

Community Research Intern and Nursing Assistant at Heart for Africa

Swaziland has the highest prevalence rate of HIV-infected adults in the world, and an estimated 63% of the population lives in poverty. Consequently, caretakers die—leaving orphans and vulnerable children as half of Swaziland's population. These children are left with no hope of escaping the cycle of poverty. Heart for Africa is working to help alleviate this problem.

I will be serving with Heart for Africa for at least six weeks from June to July 2017. As a community research intern, I will be responsible for visiting HFA's 31 church partners with members of the Project Canaan (HFA's land development project) team to interview and complete surveys. The feedback and results will be used to see how we can better assist with the orphaned and vulnerable children in the community. Along with this, I will also be serving whenever HFA needs help. This may include packing lunches, washing vehicles, or playing with children. I will be working five days a week in my specific role of community research intern as well as volunteer, have Saturdays with the children, and Sunday as my day of rest (church, laundry, etc.).

Since I am a nursing student, they have also provided me with the opportunity to serve using my nursing skills with the children in the community and the 150+ infants and children in Project Canaan children's homes. This may include taking vital signs, doing physical assessments, and conducting environmental appraisals.