

International Field Placement in Cape Town, South Africa

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Community Organization, MSW 2011

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Placement

Safeline Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Center is located in the Athlone township community, but serves the greater Cape Town area.

Mission

Safeline works to combat high rates of child sexual abuse through educational community outreach programs and therapeutic services. The non-governmental organization provides therapeutic services such as play therapy to children ages 3-17 who have been sexually abused.

Activities Completed

- Participated in community outreach programs around health education in primary schools and local communities.
- Supported Parenting Skills outreach programs.
- Developed a group plan and a resource booklet for a children's group for my special studies with Dr. Gutierrez.
- Hosted staff workshop around the Children's group plan and logic models.
- Conducted over 20 Forensic interviews and wrote follow up reports.
- Reviewed and presented findings on South Africa's Children's Act of 2005.

International Field Placement

May 7, 2011-August 1st, 2011

Location

Cape Town, South Africa

Sexual Violence and Child Sexual Abuse in South Africa

According to the South African Police Department, Sexual violence is prevalent in South Africa. South Africa has the highest rate of child sexual abuse. Over **500,000** children are raped and/or sexual assaulted each year in South Africa. It is estimated that **1 out of 3 woman** in South Africa have been sexually assaulted at least one time during her life time.

Skills Used

- Interpersonal practice skills around death, loss, trauma, and grief.
- Professional accountability including completing paperwork, attending staff meetings, and supporting Safeline's mission statement.
- Group planning

Coursework

- SW 521 Interpersonal Practice with individuals and groups
- SW 620 United States Culture
- SW 871 Social Work and Anthropology

Skills developed

- Interview skills
- Interpersonal practice skills
- Historical analysis
- Group planning skills
- Self advocacy
- Self reflection around white privilege and oppression

Career Connections

My experience in South Africa has left me with a better understanding of interpersonal practice and trauma intervention.

Advice

- Be your own advocate
- Look for outside opportunities to understand social work in your chosen country such as visiting a hospital or another community organization.
- Create a self care plan

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS) and the Office of Global Activities (OGA) for your financial support. Thank you to Safeline and Cross Cultural Solutions for the opportunity to work with a community-based organization in Cape Town. A special thanks to Luann Hutane, Tahira Kassiem, Katie Lopez, Larry Root, Lorraine Gutierrez, and Irene. Finally thank you to my support group; Stephanie, Kristen, Taylor, and Hannah.

