My name is Sonia Malpeso and I am a Degree seeking student majoring in International Affairs. From May to August 2009 I interned for The Good Shepherd International Foundation (Fondazione Internazionale Buon Pastore ONLUS), a non-profit organization that supports humanitarian missions in developing countries. The Foundation is based in Rome and works in partnership with Good Shepherd Mission Development Corporation in the USA, and with the Good Shepherd partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

As an intern, my task was to gather data on countries and projects for the Foundation’s website in order to reach a wider audience and raise support for their missions. My job consisted of writing reports on developing countries and the projects being carried out by the Foundation. These reports were then reviewed by an editor and finally uploaded onto the Organization’s main website. Most of the necessary materials needed to carry out my assignments were accessible through the Foundation’s portal. Otherwise, I relied on reliable Internet resources such as FAO, UNICEF, and CIA The World Factbook.

I would recommend this internship to anyone who finds interest in learning about the domestic, political, and economic affairs of developing countries and enjoys carrying out research. I would not recommend this internship to someone who is looking for a hands-on and interactive experience. The particular type of projects I was assigned did not require my physical presence in the workplace and instead I was able to complete most of my assignments from home.

From this internship I have leaned how to better conduct careful and accurate research. What I gained most however is a greater understanding and awareness of the severity of poverty in developing countries. This has made me more appreciative and attentive in the way I use everyday resources.

For more information on The Good Shepherd International Foundation visit www.fondazionebuonpastore.org. The work I completed during this internship can be found under the “Projects” section of the Foundation’s website.

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