

LEARN. LEAD. SERVE.®

Leading the Way to Help Others

New Corona Care Handbook

LHSON FastBacc® Student Steps in to Help

Striving to exemplify the school motto, *Learn.Lead.Serve.*®, Katie Bott, a FastBacc® student in fall 2020 at the Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing (LHSON), wanted to make a positive difference during the pandemic. Since August 2020, Katie has been working with a global health nonprofit, *One Good Turn*, (OGT) and helped support the publication of the “Corona Care Handbook.” Dr. Ann Messer, Founder, Executive Director and Board Chair of OGT, and her colleague, Dr. Theresa Spalding, wrote the content for the handbook and Katie gathered COVID research for the team to review. The handbook is full of helpful information and quickly became a best-seller on Amazon. To view a free download visit: www.onegoodturn.org/free-corona-care-handbook.

With COVID-19 considered a new virus, the information regarding the virus was lacking in the beginning of 2020. However, as time went on, more and more information was presented but was difficult to decipher between what was factual and what was false. OGT knew that the only way to help was to condense everything into one factual, simple, easy-to-read source that would be accessible to the public. “I hope this handbook eases some of the anxiety surrounding COVID-19 such as the anxiety about not knowing what COVID-19 really is, how its spread and more,” said Katie. “I also hope that people can learn and implement simple ways to help fight the spread.”

Katie’s inspiration to help with this project blossomed from a personal experience. In 2020 she lived at home with her mother, who is a public school teacher; her aunt who has special needs and her 91-year-old grandfather who has dementia. She and her mother both contracted COVID-19 earlier in the pandemic and were both very sick. Katie said they both followed the recommendations from the *Corona Care Handbook* and neither her grandfather nor her aunt became sick!



“What drew me to OGT was their focus on teaching,” said Katie. “Instead of going into impoverished countries, providing care, and then leaving, OGT has an emphasis on teaching the local health care providers and their community members. This teaching is built on the providers’ skill sets while utilizing the medications and diagnostic tools that are actually available in these communities. Instead of one-time clinics, OGT partners with communities for the long term. Following each project, they establish an open channel of communication that allows them to serve as an educational and informational resource for community health workers who otherwise would not have access to up-to-date medical information.”

Making an impact at OGT during an unprecedented time in healthcare, Katie is a Dallas native and received her B.S. in Human Development and Family Sciences with an emphasis in Early Childhood from the University of Texas at Austin. A few years after transferring to North Carolina for a work opportunity in the private childcare sector, Katie completed a Nurse Aide course which inspired her to take a leap of faith and apply to the LHSON FastBacc® program. “If someone had told me that I would be starting an accelerated BSN program during a global pandemic, I would have thought they were crazy,” said Katie. “I don’t think it would have been possible without my faith. 2020 challenged me in ways I didn’t know were possible and God has revealed strengths within myself that I had no idea existed.”

“Katie is a remarkable young woman and I’m so glad to be working with her,” said Dr. Messer, *One Good Turn*. “As all organizations, large and small work together to fight this pandemic we will create stronger and more interconnected communities as we prevail against this new illness.”

One Good Turn is an international medical nonprofit organization. Their mission is to provide practical medical education to neglected and underserved communities all over the world. Although they see patients wherever they go, its main focus is on teaching: using each patient-clinician encounter as an modeling opportunity to develop and teach culturally appropriate “best practices” to health workers who have minimal access to medical education.



Therapeutic Patient Communication Research, Using See-Through Masks

Underscoring our new routine of wearing masks invariably has triggered a question about whether wearing a standard cloth or disposable mask impedes nurses’ therapeutic communication with patients. Furthermore, would the use of a see-through mask be a solution to improve learning and therapeutic communication between nursing students and patients during a psychiatric simulation?

Exploration of this pertinent subject is being conducted in a research study at the Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing (LHSON) by Elesha R. Roberts, PhD, RN, CNEcl, CHSE, Albert Schweitzer Lifetime Fellow, Jonas Nursing Scholar. Dr. Robert’s research is titled, *Can You Read My Lips, Promoting Therapeutic Communication Using See-Through Masks*. Dr. Roberts research ran from mid-October through early November 2020. The project was led by Principal Investigator (PI), Dr. Elesha Roberts along with Co-PI, Michelle Ruby Jamison, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, Clinical Assistant Professor, LHSON.

“The lack of effective communication can lead to misunderstandings, conflict, mistrust, missed opportunities, or low morale,” said Dr. Roberts. “As a psychiatric mental health professor, I believe in healthy communication not only with my students but with patients as well. Considering patients are already dealing with barriers in their lives related to their health and mental disease, poor communication should not add to their anxiety. Effective communication should promote healing.”