Leezet Matos
2018
Child Family Health International (CFHI)
Bolivia

Work Description

- Shadowed doctors in different rotations at a children's hospital in La Paz and multiple locations in Tarija

- 7:30am-12pm: worked at the hospital observing doctors, asking questions, and helping with patient care

- 3-6pm: worked at an orphanage helping the kids with homework and organizing interactive activities for them

- Some Nights: worked in the emergency room with med school students and residents

Hospital Del Nino~ Doctor Galindo (Surgeon)

Most Rewarding Aspect

- Very profound perspective on the medical situation in Bolivia and Latino America in general

- I learned so much about the healthcare system—its many positive aspects as well as its shortcomings—and the importance of the work many doctors in Bolivia do despite the lack of resources

- I truly developed a love for the people and immense respect for the medical profession in developing countries like Bolivia

Two of our girls from the Orphanage

Work Impact on Organization

- Although my involvement in the medical proceedings was limited, I felt my constant engagement and eagerness to help allowed me to be as important to the hospital as the medical students I learned with

- I especially felt an impact on the kids at the orphanage who loved having older sister and brother figures help and support them

In the Quirofano with Amber

Career Impact

- Although I absolutely loved all the medical aspects I was exposed to, the internship actually solidified my love for research and neuroscience—I spent two weeks working in a Chagas lab and three weeks shadowing a neurologist

- So instead of becoming a doctor I now want to go into Neuroscience research

Overall

- I feel 100% satisfied with the internship and all I gained from it
- I met incredibly inspiring professionals and lifelong friends I will never forget
- This experience set me in the right direction, in terms of my future career, and left me with a real understanding of Bolivian culture and beauty
- I can't wait to go back!!