

Miranda Roberts

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WRITER

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GARDENER

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EDUCATOR

Creative and diversely skilled promoter of positive social change through communicating meaningful links between food, nutrition, ecology, and society.

PROFILE

- ❖ Published feature writer focusing on local foods, wellness, and gardening.
- ❖ Organic gardener with experience creating and maintaining gardens in sub-tropical and temperate climates and working with diverse groups of children and adults.
- ❖ Educator with varied teaching experiences including English as a Second Language in Malawi, East Africa; communicating HIV/AIDS prevention messages to Deaf youth and adults in Kenya, East Africa; and curriculum design for university students in the United States.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Gardener, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, South Africa

September 2007 to February 2008

» Working together with the lead horticulturist for the Useful Plants Garden, I maintain a demonstration garden of indigenous plants with medicinal, culinary and habitation uses.

Behavior Change Communicator for the Deaf, US Peace Corps, Kenya

September 2006 to September 2007

» Develop visual educational materials on HIV/AIDS and Life Skills for Deaf Kenyan youths and adults to promote a better quality of life with improved self-reliance.
» Lead a garden club with Deaf secondary girls involving small-scale food production to encourage food security and cooking lessons to maximize nutritional value of harvested produce.

Schoolyard Garden Assistant, Greensboro Day School and Greensboro Montessori School, North Carolina

March 2004 to August 2006

» Assisted in the implementation of garden-based learning for both secondary and primary schools.
» Monitored and troubleshoot challenges such as pests, disease, and irrigation needs.
» Delegated garden duties to and supervised student volunteers.

» Maintained school garden during summer holiday months (watering, weeding, harvesting, and pest management).

Writer, Director, Producer; Public Service Announcements for Voluntary Agriculture District, North Carolina

November 2005 to June 2006

- » Conducted regular meetings with local farmers and board administrators to identify and prioritize agriculture awareness messages.
- » Independently organized selection of videographers and arranged filming locations, dates, and equipment for video shoots.
- » Created storyboards and scripts for voice actors; captured and edited footage; and produced short public service announcement videos.

Curriculum Specialist, *University of North Carolina-Greensboro*, North Carolina

August 2004 to June 2006

- » Worked on production team to develop credited humanities courses for a nationally acclaimed online education program.
- » Conceptualized and produced creative interactive learning exercises; organized video shoots, developed story boards for interactive games and learning tools, and archived images and other visual materials.
- » Substantively edited full courses and supporting documents.
- » Provided basic technical support to students and teachers.

Program Assistant for Community Farm and City Market Project, *Project Greenleaf*, University of North Carolina-Greensboro

May 2004 to October 2004

- » Coordinated city market days; this involved organizing harvests the day before market, preparing produce for sale, marketing and managing sales on market days.
- » Monitored challenges such as pests, disease, and irrigation.
- » Provided technical assistance and distributed seeds and other needed materials to the farmers as needed.
- » Collected data by conducting informal interviews with participants and observing plots and noting methods used (i.e. intercropping, integrated pest management, use of trellises and other structures).
- » Worked independently to conduct needs assessments of community farm members.

Freelance Writer

December 2002 to present

- » Identify appropriate information sources, conduct interviews, and schedule photo shoots.
- » Write all article copy aimed at a localized consumer audience.
- » Engage in creative process of selecting article topics and identifying photo subjects.
- » Experienced copywriter with clients such as America Online and Adobe.

Teacher of English as a Second Language, *US Peace Corps*, Malawi

September 1999 to December 2001

- » Prepared daily lesson for classes of 50—80 students using innovative and creative instructional methods
- » Monitored and assessing students' English listening, speaking, and writing skills

» Led teachers in curriculum development and implementation with respect to problems unique to Malawian classrooms.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts-English, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC
Bachelor of Arts-English, Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Proficiency, undergraduate minor studies
Chichewa: Proficiency, used at the community level as Peace Corps volunteer, Malawi
Kiswahili and Kenyan Sign Language: Proficiency, used at the community level as Peace Corps volunteer, Kenya