

Madonna students join forces with IMP to save the lives of babies in Michigan.

“You are three times more likely to die in Michigan if you are black, than if your white,” stated Mary Gorman. “It’s a health disparity; it’s about poverty, environment, education, equality, ethnicity.”

This is the reason that organizations such as the IMP were started. On average, the Infant Mortality Program serves 200 at-risk pregnant women and their families in Detroit and Wayne County each year. They provide parenting courses, literacy-promotion classes, as well as childcare classes. Additionally they offer medical assistance through their sponsors, St. John Providence Health and Trinity Health.

Pictured below, Gorman, a professor in the college of Nursing and Health at Madonna coordinates service-learning at IMP with her colleague Mary Mitsch, an associate professor at Madonna. This past semester, roughly 70 nursing students assisted at either IMP or another service location. Madonna has a partnership with the Infant Mortality Program since the 2005-2006 school year.



Paris Rutledge, the Support Programs Coordinator at Infant Mortality Program, has only wonderful things to say about students from Madonna, “They have been wonderful!”

The students from Madonna have led different projects such as a parenting course, house safety and non-toxic cleaning instruction. Additionally Madonna students get the opportunity to join

Rutledge and other employees on home visits to clients who would otherwise not be able to come to the center.

One student wrote in her reflective paper after working with IMP, “Overall I felt very well educated. I learned that I cannot presume that patients have a home, a car or people that look out for them. The nurse must be the primary advocate for the patient.”

Another nursing student, Julie Katchuba, worked with IMP throughout her community nursing class.

“My clinical group worked on the latest evidence-based research to develop an informational presentation for parents that come to support groups at the IMP. The presentation was titled "Healthy Homes and Healthy Babies". I also went with the social worker to do home visits. We also went to present what the IMP does to support families and presented at some churches to seek donation funding for the program,” explained Katchuba.

As long as there is an identified need, Madonna plans to continue its partnership with Rutledge and the Infant Mortality Program.