Project Information and Outcomes

My special studies was completed through Volunteer HQ. I stayed with a host family and volunteered at a school called New Vision. Over the two weeks that I spent in Tanzania, I had the opportunity to work with two teachers. The school had approximately 20 students in two classrooms (ages 4-5 years old and ages 6-7 years with one 12 year old student).

I researched the role of social work including the strengths and the needs in Tanzania. I communicated with an individual that worked at the Tanzanian Association of Social Workers Association, as well as, a professor from the University of Maine that hopes to assist in starting a School of Social Work in Moshi, Tanzania.

While volunteering at the school I was able to:

- Assist the children and teachers in improving their spoken and written English by using photography, drawings, and flash cards
- Provide one-on-one tutoring to students that needed extra assistance
- Plan activities for the children during recess and in the classroom
- Engage in the teachers’ and students’ questions about the United States
- Communicating in creative ways with adults and children that speak little or no English
- Learning and utilizing teaching methods
- Kiswahili language acquisition and increased understanding of cultural beliefs and expectations
- Expectations at the beginning of a placement are different from the actual experience. Flexibility is critical and allows for growth to occur.
- Engaging in open communication provides new perspectives and brings an increased awareness to an individual’s privilege and power.

Tanzanian Education Facts

- According to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), 75.5% of males and 60.8% of females 15 years of age and older can read and write Swahili, English, or Arabic.
- According to The World Bank, 94% of children in primary level education are enrolled in school.

Tanzanian Social Work Needs

According to the CIA:

- 1.4 million individuals in Tanzania are living with HIV/AIDS which is the cause for 86,000 deaths per year.
- 16.7% of children in Tanzania under 5 years old are underweight.

Tanzania is a breathtaking country located in East Africa.

Arusha is a city in the northeast part of the country.

The population of Tanzania is over 48 million with approximately 120 tribal groups.

The main languages spoken are Kiswahili and English.

The currency is the Tanzanian Shilling (TSh).

The majority of the population are Islamic or Christian.

This poster was created for the Fall 2013 Global Social Work Poster Fair

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Advice

- Learn common phrases and words in the local language prior to leaving the U.S.
- Be curious and ready to ask questions

Skills Developed

- Communicating in creative ways with adults and children that speak little or no English
- Learning and utilizing teaching methods
- Kiswahili language acquisition and increased understanding of cultural beliefs and expectations

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the Office of Global Studies for the financial support provided for my Special Studies placement. Thank you, Dr. Ortega, for being my faculty sponsor. I also want to thank my friends that donated money to buy resources for New Vision School.

Lessons Learned

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Career:

- This experience will help me to work in new settings where resources are limited. The ability to work with individuals and groups is also invaluable.

Classroom:

- SW696: Social Work Practice with Children and Youth
  - I applied a strengths-based approach to my interactions with the children and understood the role that their families and community have played in their lives.
- SW605: Infant and Child Development and Behavior
  - By understanding the developmental stages of the children, I was able to engage at their level.

Connections

- SW696: Social Work Practice with Children and Youth
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