

# 15<sup>th</sup> Euro Nursing & Medicare Summit

October 17-19, 2016 Rome, Italy

## Community based collaborative action: Transcultural issues impact on a community development program in Carrefour, Haiti

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There are many reports on the state of malnutrition in Haiti. Exacerbated by the 2010 earthquake, conditions such as poverty, lack of access to food, clean water and medical care are threatening many Haitians, particularly children. Haiti does not have enough food. It relies heavily on imported food. Extreme poverty prevents many Haitians from adequate nutritional intake. Experience in the development and implementation of a ready-to-use-therapeutic food program for malnourished children age 6 months to 5 years in a small medical clinic in Carrefour made it evident that this intervention was not sustainable due to the cost of supplying Medika Mamba. In addition, the program did not address all of the village people suffering from malnutrition. Pregnant women are of particular concern due to the increase in caloric needs. The ongoing nutrition problem prompted the investigator to seek a sustainable project that would empower the village population to create an agricultural project that would improve nutrition in the area.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this study was to empower the village population to create an agricultural project that would improve nutrition in Carrefour, Haiti.

**Research Design:** Community based collaborative action research was the framework for this project. Initial phase involving inquiry and inviting participation was completed. Ongoing transcultural issues related to this project are explored.

**SAMPLE:** Purposive sampling was used

**METHODS:** The data collection plan includes: minutes from nutrition committee meetings, participant observation, in depth individual interviews, focus group interviews.

**ANALYSIS:** The findings of this study are not generalizable beyond the population of the study. Exploration of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a sustainable agricultural and food distribution program in Carrefour will be presented. Transcultural issues will be addressed.

### Biography:

Kathleen Lamaute is a Professor of Nursing at Molloy College Barbara Hagan School of Nursing in Rockville Centre, New York. She has given numerous national and international presentations. Dr. Lamaute has designed, developed and implemented numerous courses offered within the college curriculum: These courses include: Family nurse practitioner program- all courses, Genetics and Genomics: Implications for Nursing Practice, Leadership focus on global issues, Vulnerable Populations, Nursing Focus on the Post Katrina Environment: Homelessness and Humanism, Leadership and Management. She is past Chairperson American Nurses Association Individual Member Division. She is the President of the Board of Directors RotaCare- a free clinic for the uninsured in Uniondale New York. She is an active researcher currently working on nutritional and agricultural community empowerment programs in Haiti.

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