

PHRM 880 Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience

Salama Home Initiative, Eldoret, Kenya

# Salama Home Initiative

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## INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Salama means "safe" in Swahili. The Salama Home Initiative (SHI) is a community service organization based in Eldoret, Kenya, dedicated to assisting former street youths who have completed a drug rehabilitation program. Kiragu Benson, a former street youth, founded this halfway house in response to the limited post-rehabilitation programs for young adults. Purdue Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) students affiliated with the Purdue Kenya Partnership interacted with Salama youth through participation in workshops, sports, and dancing.



The Core SHI Team: Karen, Kiragu Benson, and Caroline

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

- Empower expansion of services to reach a wider population
- Utilize existing relationships to effectively address identified needs
- Enhance cultural competency and awareness by serving diverse communities



Facilitators with youths

## METHODOLOGY

More than 15 Purdue students and faculty advisors have collaborated with SHI administrators, actively participating in interactive workshops and establishing meaningful connections with the youths through activities such as sports and dancing. A service-learning grant supported workshops on financial stability, conflict resolution, self-awareness, work ethic, mental health, and other topics. Purdue students were able to immerse themselves in the culture and observe how young people lived their lives, gaining invaluable insights for the patients they will serve in the future.



Discussions with the youths about their exit process from the center

## IMPACTS

- Integrate Purdue University students actively into SHI activities
- Print materials to initiate a needs assessment survey for 50 youths, pinpointing those who require the services the most
- Conduct home visits for fifteen youths selected for the program to better understand the unique needs of each individual
- Secure a rental space to implement a mentorship program spanning three months
- Facilitate SHI social worker visits to various companies and business firms to explore job opportunities and apprenticeships for the youths
- Ten youths were able to secure stable jobs after completing this program



First day of mentorship

## REFLECTIONS & CONCLUSIONS

It was impactful for Purdue University College of Pharmacy students to participate in the activities and listen to testimonies from the youths, witnessing firsthand the global partnership uniting to support their health and well-being. The interactions with this community have provided invaluable cross-cultural skills and deepened understanding of the impact of social determinants of health and how this program has helped the youths. Additional grants will help to expand this program for more youths while also providing opportunities for pharmacy students to participate in activities.



Purdue students with one of the youths, David

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