

Russell W. Nylén

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Education

2015-2017 B.A. Cultural Anthropology, Syracuse University

2013-2015 A.A. International Studies, Stetson University

Relevant Experience

Rural SNAP Outreach Representative – 2020 – Current

Food Bank of the Rockies, Denver, Co.

- Provide in-person outreach in rural counties by attending food pantries and related educational events.
 - Assist clients in filling out SNAP/Food Stamps and PEBT applications.
 - Provide educational materials, particularly on immigrant rights regarding applications for government assistance.
 - Expanded outreach to include parole offices, correctional facilities and colleges.
- Provide telephonic SNAP application assistance.
 - Referrals received through a GSNAP (online SNAP referral system) or through partnerships with other organizations.
- Participate in organization's equity committee conducting an equity assessment.
 - Organize monthly meetings to review policies and actions and update our formal policy to reflect the findings of the review.

Rural Extension Volunteer – 2019 – 2020

Peace Corps, Santa Cruz del Quiche, Guatemala

- Educated extension agents from Guatemala's Department of Agriculture on how to incorporate adult learning techniques and participatory learning into their lessons.
- Cofacilitated lessons with extension agents and *promotoras* (volunteer community organizers) throughout 12 communities in my town.
 - Lessons included topics such as methods for composting, seed saving, and growing sprouts.

- Helped with planning and implementation of a new nation-wide child hunger relief program (*Ley de Alimentación Escolar*).
- Represented our project in the Project Advisory Committee (PAC).
 - Met quarterly with state and national representatives from Guatemala's Department of Agriculture to address cultural differences between organizations.
- Volunteered twice weekly to teach English to 40+ students of all ages at the city's municipal office.

Food Coordinator – 2017 – 2018

Washington Service Corps (North Helpline Food Bank), Seattle, Wa.

- Managed food intake and outtake, to ensure that food was sorted, stored and delivered in an equitable fashion that ensures freshness.
- Trained and organized volunteers throughout the entire distribution process from collection to distribution.
- Led a 4-month educational series that connected community members with experts on topics that affect their community.
 - Open potluck with the goal to create a space for conversation between clients, volunteers, donors and more.
 - Follow-up with clients who attended led to a new client advisory board for the organization.

Student Manager – 2016 – 2017

Peoples Place Café (Syracuse University), Syracuse

- Oversaw recruitment and performance of 17 employees
- Ordered supplies and maintained an organized inventory
- Led extra fundraising events for a variety of causes
 - Raised over \$1000 for refugee and immigrant organizations

Volunteer Garden Coordinator & Food Bank Assistant – 2015 – 2017

Syracuse Northeast Community Center, Syracuse, NY

- Oversaw general maintenance of the garden, such as weeding, watering, compost care, etc.
- Coordinated volunteers' involvement and led garden events.
 - Community harvests with an assisted living facility and garden visits from elementary school children.
- Assisted with the weekly food pantry distribution.
- Collected data throughout this experience for my senior thesis paper.

Assistant Farm Manager – 2012 – 2015

Planted Earth Vegetables, Deland, Fl.

- Oversaw general maintenance of the 12-acre organic farm such as planting, weeding, etc.

- Sold produce at a weekly farmers market (collection and packaging of produce, educating clients on the produce sold, etc.).
- Conducted weekly newsletter and advertisements over multiple social media platforms.

Volunteer Club President – 2013 – 2015

Hatter Harvest Organic Farming Club (Stetson University), Deland, Fl.

- Led student organization that raised and maintained an organic farm on campus.
- Organized monthly farmers markets on campus plus educational events that connected food with environmental and social problems experienced today.

Volunteer English Teacher – 2014

ProNatura: Environmental Conservation, Campeche, Mexico.

- Taught English classes to a Mayan community to facilitate environmental tourism in the area.
 - Taught 3 classes a day 5 days a week to both children and adults.
- Wrote community artisan biographies for ProNatura website to advertise their local talent.

Volunteer Coordinator – 2012 – 2013

Iracambi Research and Reforestation, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

- Supervised volunteers and assigned their daily tasks.
- Maintained the tree reforestation nursery and general facilities such as trails, bathrooms, etc.
- Connected with surrounding community to provide learning opportunities such as field trips to the facility for local schools.

Honors and Awards

- **Departmental Distinction in Anthropology, Syracuse University 2017**
- **Lambda Alpha National Honors Society for Anthropology, Syracuse University 2017**
- **Associate Vice President’s Award for Positive Advocacy, Syracuse University 2017**
- **Deans List, Syracuse University 2016-2017 & Stetson University 2014-2015**

Written Material

- “Caught in a Web: The Building of Social Capital at the Northeast Community Center Community Garden and Food Pantry”
 - Senior research thesis culminating two years of collected data from volunteer work.
- Observation Notation blog
 - Blog during my time in Guatemala that reflected on my work and aspects of Guatemalan culture I found interesting.

- “Coronavirus calls abrupt halt to Deland man’s Peace Corps mission”
 - Local newspaper article I wrote detailing my work in Guatemala and experience being evacuated.

Additional Skills

- **Language:** Fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and English
- **Computer:** Microsoft Office, Video + Sound Editing
- **Agriculture:** Organic and non-organic growing methods + animal husbandry.
- **Communication:** Trained in crises prevention communication and experienced with navigating culturally sensitive issues.
- **Teaching:** Have taught English in both Spanish and Portuguese and have tutored a variety of topics to people in varying age groups.