



Mat Despard

Mr. Mat Despard is a PhD candidate who works with Dr. Gina Chowa on her research projects and teaches Masters-level courses in social work. He is in the process of completing his dissertation on how to improve economic opportunities for youth and/or poor women with children living in Haiti using holistic, community-based strategies. Mr. Despard previously worked with low-income families in the U.S. by offering individual development account, free tax assistance, and financial literacy services. He is a former board member and volunteer of the Downtown Music Lab, an after-school recording studio program in southwest Virginia.