

As explained on their website, Episcopal Relief & Development is an international relief and development agency and a compassionate response to human suffering on behalf of The Episcopal Church. They work to heal a hurting world and guide their actions by the principles of compassion, dignity and generosity. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world.

Episcopal Relief & Development cherishes its partnerships within the Anglican Communion, with ecumenical bodies and with others who share a common vision for justice and peace among all people.

Currently, Episcopal Relief & Development works in over 30 countries worldwide on projects surrounding four core areas: Alleviating Hunger, Creating Economic Opportunities, Promoting Health and Fighting Disease, and Responding to Disasters. As the Marketing and Communications Intern, I worked with the Marketing and Communications team on a variety of projects throughout my eight weeks at the internship. My responsibilities were varied, and my projects required a quick turn-around, so they were generally very specific. My first weeks there, I organized the photo galleries and cataloged photo and video assets for future use in promotional videos. I also worked on updating the

website and the program descriptions based on the information available as of June. As I began to understand the organization better, I wrote stories and blog posts for our website and edited the articles and stories of others. I completed a Storytelling seminar on branding, learning how to talk about Episcopal Relief & Development and its work in a positive and progressive way.

I loved getting to see and be a part of the immense amount of work and editing that goes into every detail of a publication, even an online blog post. I also learned about “empowerment marketing,” which has helped me understand both Episcopal Relief & Development and other non-profits better, as I know how they attempt to present themselves.

My favorite part of the job was getting to write stories and create videos. Many of the stories I wrote had no narrative at first, just lots of footage or interviews, so I would spend hours going through footage, getting it translated, and deciding how to tell an empowering story. Over that time, I also became deeply invested in the work Episcopal Relief & Development does around the globe, and particularly interested in the programs about which I wrote or created videos.

One of my favorite projects was creating a video about a youth planting initiative in Guatemala. All of the interviews were in Spanish, and though I know

enough to vaguely understand what they said, I couldn't create accurate subtitles. I went through hours of footage to pick a few minutes worth to get translated. When the interviews came back in English, I realized that I still only had about a minute of usable material. So I had to go back through the footage to find a new angle on the story. I ended up finding out that the kids spent their free time in the local cemetery because it was the only place with trees large enough to provide shade. I used that fact to ground the narrative about the tree-planting initiative as an investment in a thriving future for the youth of Guatemala City so that in a few years, they can spend time where they want to rather than being constrained by a lack of trees and therefore shade. The video ended up being three minutes long, and was published on the website a few days later.

Adjusting to an office environment after living in Sewanee for three years was difficult at first, but everyone was very kind and easy to connect with. The experience was one I wouldn't trade for anything, but I did learn that nonprofits are not what I want to do with my life. I was attracted to the nonprofit sector because of my desire to contribute to a better future, but I realized that I want to work with people more closely. Rather than working from an office in New York City to improve the well-being people in Uganda or Guatemala or Sri Lanka, I want to interact directly with those affected to be able to understand their lives more fully.