

# US Peace Corps Masters International Program

Candice Gibson

University of Michigan School of Social Work



## Philippines; Magalang

- Magalang is located in the province of Pampanga. (Approximately 2 hrs NorthWest of Manila)
- It is part of the first congressional region, which includes Angeles City, a major area for sex tourism.
- Girls/women are lured to the city under the pretext of employment or through a 'marriage'.
- 30% of them are minors and come from rural areas of the country.



## Host Country Agency

DSWD Haven Home for Girls caters to girls and young women who are; victims of human trafficking, rape, incest, molestation, abandonment and abuse. The staff consists of 3 social workers and 8 house parents who provided 24 hour supervision, care and rehabilitative services for the residents. There is an average of 90 residents at Haven at any given time.

## Skills Utilized/Developed

- Grant Writing
- Facilitation Skills
- Advocacy

## Lessons Learned

- Being willing/trying to fully integrate into another culture is challenging, but well worth it.
- Getting involved in things outside of the US changes your perspective immensely.
- All people want to feel love, respected and cared for regardless of other differences.

## Children Youth & Families (CYF) Sector; Activities & Outcomes

### Youth Development and Empowerment

I contributed to Haven by providing group services to residents. She was the lead organizer of two, 3-day, Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) camps. In partnership with her counterpart she wrote the initial proposal, gained the necessary approvals, developed the budget, secured funding, worked with community partners to obtain donated venues and accommodations for camp staff, solicited the assistance of multiple Peace Corps Volunteers, selected appropriate curriculum and trained social work students from a local college to co-facilitate with agency staff and Peace Corps Volunteers in session presentations. She oversaw the implementation of the camp, took part in session presentations and prepared the final reports.

In all, 60 girls attended the camps, participating in valuable lifeskills sessions that included the topics of: leadership, communication, conflict management, self-esteem/self-awareness, positive coping strategies, diversity and nutrition. I facilitated a collaboration with the local Department of Health to provide HIV/AIDS training at the first camp and provided the opportunity for 3 Youth Health Advocates and their supervisor to introduce similar information at the second camp. I also conducted life skills sessions throughout her assignment at Haven. Additionally, I created a safe space where residents could communicate their wants/needs directly to her. With additional input and discussion, girls then were ready for the ongoing assistance of Haven staff. I coordinated with staff to create monthly programs for the residents such as mini Olympics and personal expression through dance, poetry and theater.



### Secondary Placement

I facilitated life skills sessions for at risk scholars of Renew Foundation. Every Saturday 8 girls participated in teambuilding, conflict management, self-esteem/self-awareness and communication sessions over the course of 9 months. The scholars then began to co-facilitate sessions together that they created themselves. Additionally, I traveled with the social worker of Renew and gave her perspective on social work/needs assessment when deciding what services clients needed and what resources to tap into for victims of human trafficking throughout Angeles City.



### Livelihood Opportunities

Candice coordinated with two PCVs to introduce jewelry making and plastic purse crocheting through the use of free, recycled materials. These projects are now used as a means for livelihood for the girls/women, providing job readiness skills and income for extra spending money, and supporting an eco-friendly environment.



### Career Connections

- Being flexible and willing to make adjustments unexpectedly is a skill that I will utilize across any position that I have in the future.
- Being an observer/listener and a person with little knowledge when working in other countries before creating projects will also come with me wherever I go.

### Advice

- Try to remain self-aware throughout the process. Know when you need a little self care.
- Be honest and open about your experiences and ask lots of questions.
- Do not compare your experience to other volunteers'.

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