



# Salvation Army's Migrant Center in Oslo, Norway



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## Oslo, Norway

- My field placement at the Migrant Center was in Oslo, Norway, which is the capital.
- Norway is a Scandinavian country located in Northern Europe.
- Norway is a half capitalistic, half democratic socialist society and as a result, they have an extensive welfare system.
- Immigration to Norway has only started about 20 years ago.



## Agency/Community Partner

Salvation Army is a nonprofit that is found throughout Norway, Europe, and the world. The Migrant Center is a new program to serve the increasing migrant population in Oslo.

Clients are migrants that do not have Norwegian documents. Many are homeless and work on the streets to earn money to send back to their families. Others move to Norway to find jobs and work.



## Interning at the Migrant Center

### Roles:

- Build rapport and form relationships with multicultural client base and staff members
- Help with kitchen and shower management.
- Assist with client registration
- Assist clients with casework tasks, such as purchasing plane tickets, referring to outside resources, etc.

## Other Learning Opportunities

- Seminar comparing immigration in the U.S. to immigration in the E.U.
- School Visit
- Discussion with a Child Welfare Worker
- International and interdisciplinary Conference on working with children

## Lessons Learned

- that attempting to speak someone else's language goes a long way when building rapport.
- that working with a multicultural staff can be difficult but worth it as I have never learned so much.
- that a lot of learning can be done outside of the field placement with the right connections.



## Skills Utilized/Developed

- Learned how to **build rapport** and form relationships with clients that do not speak the same language and that are not from the same culture.
- Further developed **leadership and management skills** as being the "Lead Person" that was in charge some days.
- Managed and **resolved cross cultural conflicts** and misunderstandings



## Acknowledgments

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## Advice

- Explore as much as you can the city that you are in.
- Take opportunities to learn outside of your field placement.
- Be prepared to spend a lot of money on food and housing.