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Class of 2017

Kaeme Foundation
Accra, Kumasi, and Cape Coast, Ghana
What are the responsibilities?

• Kaeme assists Ghana’s Department of Social Welfare (DSW) with furthering the Care Reform Initiative. Interns work alongside Ghanaian social workers at various orphanages to help create profiles on the resident children. The three main responsibilities break down into –
  – **Tracking:** organizing the provided files on the children, keeping track of the status of profiles, overseeing other interns
  – **Transcribing:** transferring the pertinent information from the orphanages’ files to an official DSW profile for each child
  – **Camera Work:** filming the formal child interviews conducted by the social workers
  – **Informal Interviews:** essentially, engaging with the children in a low-pressure environment to prepare them for the formal interviews; playing cards, football (soccer), or hand-clap games, etc.!
Informal ‘Interviews’!
The most rewarding aspect of this internship was having the opportunity to see how our summer’s work was contributing to long-term change; rather than just being a temporary, feel-good experience, the process of profiling has a concrete impact on the government’s efforts to reunite children with families.
Our first meeting at the Kumasi DSW office!
What’s the impact?

• The profiles compiled by the Kaeme team are added to Ghana’s Department of Social Welfare database. The information provided can then be used to reunite children with documented family members, determine the most suitable fostering options, and/or keep track of the efficiency and care of the profiled orphanages.
From teaching dental health to swapping stories, there’s plenty of quality time spent with the children!
What have I learned?

• As a Comparative Literature concentrator, this internship provided a great exercise in cross-cultural translation and engagement.

• I also received a significant introduction to social work, a career pathway I am considering. This internship showed me what day-to-day life in this field would look like.
From the work itself to the cultural opportunities, the summer was rewarding all-around!
Working with Kaeme opened my eyes to the ways short-term volunteering can be transformed into substantial engagement with a long-term goal. As a Ghanaian-American, I greatly valued the chance to not only further explore my family’s culture, but also contribute in some small way to changing Ghana’s orphanage system to one that more effectively prioritizes the mental, emotional, and physical health of its vulnerable children.