

Community Development in Villa El Salvador, Perú

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Agency: Los Martincitos hosts 145 members, most of whom are at least 65 years old and have been relegated to living their advanced years in destitution. The program provides nutritious meals to the seniors three times a week, along with basic medical care, classes, activities and a sense of community. This program is sponsored by Cross Cultural Solutions, a US based non-profit organization.



Activities:

- Home Visits
- Community Forums on Education and Domestic Violence
- Grant Proposal

Outcomes:

- Increased program attendance and retention
- Increased enrollment in government “Vaso de leche” Program



Location: Villa El Salvador is a community that has become a model for urban and social development in Peru. It was founded in 1971 due to a massive relocation of 7,000 families by the Peruvian government. Today, the shantytown is self-managed but is still in dire need of many social services. It has also been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Personal Connection:

I am already halfway through my trip and can't imagine how difficult it will be to leave my abuelo friends. They have made a deep impact on how I view life and how content I feel with my current situation. Sometimes I feel like social work is not even a career. It is a way of life. It is a professional way of saying, “Although I may not see large scale change regularly, I make a small difference in the lives of many people on a daily basis and for that I am satisfied.”

-An Excerpt from my blog June 25, 2011

Coursework Connections:

- SW 521- Interpersonal Practice with Individuals, Families and Small groups has allowed me to acquire a diverse set of aptitudes that were especially useful during interactions with the people of Villa El Salvador.
- SW 560- Introduction to Community Organization, Management, and Policy/Evaluation Practice showed me how to successfully execute a community profile so I could better understand the stakeholders and gatekeepers of the town.