

I traveled down to Tarija for the Chagas program. Tarija was a small but pleasant city. The three of us stayed in separate homestays. The family I was with was very hospitable, over time I felt very comfortable with them, as if they were my own family. For instance, I spent Sundays with my host-grandmother. We went to church together, had lunches together, went on walks, and played cards together. My Spanish improved exponentially during my time in Tarija.

Since Tarija was a much smaller city, we did rotations within one hospital the entire time. In the four weeks we spent there we did one week in internal medicine, one in pediatrics, one in surgery, and the last in the lab learning about Chagas. The rotations in Tarija were well organized. For example, for our internal medicine and pediatrics rotation the three of us would arrive at 7 am-8am and do rounds with the doctors. The doctor was very interactive with us and literally never left our side for the entire week. My final week in Tarija we learned about Chagas in the lab and in the field which I found to be very interesting. Chagas is not very well known in the states so it was beneficial to learn about disease. That week I was interacting in Spanish with doctors and patients with an ease I would never imagine possible. It was a great way to end my ten weeks in Bolivia.

Last Day: The thought of going home gave me almost a bitter sweet feeling. After spending ten weeks in Bolivia, I missed home, but at the same time I realized that I had become enamored with the people, the country, and the culture, and the thought of leaving it all behind was difficult. I could definitely say that this experience has helped in more ways than I can imagine. I benefited not only culturally and professionally, but also emotionally. Before this program I was very unsure about my career path, but after

witnessing several awe-inspiring doctors and patients I finally feel that the medical path is the right one for me.