

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM (COP) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JHU SOURCE

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing (JHSON)
Center for Community Innovation and Scholarship (COMPASS)
Office of Associate Dean for Community Programs



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Community Outreach Program (COP) provides community healthnursing and other valuable services to individuals, families, communities, and populations in underserved local areas, with an emphasis on East Baltimore. The goal of the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing (JHSON) program is to improve the health status of urban Baltimore City communities and to provide services to historically underserved populations. The Community Outreach Program is a student service-learning component of COMPASS, in partnership with JHU SOURCE, the community engagement and service-learning center for the JHU Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine. Students have outstanding opportunities to serve communities in and around Baltimore City while they complete their nursing education. Students participate in monthly reflection sessions to explore connections between their community experiences and academic coursework. Students participate in the COP as volunteers or in selected hourly paid positions, including Federal Work-Study. As paid employees or as volunteers, students work under the direction of JHSON.

PROGRAM HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS

COP was established in 1991, initially as the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) Fellows Program. Participating in the RPCV Fellows Program fulfilled the third goal of the Peace Corps, “Bringing the world back home.” Over 350 RPCVs have graduated from the JHSON Coverdell Fellows Program.

The greater COP has grown substantially over the past 20-plus years and is now open to all Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Entry into Nursing students interested in serving the local community. Each year, dozens of students are actively involved with serving populations as close to the immediate neighborhoods surrounding Johns Hopkins or as far as surrounding Baltimore communities. COP placements include a wide range of community sites, including the three COMPASS-operated East Baltimore community nursing centers (Wald, House of Ruth, and Henderson-Hopkins). All other placement sites are SOURCE-partnering community-based organizations.