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What does a Public Health nurse wear?

I was new to public health, had on my one good dress, panty hose, “pumps” and was on a home visit in a house with loose chickens and children. A small child with mucous hanging from her nose and chin along with a pork chop bone in one hand and ice cream in another, outstretched her tiny arms to me. Imagine this!! She wanted me to pick her up! Being that I had on my one good dress, I hesitated momentarily.

This moment in time is where the art of public health nursing met the science of public health nursing. I was immediately convicted by the thought of “what would my Creator do”? The answer became easy. I picked her up, snuggled with her and loved her right along with the pork chop bone, the green mucous, and ice cream. That one good dress made many trips to the dry cleaners over the years.

Public health nursing is not about us; it is about them - the children, families, adolescents, adults, and community we serve. In every public health nursing decision, there are two roads. The higher road always has the better view.