



Peru

- ❖ Population: 29,180,900
- ❖ Religion: 90% Catholic
- ❖ Language: Spanish and Quechua
- ❖ Currency: Nuevo Sol (a.k.a. Soles)
- ❖ Capitol: Lima

Villa El Salvador (VES)

- ❖ VES is where my special studies was completed. It is an urban district located in the outskirts of Lima, Peru. It is a low-income district but with the efforts of its inhabitants, several social service and income-generating programs have been established.



Promoting Healthy Relationships among Children

Liz Mojica

University of Michigan
School of Social Work

Casa Hogar: Sagrado Corazon de Jesus

- ❖ During my special studies, I volunteered at Casa Hogar: Sagrado Corazon de Jesus. This translates to House Home: Sacred Heart of Jesus. Casa Hogar is an orphanage for children aged 4-11 years old. While I volunteered there, 15 children were living in the home. Some of the children have lost both parents, and some have living parents but have limited to no contact with them. Since I am fluent in Spanish, I was able to read to them and assist them with their homework. I was also privileged enough to plan art activities and games for the children as well as socialize with them during breakfast. As a volunteer, I assisted them in getting ready for school and drove with them to their nearby school.

Career Connections

- ❖ During my special studies, I learned significantly more about myself. I became aware of how my American values impact my views of the world. I was reminded that I am a human being that will continue to grow and develop. I have learned to accept that I am constantly changing and thus I will not completely understand myself. However, I should continue to explore who I am. I believe this is important for social work because in order to better understand our clients, we must first know who we are

Skills Utilized

- ❖ I learned to apply being culturally humble and curious about Peru's traditions, values, and beliefs.
- ❖ I used my knowledge of the Spanish language to interact with others.

Lessons Learned

- ❖ While in Peru, I learned to be sensitive to the norms of others.
- ❖ I learned to be aware of my actions and how others may perceive them based on their cultural.
- ❖ I learned that community members are experts of their community.

Advice

- ❖ Be open-minded and accepting of change.
- ❖ Be aware of who you are and what role you play when interacting with others abroad.

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Classroom Connections

- ❖ Afrocentric Approach to Interpersonal Practice prepared me for this course. It was a safe place for open discussion regarding race, culture, and traditions. We were encouraged to be culturally humble which was something I greatly used while studying abroad.

Outcomes

My daily routine consisted of the following:

- ❖ Promoting positive interactions among the children through breakfast
- ❖ Assisting the children with their homework
- ❖ Encouraging creativity through activities and games
- ❖ Helping the children get ready for school

A reflections paper was produced at the end of the special studies with the hopes of being published into the Reflections Journal.

