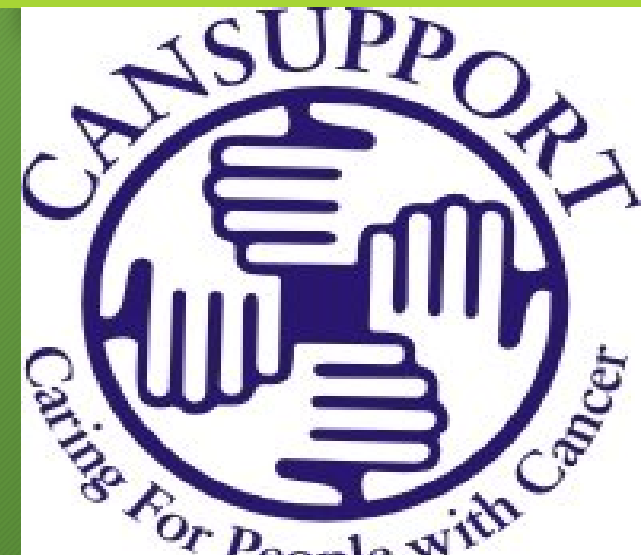




CanSupport

Katie Kavanaugh Class 2018 New Delhi, India



Work Responsibilities



- I helped in research and development by drafting a report for the central office concerning a pilot project conducted in a different state of India (Punjab).
- It is hoped that this pilot project will be used as a model for future expansion of CanSupport's work beyond New Delhi and around the country.
 - This made my report a very important piece of CanSupport's program research and I really felt like I was able to help the organization!
- CanSupport hopes to publish the report written on the Punjab Pilot Project in a journal on palliative medicine.

Additional Work Responsibilities

- In addition to writing the report, I also accompanied doctors on home visits and worked in CanSupport's day care center.
- During home visits, CanSupport doctors visit terminally ill cancer patients in order to provide them with important medications and vital physiological counseling.
- The day care center is operated by CanSupport to provide a safe place for cancer patients to gather in order to participate in activities together and receive group counseling.
 - The center is open to children on Mondays and adults on Fridays.

Day Care



Home Care



Most Rewarding Experience

- Learning how to quickly build strong cross cultural relationships with my wonderful and extremely hard working co workers!
 - Although difficult at first, I formed strong bonds with many employees at CanSupport.
 - Because of this I was able to feel comfortable asking questions about work responsibilities, talking about issues surrounding Cancer and palliative care, and learning from the medical expertise of experienced doctors and nurses.
 - Creating these strong bonds with CanSupport employees also helped me to get involved with additional activities outside of the office like the Home Care and Day Care visits mentioned above.
 - In addition, I was also able to visit Out Patient Clinics and accompany doctors in the field as they searched for new opportunities to expand their organization at the grass roots level.
- By pushing myself to be outgoing from the start of my internship, I was able to seek out and take advantage of new opportunities at CanSupport which helped me to have an amazing overall experience!

Co Workers



My Impact

- It is one of CanSupport's goals to expand its work in palliative Cancer care beyond the boundaries of New Delhi through qualified third party actors.
 - To this end, Can Support worked with the Punjab State Government to create a pilot program for training doctors and nurses in palliative care in the Punjabi district of Patiala (which previously did not have a system of palliative care in place).
- This pilot program ended just before I arrived and my job was to describe and analyze the project in the mode of an extended report.
 - My report and abstract will be sent to potential third party actors seeking to create palliative care programs, it will be presented by Dr. Mohan of CanSupport at an annual Indian Palliative Care Conference, and, it is hoped, that it will be published in an Indian palliative care journal.
- Most importantly, my report will help to inform others about CanSupport's attempts to expand its important work outside of Delhi and, hopefully, aid in the organizations attempts to increase India's focus on providing palliative care for terminally ill patients.

CanSupport's Work is Important!



CanSupport's Mission: to enable people with advanced cancer and their families to make informed choices and decisions and to receive appropriate physical, emotional, social and spiritual support



CanSupport's Vision: is that of a caring and supportive society where people with cancer and their families live with dignity, hope and comfort.



Tying the Experience Back to Princeton

- As a Pre-Med student CanSupport provided me the opportunity to observe medical procedures and learn from experienced doctors and nurses.
- In the field, I got to talk to and witness first hand, the struggles of cancer patients in New Delhi. I also was able to learn a great deal about palliative care, which was a field of medicine that was not particularly aware of before doing this internship.
- While working for CanSupport, I also was able to learn about and experience the differences between India's health care system and our own.
- As I am interested in ways to improve health care delivery at a grass roots level, working for CanSupport was particularly rewarding for me.

Conclusion

- CanSupport is an amazing organization to work for and I highly recommend it for future IIPers!
- Overall this experience helped me to meet amazing individuals in my prospective field, gain valuable work and research experience, and grow my interest in global health.
- AND I also got to explore the amazing and beautiful country of India!

India

