



Special Studies in Rwanda

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Rwanda /Kigali

Rwanda is a country in the eastern part of Africa. It is located south of the equator. The capital city is Kigali. Kigali is the largest city in Rwanda. It is the economic, cultural, and transportation hub of Rwanda.

Women's Equity in Access to Care and Treatment (WE-ACTx) is an international community-based HIV/AIDS initiative. The project began in 2003 as an effort to assist Rwandan genocide survivors access HIV/AIDS medication.

Experience

My time in Rwanda, working for WE-ACTx, was enlightening. Observing WE-ACTx interventions validated the notion of a synergetic connection between one's physical and mental health. For instance, if an individual's physical health is poor, their mental health can be affected and vice versa.



Placement Information

For my special studies project, I created workshop and training materials that covered various topics. In addition, I assisted the mental health staff with new projects.

Agency/Community Partner

WE-ACTx provides medical and mental health services to individuals who have HIV/AIDS. While working with WE-ACTx, I primarily worked with young mothers and children.

Outcomes

One project I worked on entailed putting together a comprehensive support group report. It outlined the objectives, history, purpose of each support group.

Skills Utilized/Developed

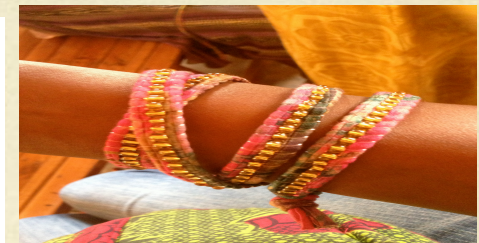
- Critical Thinking
- Presentation
- Communication

Classroom Connections

SW 799: Issues in Global Social Work Practice is a course that I took, prior to my departure. This course prepared me for my global social work experience. In this class I learned the importance of cultural humility.

Lessons Learned

I learned one key lesson, while working with WE-ACTx: to do more with less requires innovative ways to meet the needs of clients.



Career Connections

While working at WE-ACTx, I saw how important integrative health is. In the future, when I work with clients, I will assisted them to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Advice

- If you are interesting in pursuing a special studies, complete the application ASAP.
- Do research and put together a plan, prior to submitting the application.

Acknowledgments

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