

VHC Launches South Africa Program, Places First Volunteer at University of the Witwatersrand

The Twinning Center's Volunteer Healthcare Corps (VHC) launched its program in South Africa this spring with the placement of monitoring and evaluation expert Catheryne Clouse at the University of the Witwatersrand Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit (RHRU) in Johannesburg.

Clouse, who has significant experience in the public health arena, worked at RHRU from February-July 2008, evaluating current trends and practices in patient information and data collection at various Department of Health ARV sites.

During her five-month placement at RHRU, Clouse worked closely with staff to strengthen their data collection efforts. She developed and helped put into operation a systematic approach to file review preparation, implementation, and follow up.



Monitoring and evaluation expert Catheryne Clouse worked with UW's Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit and various Department of Health ARV sites to improve data collection, reporting, and follow up.

Clouse also assisted efforts to increase the capacity of staff at the ARV thereby improving the collection and reporting of quality data.

In addition to her monitoring and evaluation activities, Clouse provided technical assistance to RHRU staff on the effective use of Microsoft Excel software, which better supports data management.

A second volunteer, epidemiologist Marcel Yotebieng, was placed at Harriet Shezi Children's Clinic at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Johannesburg from May-July and arrangements are underway for the placement of additional volunteers in the coming months.