***Christopher Lee SAMP***

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**EDUCATION**

**Aurora University** August 2013 – December 2017

Master of Social Work (International & cross-cultural focus)

High Honors (CGPA 3.94)

**Illinois State University** August 2008 – December 2012

B.S. Specialized Studies (Sociology)

Minor in Peace & Conflict Resolution Studies

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**World Relief Chicagoland –** June 2023 – October 2024

**Mental Health Counselor** *Chicago, USA*

* Provided individual mental health counseling services in Spanish to Latin American refugees/asylees.
* Facilitated a weekly support group for Ukrainian refugees.
* Completed intakes and mental health assessments for both newly arrived & long-term refugee residents.
* Promoted psychoeducation to newly arrived refugees/asylees through interactive presentations on health (physical, emotional, mental) and cultural adjustment.
* Completed detailed treatment plans & case notes addressing trauma and cultural adjustment challenges.
* Engaged in inter-agency/cross-department collaboration to provide holistic treatment and services for clients.
* Facilitated both counseling department and cross-department collaboration meetings.

**Mayatan Bilingual School –** August 2021 – April 2023**High School English & Social Arts Teacher**  *Copan Ruinas, Honduras*

* Taught 10th, 11th, & 12th grade ELA, in addition to psychology, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, world history, & U.S. history.
* Created culturally & developmentally relatable lessons connected to students’ daily realities and future goals.
* Collaborated with local teachers in the Spanish language.
* Established personal feedback system for students to reflect on and share learning needs with the teacher.
* Communicated with parents in Spanish about their children’s progress during parent-teacher conferences.

**Abaarso School of Science and Technology –**

**Teacher of Leadership, Public Speaking, and STEM History** October 2020 – February 2021

*Hargeisa, Somaliland*

* Taught 3 sections of 9th grade leadership/public speaking classes.
* Taught 2 sections of 11th and 12th grade History of STEM.
* Supervised study halls, lunch hours, & chores.
* Provided one-on-one counselling for emotionally struggling students.

**United States Peace Corps – EFL Teacher & Community Liaison**  June 2018 – March 2020

*Atnago, Oromia,**Ethiopia*

* Taught 9th and 11th grade English with class sizes between 60-90 students.
* Created daily lesson plans that integrated both Ethiopian and American teaching methods.
* Utilized local language skills to gather community data and establish local collaboration.
* Provided social and emotional support for Peace Corps Volunteers through Peer Support Network.
* Trained new education volunteers through the Resource Volunteer role.
* Facilitated professional development sessions for local teachers.

**World Relief Chicagoland – Assistant Mental Health Counselor** January 2018 – June 2018   
 *Chicago, U.S.A.*

* Conducted individual, family and group counseling sessions for refugees struggling with trauma and cultural adjustment challenges.
* Initiated contact with potential community partners and stakeholders serving our clients.
* Provided psychosocial, cultural, and legal education to clients.
* Collaborated and problem-solved with senior staff regarding clients’ needs in weekly meetings.

**World Relief Chicagoland – Clinical Counseling Intern** June 2017 – December 2017

*Chicago, U.S.A.*

* Counseled refugees individually regarding trauma and cultural adjustment.
* Established new collaboration with courts to address domestic violence issues with clients.
* Helped facilitate a wellness group for Congolese seniors and another for Congolese men.
* Collected qualitative and quantitative data to assess clients’ needs and measure progress.

**World Relief Chicagoland – Children & Youth Services Intern** June 2016 – December 2016

*Chicago, U.S.A.*

* Conducted home visits and orientations to teach newly arrived refugee families about the U.S. education system.
* Provided information on student enrolment and empowered parents to take charge of their children’s education.
* Collaborated with schools to complete enrolment process for refugee students.
* Assisted in facilitating a summer gardening club for refugee youths.

**Schaumburg Schools District 54 – Paraprofessional**  October 2013 – June 2016

*Schaumburg, U.S.A.*

* Provided one-on-one attention and support for students with special needs within the general education classroom setting (grade levels 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th).
* Collaborated with staff and students to address disruptive behaviours and promote positive social and coping skills.
* Led small student learning groups for math and reading.
* Assisted a 6th grade student with muscular dystrophy with his academics and physical needs for a full school year.
* Supported students and collaborated with staff in meeting requirements of Individualized Education Plans.

**McLean County Juvenile Detention Center - Intern** January 2012 – May 2012

*Normal, U.S.A.*

* Supervised and participated in therapeutic and recreational activities for the juveniles (ages 10-17).
* Assisted the teacher with classroom instruction and supervision.
* Assisted juveniles in completing their homework sent by their schools.
* Provided one-on-one social and emotional support for juveniles.

**Illinois State University – Teaching Assistant in Sociological Inquiry** August 2011 – December 2011

*Normal, U.S.A.*

* Assisted the professor in reviewing and suggesting grades for student papers and reports.
* Taught students university-level writing and summarizing skills.
* Provided written feedback for students on their rough drafts.

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Amar Secondary School for Higher Education – Volunteer English Teacher** February 2017 – April 2017

*Chitwan, Nepal*

* Taught English at a rural public school to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.
* Assisted local English teacher with providing grades and feedback on school assignments.
* Created personal lesson plans and activities upon completion of the textbook.
* Initiated “Teach the Teacher Club” in which students gave Nepali lessons to the teacher twice per week.

**World Relief Chicagoland – In-home English Tutor** February 2015 – April 2016

*Aurora, U.S.A.*

* Tutored 4 Bhutanese refugee students in English in their home after school.
* Assisted the students with homework they brought from school.
* Created lessons and activities related to both conversational and written English.
* Provided opportunities for the students to teach the tutor Nepali to promote mutual learning, growth, and trust.

**Peace for Children Africa** March 2013 (4 weeks)

*Kampala, Uganda*

* Assisted with teaching in the orphanage classroom.
* Provided individualized attention and feedback with children’s reading and writing.
* Invested in learning the local language of Luganda and gave children the opportunity to teach the teacher.
* Collaborated with the director and a local pastor/translator to provide spiritual support to children in a community outreach program twice per week.

**AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Academics** Illinois State UniversityDean’s List Award – Semester 1, Academic Year 2011/2012: GPA 4.00/4.00

Aurora University High Honors – Academic career CGPA 3.94

**Sports** Barrington High School cross country team 2004, 2005

Barrington High School track & field 2005, 2007  
Chicago Marathon 2006, 2007, 2008

Chicago Lakefront 80 km 2007 (Completed 66 km, personal best)

Mad City 100 km 2008 (personal fundraiser for Invisible Children; raised over $2,400 USD, ran 80 km+)

Lake Geneva Marathon 2008

Danville Ultramarathon Challenge 2008 (8-hour time limit, ran 64 km)

Chicago Lakefront Ultramarathon 2008 (Achieved double marathon distance, ran 84 km+)

Chicago Lakefront 50 km 2009, Illinois Marathon 2009 (ran 7 days apart from each other as part of a personal challenge)

Mad City Ultramarathon 2010 (Ran as fundraiser to support Haiti earthquake survivors, completed 50 km with injury, raised $1,000 USD)

Chicago Lakefront 50 km 2015 (Completed as a personal challenge after 4-year absence from running)

**CERTIFICATIONS**

* DELE C1 certified in Spanish
* French B2 class certificate, language immersion program in Annecy
* TEFL certified
* CPI certified

**OTHER SKILLS**

* Languages: Native English. C1 Spanish. B2 French. Received advanced assessment rating in Afan Oromo during Ethiopia Peace Corps service.
* IT Skills: Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word & Powerpoint).
* Strong presentation skills.