

**Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing**  
**East Baltimore Community Nursing Centers**

**JHUSON EBCNC**

**Background**

The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing Wald Community Nursing Center at Rutland Avenue was founded in 1994 as the first of three faculty directed service-learning program sites in East Baltimore. The Wald Community Nursing Center as it is known today is one of a few health programs in Baltimore City providing nearly barrier-free health services to poor, uninsured or under insured residents at no charge to them. The JHUSON is also active in two other East Baltimore community faculty directed service-learning sites at the House of Ruth Shelter for Battered Women and Isaiah Wellness Center at Apostolic Towers. Graduate and undergraduate nursing students are mentored by JHUSON faculty in all aspects of operating these sites through clinical placements for credited course practice, research, independent practice and volunteerism. Below is a brief description with primary and secondary goals for each of the three current program sites.

**House of Ruth Maryland**

In 1997, JHUSON faculty and students were approached by the House of Ruth Domestic Violence Shelter to provide nursing care and health promotion services to their residents as an outreach site from Wald Community Nursing Center. Battered women and their children come to the House of Ruth because of a history of physical and emotional abuse leading to a personal crisis with abrupt departure from their usual home and resources, including health care. As with families seeking care at Wald Community Nursing Center at Rutland, families who seek shelter at the House of Ruth have complex health and social needs.

Secondary goals of the House of Ruth include:

- Educating students and clients on effective strategies to navigate the complexities of the health care system to meet client health care needs.
- Educating students and clients on the impact of violence on health and well-being throughout the lifespan.
- Developing supportive educational programs related to health promotion issues such as PTSD, parenting children who have witnessed violence, smoking cessation or other areas of identified need for battered women and their children in shelter.
- Case finding and reaching out to women and children in shelter who are at risk of adverse health outcomes based on social and economic barriers to receiving adequate health care.

### **Isaiah Wellness Center**

The primary goal of the Isaiah Wellness Center is to provide residents of Apostolic Towers and elders in East Baltimore with health promotion and enrichment activities aimed at enhancing their ability to live healthy and fulfilling lives. Health education programs are designed to promote the client's ability to manage his/her illnesses. Self-efficacy is enhanced through programs like diabetes support, "exercise for independence" and medication review. Healthy aging is promoted by offering older adults opportunities to volunteer in the community and learn new skills such as painting, writing, and computer use.

The secondary goal of the IWC is to give students a "new view of old age". JHUSON students working with their student colleagues from the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland develop skills in health promotion activities tailored to meet the needs of low-income older adults and learn to identify the root causes of health disparities among low-income minorities. Health promotion programs are developed in partnership with the Senior Health Advisory, a group of residents and community members dedicated to planning community pleasing programs. Students working in an interdisciplinary team have many opportunities to see older adults as vital, multidimensional people who are life-long learners.

### **Wald Community Nursing Center**

The primary goal of the Wald Community Nursing Center is to promote the health and well being of uninsured or underserved families and individuals by providing interim ("gap") nursing services at no cost to clients that expedite their participation in educational and occupational opportunities in the community and facilitate their connection with established primary health care resources. Health promotion and preventive services provided by faculty, staff, and students include comprehensive health assessment and physical examinations; health education and counseling; screenings; immunizations; referrals and case management; and maintenance of a local service site for the Women, Infants, Children (WIC) food supplementation program.

Secondary goals of the WCNC include:

- Educating students and clients on effective strategies to navigate the complexities of the health care system to meet client health care needs.
- Providing on-site access to Women, Infants, Children (WIC) food supplementation program.
- Developing supportive educational programs related to health promotion issues such as nutrition, parenting, smoking cessation or other areas of identified need in the community.
- Case finding and reaching out to members of the community who are at risk of adverse health outcomes based on social and economic barriers to receiving adequate health care.

**For further information please contact:**

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