



Cross-cultural **experience**, professional **expertise** and a return to **service**

## **ALL EXPENSE-PAID VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in AFRICA**

**CASE STATEMENT:** Only 21% of the world's population lives in Europe and in North America, but they employ 45% of the world's doctors and 61% of its nurses. Africa is home to about 13% of world population, but only 3% of world aggregate of doctors, and 5% of nurses, work in Africa. The national density of doctors ranges from highs of 6.0 per 1,000 in Italy to a low of 0.02 per 1,000 in Liberia. Nursing density ranges from 20.7 nurses per 1,000 in Norway to lows of just 0.06 nurses per 1,000 in Ethiopia and Uganda. These ratios limit healthcare access, as well as increase personal costs to Africans. Part of the healthcare worker shortage is due to nurses leaving Africa for better pay and better working conditions overseas. This brain drain becomes a case of the poor supporting the rich. Most African countries are paying for the education of nurses who are now working in Europe and the United States. In some African countries, the pregnancy mortality rate almost doubled from 1992 to 2000, with 1 in 89 births resulting in the death of the mother. Many of these deaths are associated with substandard hospital care related to health care worker shortage and lack of currency in health care practice.

**ENCORE! SERVICE CORPS INTERNATIONAL** Encore! is a 501 c (3) volunteer service organization comprised of 1,800 skilled professionals who are former Peace Corps Volunteers, Peace Corps staff, and others with similar overseas development experience. Our vision is to generate significant social and economic change in local communities in the developing world. Our mission is to expand local capacity for measurable, targeted social and economic development. Encore! partners with NGOs and other international organizations to design capacity building projects with mutually agreed upon, measurable goals and recruits volunteers with specific professional expertise, as requested, on a project-by-project basis.

Encore! was invited by JNJ to develop a pilot program, which would be part of JNJ's larger strategy to make nursing programs stronger in Africa. The 2009 pilot will recruit Volunteers to provide long-term skills transfer as temporary faculty, but also by providing technical workshops to health care workers. They recommended schools in two countries:

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN KENYA:** Volunteers are needed to teach one or more of the following: *undergraduate* courses in critical care nursing, adult health/medical surgical nursing and community health nursing, and *master's level courses* in, HIV/AIDS, nursing informatics. Moi University has also requested *faculty training* in collaborative research, curriculum development, protocol development, renal, accidental/emergency care, critical care, neonatal, and burns.

Moi University (MU) is a quiet school located on a secure campus in Eldoret, north of Nairobi, Kenya. For more information, go to <http://www.mu.ac.ke/academic/schools/medicine/index.html> or <http://www.chs.mu.ac.ke>.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN GHANA:** Volunteers are needed to teach one or more third year courses in the following: Mental Health, Community Health, Maternal and Newborn Nursing, Medical and Surgical Nursing, and community health workshops. Valley View University (VUU) was established in 1979 by the West African Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, and now is

the first private institution in Ghana to be granted national accreditation. VVU is located on 285 acre secure campus in Oyibi, 31 km from the city of Accra. For more information about VVU, go to <http://www.vvu.edu.gh/academics/departments/nursing/courses.html>.

**VOLUNTEERS** at both universities will teach class, facilitate workshops, and will have a small budget for any donations of equipment or books. There will be teamwork to in pre-planning, designing workshops, research, outcome measurement activities and outreach.

**SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

- 3-5 years experience teaching nursing content and skills
- 3-5 years experience designing and conducting faculty workshops
- RN and a PhD or Master's degree in the subject area.
- Experience living in Africa preferred

**TIMEFRAME:** THIS IS A FOUR- MONTH POSITION, from early January to early May, 2010.

**COSTS:** Airfare, visa, emergency medical evacuation insurance, room/board and local transportation for the assignment will be provided, plus a stipend. Volunteers will need to provide their own health insurance, and cover the cost of their vaccinations and other personal expenses.

**RESPONSIBILITIES will include, but are not limited to:**

1. Serving as a temporary faculty member at the university
2. Coordinating and presenting workshops to both faculty and nurses in the community
3. Maintaining records for outcomes measurement and evaluation
4. Actively reaching out to inform others in the US about the university's work

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED**, please submit your resume, statement of interest and three professional references to [susan@encoreservicecorps.org](mailto:susan@encoreservicecorps.org). Volunteers who are interested in returning to the project in 2011 and 2012 will be given preferential placement. Please make sure the word **MU-KENYA, or VVU-GHANA, your first initial and your last name**, are in the subject line.

Please feel free to pass this announcement on to other RPCVs/PC staff or professionals with similar overseas experience. To be considered for an Encore! Volunteer assignment, you must have an up-to-date profile in our database.