

Young Nursing students experience home and community care first hand through CCAC placement

For many university nursing students, the home and community care sector is an enigma. Brock students Shana O’Grady and Lisa Pacewski recently completed a placement with HNHB CCAC recently where they experienced just a glimpse of the world of home and community care and were surprised by the scope of community health.



[Video about Shana and Lisa's CCAC experience>>](#)

At university, nursing students do not learn much about home and community care. As a general rule, academic leaders advise nursing students to focus on getting clinical and hospital experience when they are just starting out.

Lisa says, thanks to the placement with HNHB CCAC, she now has a greater appreciation for community health nursing.

“Going into it, I really had no idea about what home and community care was. Through my placement, I’ve seen how much work and effort CCAC employees put into everything they do.”

Lisa says she now understands the significant role CCAC plays in patient care outside the hospital setting. “There is so much for care coordinators to do considering there are aspects – visiting the patient at home and then documenting back at the office.”

Much like Lisa, Shana says she didn’t know much about community nursing before her CCAC placement. “Eventually, I may even be interested in a career focused on community nursing,” said Shana.

HNHB CCAC professional practice manager Tracey Davey said hosting students gave CCAC the opportunity to showcase the complexity of community patient care.

“It was a great pleasure to work with Lisa and Shana,” said Tracey. “They shared new perspectives and were eager to learn about CCAC’s role in supporting our patients. We are grateful for their keen interest and commitment to best practice.”

On the horizon, Lisa and Shana will be participating in further nursing placements including hospital OBGYN for Lisa and oncology for Shana. Then, it’s onto Ontario Nursing exams for both Brock students and hopefully, a career in the health care system.