

Where Rainbows Meet - Volunteer Testimonials / Feedback

Name: Catelin Hotz

Age: 23

Location: Chicago, IL, USA

1. What is your academic/professional background?
 - A. Graduated from Indiana University in 2016, currently working as a risk and compliance consultant in Chicago
2. What was your mission/motivation for volunteering?
 - A. Since I had time off in between college and the real world, I wanted to take time to travel to an unknown area, experience their culture, and help out any way possible. I have been blessed in my life and felt it was my mission to spend time off from my normal life to help those less fortunate.
3. What was your single favorite experience/place while visiting South Africa?
 - A. One of my favorite experiences in Cape Town was youth day at WRM. It was an unbelievable feeling seeing all of the children of the community I was serving filled with joy in the midst of their hectic lives.
4. Why did you pick the Business/Community Development Project at Where Rainbows Meet?
 - A. I studied business in school so felt business/community development fit my background. I also wanted to immerse myself in a community while in Cape Town and get to know the real people of South Africa.
5. What projects did you work on while you were at Where Rainbows Meet?
 - A. I worked on a variety of things! From youth day & graduation planning to helping teach business/life skills classes... I feel like I got a taste of everything!
6. What skills did you gain from the project?
 - A. I really learned how to improvise and work with what was given to me. Sometimes, things are unplanned and you have to make something great with little resources. It

taught me how to be flexible and use my creativity in ways I had never done before.

7. Why should other volunteers choose Where Rainbows Meet to volunteer? The people at Rainbows are what make it a great place to be. The staff, volunteers, and people to come to use the facilities are the best. The supervisors really give volunteers the power to work where they feel they fit and make a difference, whether you volunteer for two weeks or two years!

7. What were your overall impressions of the experience at Where Rainbows Meet and South Africa?

A. While being very different from home, WRM and South Africa were some of the most interesting places I have ever been. It is beautiful everywhere you look and there is never a dull moment. I never felt like I had seen or done enough.

8. What do you think could be improved about the organization?

A. If I had to choose, organization & planning was something that could be improved at WRM. Like I said, you have to be flexible!

9. How has this experience benefitted your studies, career, professional mission, etc?

A. My experience has truly opened my eyes to another side of the world and another culture. Some of the things I saw and did in South Africa and at WRM are experiences I will never have again. The people I met allowed me to think of my career and my work in another light. It was one of the greatest experiences I have and will ever have.