

Building Community Connections Through Experiential Learning in an OT Program

Ashley Held, MS, OTR/L



Presentation Objectives

1. Understand the use of experiential learning in an OT curriculum and its direct impact on the local community.
2. Identify a community-based model of practice in the development of OT/community partnerships.
3. Apply the design of clear and useful activity plans for persons, groups, and populations in a community-based setting.

Community-Based Practice



A broad range of health-related services provided within community settings including:

- prevention and health promotion
- acute and chronic medical care
- habilitation and rehabilitation
- direct and indirect service provision



Community-Based Practice

Goal:

Client and practitioner
will become integral
parts of the community.

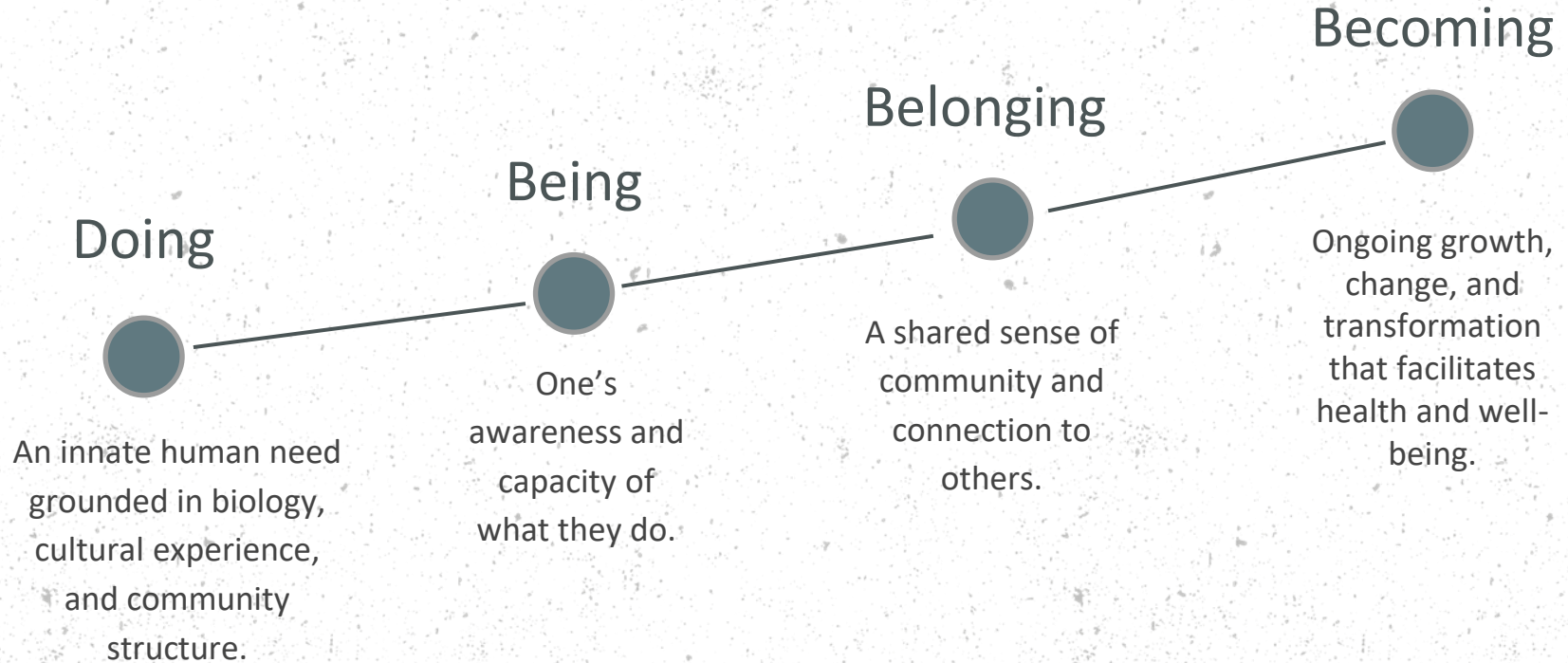


Rationale:

The value of occupation for general health and well-being are fundamental to our profession, but our role in community health is not widely recognized and understood.



Design: Wilcock's Framework for Health



Doing: Community Partnership

Who?

2nd Year MSOT
Students

What?

Provide OT Services to
Individuals, Groups, and
Populations

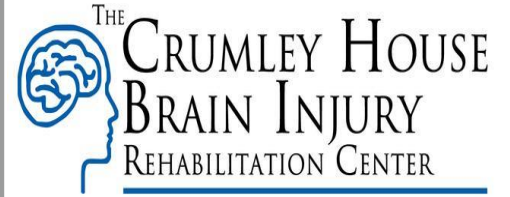
When?

10 Week Period In
the Spring
Semester

Where?

4 Community
Agencies





**Adult Day
Services**

Participants: Our Community Partners

Being: In Community Partnership

- Student Reflection
- Client Reflection



COMMUNITY SITE PLAN and REFLECTION

#

Name _____

Site _____

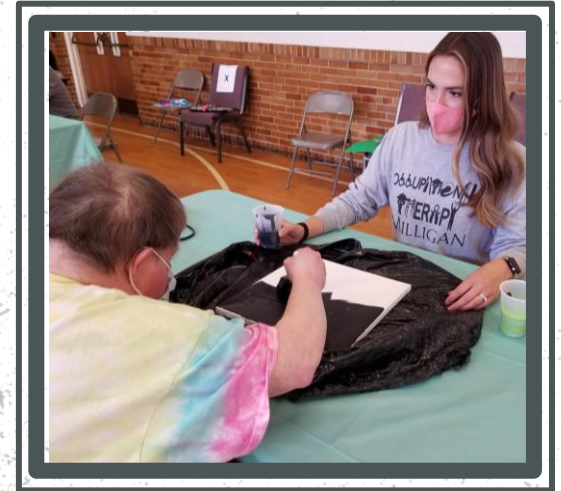
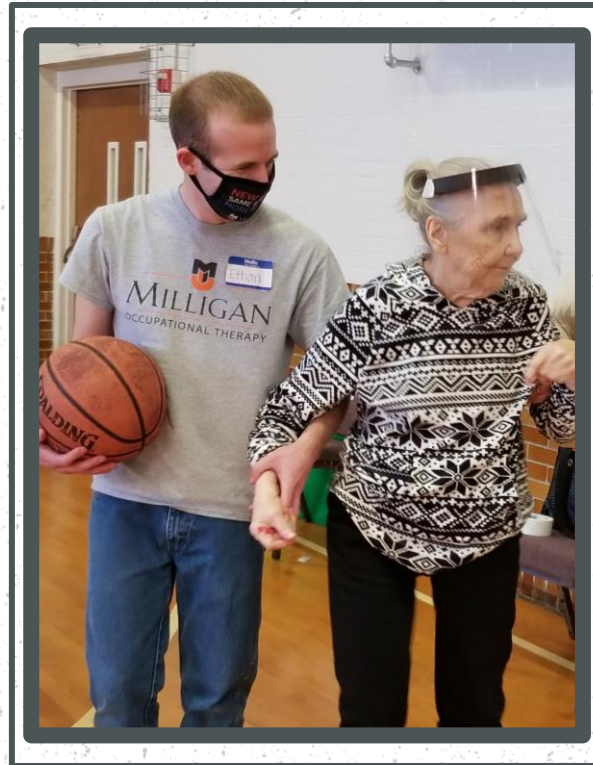
Date _____

Week # _____

TODAY I PLAN TO:	How I hope to accomplish this:	Yes or No	If NO, why not? If YES, how did it go?

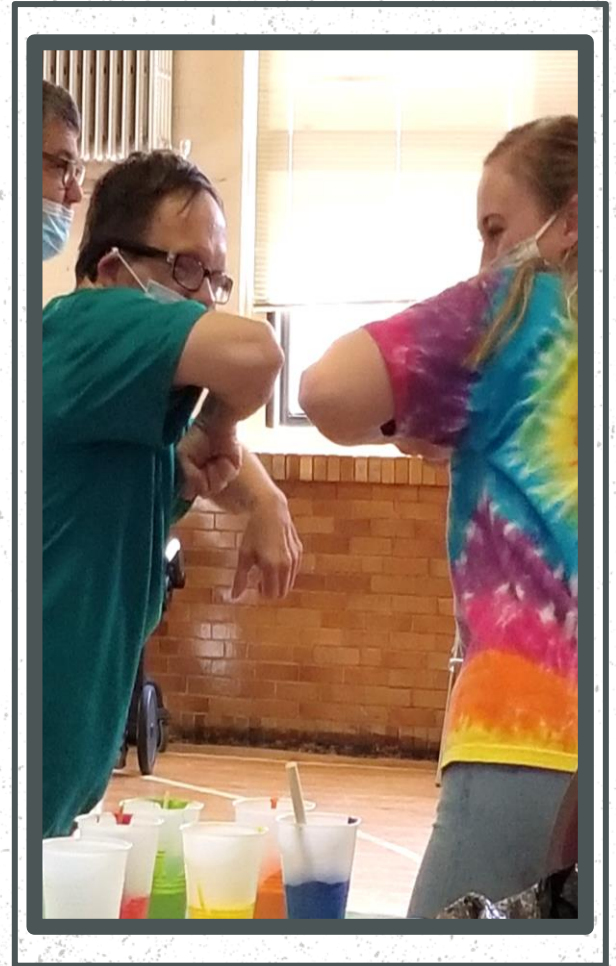
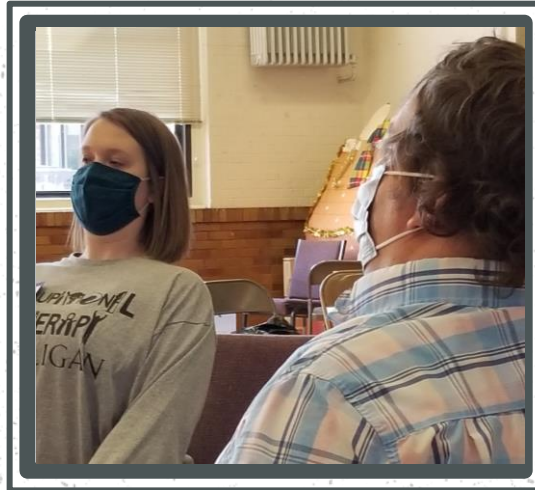
ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM - Write a reflection of this community experience. Focus on what you learned during the process rather than what you did. "What you learned" can include new information about brain injury and how specific issues/concerns impact a client occupationally – new techniques/intervention ideas – new ways to use TUS – new things about yourself (both strengths and limitations) information that relates to any of your classes in the program – anything that interested, amused, surprised, encouraged you etc. Include any feelings and personal reactions to the experiences

Belonging: In Community Partnership





Belonging: In Community Partnership





Belonging: In Community Partnership



Becoming: The Results of our Community Partnership

Dawn of Hope

“Given the Pandemic, I am very happy with the engagement opportunity.”

Crumley House

“Every member I spoke with that participated with OT said they had a great experience.”

Brother’s Keeper

“The participants always are excited to see what their Milligan friends are up to each week!”

Becoming: The Results of our Community Partnership

Adult Day Services

"We enjoy working with the Milligan students and during these times our connection is vital to our participants feeling linked to our community partners."

Student

"I liked being able to finally get out into the community and serve. We were able to work with clients in groups, and I loved this experience."

Student

"The opportunity to go into the community and work with some of our clients was the best part of this course. I am extremely grateful for that experience!"

Discussion



This project highlights the contribution OT can make to community-based health.



Our community partners received new ideas and perspectives from our OT students.



We hope to enhance the project by adding more community agencies to the partnership.



We plan to conduct research on the impact our project has on our community partners.

References

American Occupational Therapy Association. (2020). *Occupational therapy practice framework: Domain and process* (4th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S2001>

Scaffa, M. E., & Reitz, S. M. (2020). *Occupational therapy in community and population health practice* (3rd ed.). F.A. Davis.

Wilcock, A. A. (1999). Reflections on doing, being and becoming. *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal* 46, 1-11.