

Akwaaba Work the World Nursing Internship (Ghana)

Work the World Internship Summer 2019

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City/Country

- Takoradi, Ghana
- Akwidaa, Ghana



Other Important Background

- Life expectancy (2016)
 - Ghana- Male: 62, Female: 64
 - US- Male: 76 Female: 81
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (2015)
 - Ghana- 319:100,000 live births
 - US- 26:100,000 live births
- HIV prevalence rate
 - Ghana- 1.7%
 - US- 0.34%



Experience

Information

- Work the World Nursing internship at Effia Nkwanta Regional Hospital in Takoradi, Ghana
 - Work the World Nursing internship at community health clinic in Akwidaa, Ghana

Purpose of Trip:

- Nursing Internship
- Cultural/Clinical Immersion

Outcomes

- Experienced differences in OB/GYN nursing care between Ghana and US
 - Provided comfort measures and emotional support for women in labor
- Assisted in nursing education and care at the HIV clinic for mother to child transmission
 - Provided care at a village pediatric vaccination clinic
 - Diagnosed and treated multiple patients for malaria
 - Diagnosed and treated hypertension

Skills Utilized/Developed

- Compassion
- Effective Communication (with language barrier)
- Open-mindedness

Lessons Learned

- Ways to convey compassion and attentiveness to patients, even with a language barrier
 - Importance of resources (BP, O₂, wheel chairs, gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Importance of immersing oneself in the culture to best understand and experience the community

Career Connections

- Interested in global health and truly appreciated our first global health experience as nurses
- Learned a ton about providing culturally competent care and will be able to utilize these skills in future global and non-global nursing careers

Advice

- Be open to all types of experiences
- Don't set expectations or prejudgments on the place and people you will be working with
- Get out of your comfort zone and do it!

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