An Interdisciplinary Approach to Elder Care in Nicaragua

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An Interdisciplinary Approach to Elder Care in Nicaragua

Description
An interdisciplinary team of students and faculty from Pacific University traveled to Nicaragua to work with underserved elders living in a group home. The trip extended from late December 2007 through early January 2008.

Disciplines
Dental Public Health and Education | Occupational Therapy | Physical Therapy

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An Interdisciplinary Approach to Elder Care in Nicaragua

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Introduction

Purpose

Our Team

Student Feedback

Future Plans

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Purposes

• Create a sustainable improvement in the well-being of underserved elders living in a group home environment

Our Team

• Develop an appreciation for the role of other health professions

Student Feedback

"After working closely with the other programs, I learned that patient assessments start as soon as the patient walks in the door. Patients are evaluated on daily activities such as opening the door, opening a toothpaste tube and moving in and out of a chair. I used to view these as basic everyday activities, but now realize that these are just a few assessments that occupational and physical therapy perform to evaluate patients and ultimately work with them to improve their quality of life." - Jessie F. Richardson

Future Plans

• Conduct annual trips to Nicaragua to create sustainable service-learning programs, including extended off-site rotations

Hogar de Ancianos

At the time of our visit, La Providencia had 46 residents (24 males, 22 females) and 20 staff members including 9 caregivers. Hogares are funded primarily through donations supported by the Jessie F. Richardson Foundation, which is a charitable nonprofit organization located in Portland, Oregon, committed to enhancing the efficacy and impact of the world’s response to the global aging crisis. They support programs to improve living conditions for indigent elders in the United States and Latin America.