

# Meeting with Families within Daspoort Community

MODULE NPE 461 DEPARTMENT OF NURSING SCIENCE

## Community challenges

As the Nursing Science Department of the University of Pretoria (UP), we contribute to health in South African communities within the Tshwane district. Together with the nursing students, both undergraduates and postgraduates, we run different projects. Undergraduate students from years 1 to 4 provide health-care services under the supervision of lecturers, clinical facilitators and other qualified health-care providers. Lecturers and clinical facilitators follow up with students and facilitate skills acquisition.

Undergraduate nursing students are placed in different communities, which include the following:

- Community clinics – students are placed in 19 clinics – 13 City of Tshwane, 5 Department of Health and 1 University Clinic
- Hospitals (medical)
- Mental Health Facilities – 2 Private Clinics, 1 Department of Health
- Mental Health Rehabilitation Center – 1 Department of Health
- School Health Care – partnered with 5 primary schools – 2 in Hammanskraal, 3 in Pretoria suburbs
- Retirement homes – 2 Pretoria suburbs

The health care provided includes

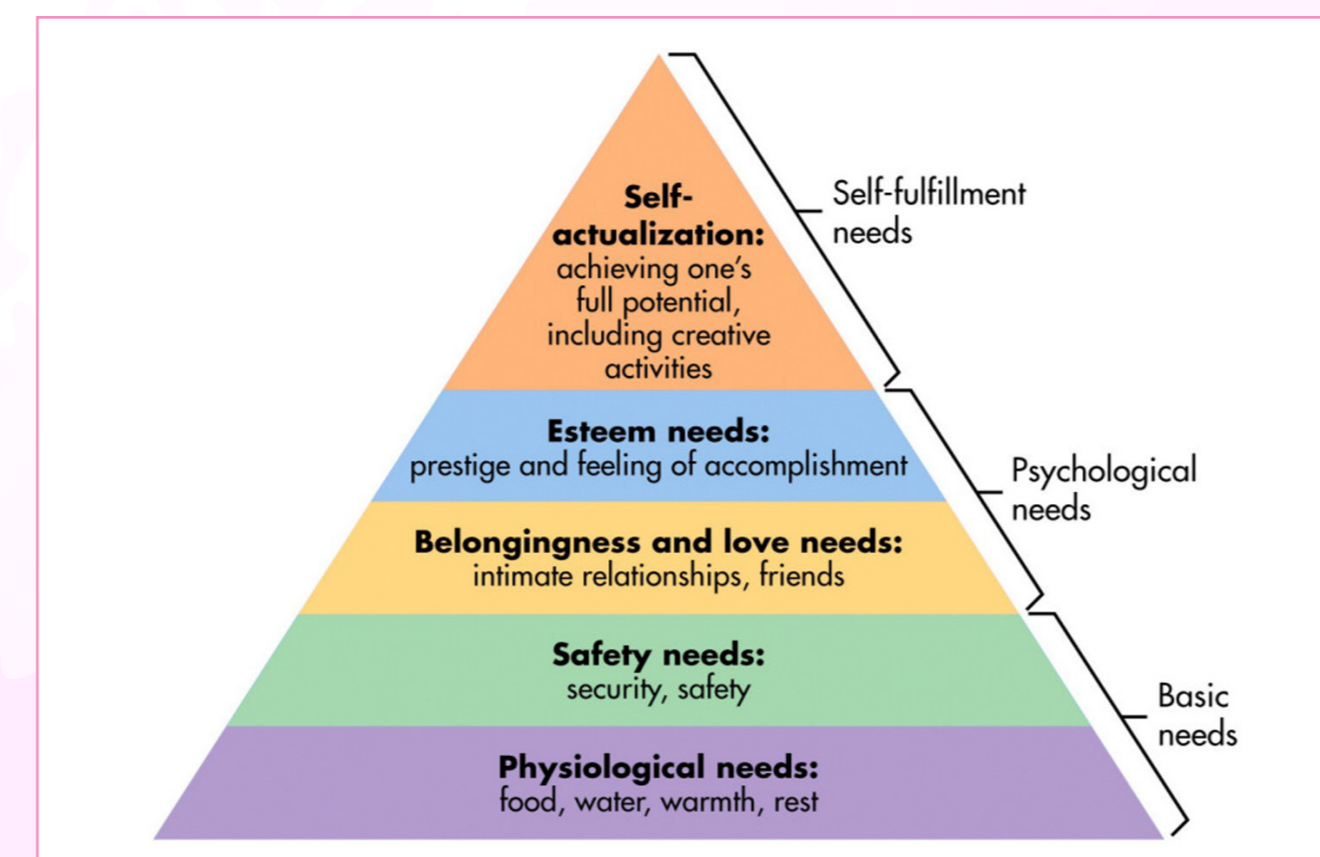
health assessments, diagnosis, nursing management, health education, facility management, mother and child services, family studies, primary health care, management of chronic illnesses, emergency care, mental health services, school health services, geriatric services, and mental retardation care. In addition, the students conduct community assessment. During community assessment, students identify needs, plan for interventions, and implement the interventions. Post-basic psychiatric students conduct a community project, and run a seminar.

## Opportunity description

The task was to carry out an assessment of a community of our choice and to make use of our skills as health care professionals to identify needs that the community has. After identifying the needs, we had to conceptualise and implement a relevant project or projects.

The community selected was an organisation named Potter's House. Potter's House is an organisation that provides shelter to women and children who have escaped domestic violence. It aims to cater to their basic needs while they search for jobs and a means to restart their lives.

Potter's House provides the women with basic needs such as shelter, beds, food, running water, diapers and sanitary products. The surrounding community also provides social workers and a crèche where children are cared for while the mothers search for work.



We used Maslow's hierarchy of needs to guide our assessment of the women's needs and the following were identified: Physiological; Esteem; Belongingness and love and Self actualisation. Included in these categories are the following:

- Skills, employment and finances
- Sanitary pads and diapers (especially when they leave the shelter after the 6 months that they are allowed to stay have lapsed)
- Being equipped to produce a better quality life for themselves and their children (i.e. getting a job, having a home and owning a vehicle)
- Developing intimate relationships after trust has been betrayed and they have been disrespected (as these women come from an abusive background and are in need of emotional and psychological support)

