

About the Cover



The girl on the cover is named Ismerline. She was 12-years-old when she came to St. Boniface Hospital after being injured in the earthquake. She was at school near her home in Carrefour when the quake struck. With a fractured femur bone and a serious injury to her left eye, Ismerline was brought aboard the U.S.N.S. Comfort for treatment. Surgeons there operated on her leg and her eye and she was later transported via helicopter to St. Boniface for follow-up care and rehabilitation.

When Ismerline arrived in Fond-des-Blancs, she had an external fixator on her leg and was experiencing significant pain at the site of her eye surgery. Our staff started her in physical therapy and she made significant progress, learning to walk again.

During the five months Ismerline was with us, her mother and brother stayed at the hospital. The whole family participated in psycho-social support group activities and were an important addition to a group of patients who were all recovering from the physical and emotional injuries of the earthquake. Ismerline was our youngest patient, but without a doubt one of the most resilient. She was determined to overcome her injury and return to her family and community in Port-au-Prince. By July 2010, Ismerline was well enough to return home. She is now back in Port-au-Prince, living with her parents and siblings and attending secondary school.

For our patients and our staff, Ismerline represented survival and hope. She constantly inspired those around her with her positive outlook and determination to see a better future.



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