IIP BOLIVIA 2017
CHILD FAMILY HEALTH INTERNATIONAL

SAMANTHA EINSPAHR
CLASS OF 2020
PRE-HEALTH INTERN

THROUGH CFHI, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- **SHADOW DOCTORS**, SURGEONS, AND SPECIALISTS AT LOCAL CLINICS & HOSPITALS IN TARIJA
- LEARN ABOUT **CHAGAS**, A PREVALENT SOUTH AMERICAN DISEASE
- **VOLUNTEER** AT AN AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS
- SERVE THE **COMMUNITY**
- TAKE SPANISH CLASSES AND IMPROVE MY **LANGUAGE SKILLS**
- LIVE WITH A **HOST FAMILY** AND EXPERIENCE BOLIVIAN CULTURE!
SHADOWING DOCTORS

Working with amazing doctors and specialists

Analyzing blood in the lab!

Watching doctor-patient interactions

Learning how to do an ultrasound!

Vaccinating dogs & cats

Surgery
CHAGAS DISEASE

• AS MANY AS 1 MILLION PEOPLE IN BOLIVIA ARE INFECTED WITH CHAGAS

• WHAT IS IT?
  • CAUSED BY THE PARASITE TRYPANOSOMA CRUZI, TRANSMITTED TO ANIMALS AND PEOPLE BY INSECT VECTORS (VINCHUCA) AND IS FOUND ONLY IN THE AMERICAS
    • MAINLY, IN RURAL AREAS OF LATIN AMERICA WHERE POVERTY IS WIDESPREAD
  • SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:
    • HEART RHYTHM ABNORMALITIES THAT CAN CAUSE SUDDEN DEATH
    • A DILATED HEART THAT DOESN’T PUMP BLOOD WELL
    • A DILATED ESOPHAGUS OR COLON, LEADING TO DIFFICULTIES WITH EATING OR PASSING STOOL.
TUTORING AT “EDUCACIÓN Y FUTURO”

- Teaching in Spanish
- 6-year old Belinda learning to write
- After-school help in math and reading
- Reward for finishing homework: coloring books!
IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

• BECOMING “CEBRAS POR UN DÍA” TO SERVE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AS CROSSING GUARDS
• MAKING THE STREETS OF BOLIVIA SAFER AND HAVING FUN WHILE DOING IT!
• UNIQUE ASPECT OF BOLIVIAN CULTURE
EXPERIENCING BOLIVIA

Salar de Uyuni

Lunch barbecues with the extended host family

Hiking and camping in Valle de los Condores
HOW DID IIP IMPACT ME?

• CONFIRMED MY DESIRE TO GO INTO MEDICINE
• GAIN EXPOSURE TO THE DIFFERENT FIELDS OF MEDICINE, FROM CHAGAS TO SURGERY TO PEDIATRICS TO THE ER
• GLIMPSE INTO WHAT DAY-TO-DAY LIFE AS A BOLIVIAN DOCTOR ENTAILS
• SPARKED AN INTEREST IN GLOBAL HEALTH
• BECOME A BETTER TEACHER (AND TEACH IN A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE!!)
• ALLOW ME TO BE FULLY IMMERSED IN BOLIVIAN CULTURE
THANK YOU IIP!!