

During my summer in Uganda, I learned an immense amount everyday, whether from the family with whom I lived, the children I taught, or my coworkers. The work I did ranged from day to day. The office work I did included filing children's files to typing documents for my department, organizing the office, and restructuring the database. I taught remedial high school math classes in the afternoons and also taught some elementary school classes once a week. Some days, I visited children in their homes and schools to compile field reports about the children's academic progress and their personal development.

About half way through the summer, I received a grant to start a text book library for the sponsored children. BCC, the Bushikori Christian Organization, provides over 300 orphaned children with uniforms, notebooks, pens and pencils. They also pay for their tuition and lunches. However, the organization does not have the capacity to provide the children with the necessary textbooks or review materials. Therefore, in order to offer the children access to these resources, I proposed a textbook library, primarily for math and science textbooks. After receiving the grant, I also managed to raise more funds for biology lab kits and review books for humanities and social science subjects. I spent a lot of time designing the library and implementing the project in such a way that people after me would be able to maintain it.

Both my Ugandan supervisor and the FSD summer coordinator in Uganda provided me with the necessary guidance and independence to have a productive and rewarding summer. My supervisor at work taught me a lot about the office and also gave me the freedom to work on my own projects. He asked me to share with him my ideas and gave me advice about how to implement the more practical suggestions. The FSD supervisor made sure on a weekly/biweekly basis that all was well and would have been more involved if I had needed her to be.

I learned a lot about indigenous NGO's in general and about the education more specifically. My host family as well as friends from work taught me about the culture and intricacies of the community. After living in Uganda for two months, I could better

understand the different challenges facing the community and the biggest obstacles to solving the problems.

I think that the internship and experience exceeded my expectations in almost every way. The people were so supportive of my ideas and interested in the suggestions that I made. Although it took me a while to understand the structure of the organization and the ways in which I could best use my skills, once I did, I had an immense amount of support to pursue my interests. I had the freedom to make the internship my own and the guidance that I needed to make my ideas happen.

The internship solidified my interest in international work, most likely on the grass roots level. I am currently still in touch with some of the people with whom I became close and have continued working with BCC. I hope to integrate my experience this summer into my academic work over the next two years as well as create an opportunity to return to visit the community that hosted me this summer and hopefully work in Uganda again.





