by many health and social service agencies, businesses, churches, local universities, and schools. Last year, \$14,000 was raised from local foundations, unions, schools and individuals to purchase supplies and immunizations. Veterans' Stand Down joined the Health Fair to reach homeless and low-income veterans. These veterans receive all the services available to the public, but in addition have access to Army surplus clothing, winter coats, and sleeping bags. This event has grown more popular over the years and offers an invaluable service to the community.

Student contributions to the project include a review of literature, adherence to Health Fair criteria as set by the well established planning board, delivery of care and services, collection of goods and items to be distributed, data collection on the day of the fair, data entry using SPSS, statistical analysis, as well as deriving implications for practice, education, and future research needs.

Findings from this scholarly project have been presented at a meeting of the local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. Participant feedback on the presentation strategies will be considered in preparation for subsequent public presentations. This abstract has been accepted for poster presentation at the 2004 Indiana Public Health Association Annual Conference scheduled May 10-12th in West Lafayette, Indiana.