

Nikki Pauls DeSimone

QUALIFICATIONS

- Teaching experience at the BSW level – both full-time and adjunct, in-person, Zoom, and online.
- Diverse work background in adoption, education, and Spanish language.
- Work experience in policy writing and implementation, program direction, training, supervision, and community outreach.
- Trauma informed social worker with specific knowledge of mental health issues as they relate to trauma.

EDUCATION AND HONORS

Master of Social Work, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas – May 2005

- Cumulative GPA: 4.0
- Phi Alpha National Honor Society

Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas – May 2003

- Cumulative GPA: 3.63
- Spanish Departmental Scholarship Recipient
- Sigma Delta Pi Honor Fraternity (President 2002-2003)
- Study Abroad: Mérida, Yucatán, México

LANGUAGES

Spanish

Brazilian Portuguese – conversation abilities

CAREER EXPERIENCE

Visiting Professor, *Park University, Social Work (BSW)* August 2020 – present

- Teaching the following courses: SW 330, Social Work Policy and Programs; SW 205 Introduction to Social Work; SW 325, Human Diversity and Social Justice; SW 400, Human Behavior in the Social Environment 1. Due to the COVID pandemic, all these courses are being taught through a modified blended mode, which includes a face-to-face component (via Zoom meeting) and online coursework.

Adjunct Instructor, *Park University, Social Work (BSW)* January 2020 – May 2020

- Taught the course SW 330, Social Work Policy and Programs. Due to the COVID pandemic, the course was taught through a modified blended mode, which included 8 consecutive weeks of face-to-face instruction and 8 weeks of fully online learning.

Director of Social Services, *Zoe's House Adoption Agency* May 2015 - present

- Serve on the agency leadership team.
- Supervise the social services team.
- Educate, counsel, and assist expectant parents in making adoption plans.
- Screen expectant parents for substance abuse and mental health.
- Serve as the liaison between the agency, hospital staff, and attorneys involved in the adoption process.

- Prepare written home study and post-placement reports for families in the domestic adoption process.

Adoption Social Worker,

Nightlight Christian Adoptions

November 2019 - present

Christian Family Services of the Midwest, Inc.

October 2008 - present

Children's Hope International

October 2008 – February 2019

America World Adoption Association

October 2008 – October 2016

Catholic Charities of Kansas City - St. Joseph

July 2010 - March 2014

- Prepare written home study and post-adoption reports for families in the adoption process, both international and domestic.
- Educate, counsel, and assist expectant parents in making adoption plans.
- Educate adoptive parents about trauma and brain development in adopted children, and how that impacts development, mental health, and learning issues.

Missouri Branch Director, Lifeline Children's Services

July 2013 - October 2016

- Prepare written home study and post-adoption reports for families in the adoption process, both international and domestic.
- Complete all licensing work in accordance with adoption law for the State of Missouri.

Visiting Professor, Avila University, Department of Social Work

August 2014 – May 2015

- Taught a full-time course load in the BSW program for one school year to cover for a tenured professor's sabbatical.
- Served as the Director of Field Experience – supervised 8 placements and assisted in making 12 for the next year.
- Courses taught: SW 303 – Generalist Social Work, SW 463 Practice with Communities and Organizations, SW 495/496 – Field Experience I & II, SW 497 – Integrated Seminar, and SW 498 – Social Work Capstone.
- Maintained full advising caseload of 30 students.
- Participated in all meetings and had voting responsibilities for Faculty Assembly, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and Department of Social Work meetings.

Social Worker, Catholic Charities of Kansas City – St. Joseph

August 2012 – July 2015

- Spanish/English translator for the agency.
- Financial literacy coach for college-bound youth enrolled in a college savings program.
- Employment and Economic Securities Specialist for a homeless Veterans grant.
- Case manager for Services for Young Families.

Hague Accreditation Assistant, Christian Family Services

May 2011 – April 2012

- Assisted the agency on complex policy writing to obtain Hague Accreditation through the federally mandated Council on Accreditation.

Director-Central Branch office, Children's Hope International

June 2008 – October 2008

Adoption Social Worker, Children's Hope International

December 2004 – June 2008

- Regional Director of office with 100+ clients.
- Supervised contract social workers.
- Developed and implemented training program for social workers in three states.
- Prepared written home study and post-adoption reports for families in the international adoption process.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 6/21/2019 – *International Adoption Update for 2019*. Metropolitan Adoption Council.
- 2/7/2019 – *Sharing their Stories*. Joy in the Journey Adoption retreat.
- 2/24/2018 – *Homeland Tours*. Metropolitan Adoption Council.
- 3/3/2016 – *Identity in Adoption*. Joy in the Journey Adoption retreat.
- 3/28/2015 – *Grief and Loss*. Joy in the Journey Adoption retreat.
- 6/30/2013 - *Domestic Adoption; Profiles, Openness, and Birthparents*. Friends of Adoption, Woods Chapel United Methodist Church.
- 4/16/2013 – *Transracial Parenting*. Metropolitan Adoption Council.
- 10/21/2012 - *Let's Talk Adoption*. Department of Social Work, Avila University.

ELECTRONIC WRITING

- **Peace.Love.Adoption** – peaceloveadoption.blogspot.com – professional blog about many facets of adoption.
- **Bring Yiyi Home** – bringyiyihome.com – personal blog about my daughter's adoption process in 2014.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Metropolitan Adoption Council Board – Secretary