

My strength in perusing this volunteer service with SOME is my experience. I have been volunteering ever since I was a child as a scout, with school service projects, and independently with the elderly, poor, hungry, and anyone else in need. My travels around the world have exposed me to many types of people in different stages of their life's journey. I saw the poverty in Kenya, Thailand and Ecuador and knew that there is something I can do, so I applied for SOME Volunteer Corps. I want to use my education, work experience and travel experience to benefit the people of Washington D.C. to improve their way of living and health.

My most successful experience in a leadership role was as Housekeeping Manager at the Westin Cincinnati. I worked with men and women from several different countries who were doing the dirty work of the hotel and being the least appreciated from upper management and guests. I learned from my team, the way they used their time efficiently, and sometimes not; how they would effectively clean a room to the 5 star standard that Westin expects. They were also facing difficult personal lives, moving to Cincinnati away from their African culture and family, being paid \$11 per hour and sending all of their earnings home to Africa to their families to survive. Domestic violence situations at home, and even murder affected my housekeepers. I sympathized with them and aided them whenever possible in their personal lives by being an ear or redoing their resume to apply for another position within the hotel. Communication was my best asset with my team, they knew they could count on me.

The challenges that I would face while pursuing this volunteer service would be my lack of experience working directly with people facing addiction or mental health. I am compassionate, loving and open minded person who is strong enough to aid people with these illnesses, however my educational and work background does not include this. I will use my leadership, training and communication skills to help anyone in need of assistance including other volunteers and staff.

My friends would describe me as adventurous, caring, flexible, and cultured. I want to use these attributes to support SOME's mission to meet the immediate daily needs of the people you serve with food, clothing, and health care. I want to give my time to help others to assist them to get to the next step in their journey by teaching, cooking, talking, empowering, and be an advocate on behalf of the poor. I want to learn how addiction recovery is handled, how mental health is addressed, and how we as a community can foster an active commitment to social justice by educating public officials and community organizations.