

Working as an AP Fellow in Gulu Uganda

This summer of 2016 I was given the opportunity to be a fellow with the Advocacy Project who partners with multiple organizations around the world. I was assigned to work with the Gulu Disabled Persons Union (GDPU) in Uganda and help them with a program that was focused in Primary Schools. This was my second time in Uganda, the first was as a Social Work Student in 2009, where I came as part of a course and visited multiple organizations around Kampala and a few in Gulu. That trip was more of an overview of issues and organization in Kampala, this time as a Public Health Student, I would be spending my summer focused on one major project with one organization in order to help them meet their goals for the program.

Much has changed in the seven years in between my visits, however the impact that the work has made on me showed itself in similar ways. I learned a great deal about cultural differences both professionally and personally. It forced me to deal with being uncomfortable and unfamiliar with things for much of the time that I was there, while challenging also allowed me to grow and learn. I'm taking a great deal from this experience and will use it in my professional career but will also make important changes in myself, in my ongoing process of self discovery and growth.