

Children's Employees Share Their Experiences in Haiti

January 14, 2010, Atlanta

On Thursday, Jan. 14, the GA-3 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) boarded a flight en route for Haiti. As the plane approached the airport, it had a near mid-air collision with another aircraft. There were too many planes in the area without air traffic control. The pilot pulled up to miss the other plane, which caused the aircraft to stall, but the pilot managed to pull out of it. The pilot immediately diverted the plane to Miami. While en route, the cabin depressurized and the pilot announced the plane was low on fuel and redirected the flight course to Providenciales Island, part of the Turks and Caicos Island chain.



DMAT Team members use a kite to raise a radio antenna in Haiti.

Team members were anxious to get to Haiti to begin helping, but they had wait on a Coast Guard C-130 to fly them from Providenciales to Haiti. While waiting in Providenciales, the team took lessons in French Creole and learned about dengue fever and malaria, which are common illnesses in Haiti.

January 17, 2010, Haiti

On Sunday, Jan. 17, the team made it to Haiti and was staged at the U.S. Embassy, where some of the team worked in a clinic that was set up on the Embassy grounds. Throughout their stay at the Embassy, the team ate MREs—meal, ready-to-eat individual field rations—slept under the stars at night and did its best to avoid the ants, millipedes and mosquitoes. Every morning, they lathered themselves with sunscreen and Deet insect repellent.

January 20, 2010, Haiti

At 6:03 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 20, another 6.1 earthquake hit Haiti. Soon after, the team traveled to Port Varreux to set up a base of operations, comprised of two patient treatment tents, a pharmacy/communications tent and two sleeping tents. The camp served as an area for staging, stabilizing and treating critical patients until helicopters could take them to USNS Comfort for definitive care. The Comfort is a United States Navy ship with 1,000 hospital beds and a staff comprised of emergency, surgical, labor and delivery, ICU and pediatric doctors, nurses, corpsman and other ancillary staff.

Meet two members of the DMAT team who were part of this incredible mission:

Tommy Chambers, Paramedic, Children's at Egleston

Currently, Tommy is the deputy logistics officer and paramedic for GA-3 DMAT. "I wasn't allowed in the military due to medical reasons," said Tommy. "So I feel that this is a way to serve my country by helping people that are not able to help themselves after a disaster."



Our Fairy Godmother to be Honored with Community Service Award, April 20

This year, Children's own Jackie Veiner, also known as Miss Jackie or the Fairy Godmother, will be recognized at the Community Service Awards dinner.

[View Full Story >](#)

Spring Enrollment for the Children's Employee Choir Begins This Week

The Children's Employee Choir began in August 2009, and has since performed for more than 15 Children's events.

[View Full Story >](#)

Nurse Call/Code Blue System Implementation Now Underway at Children's at Scottish Rite

Beginning April 12, IS&T will implement a new enterprise nurse call/Code Blue system at Children's at Scottish Rite. The interactive, integrated system will improve patient safety, standardize the Code Blue process and support our Relationship-Based Care model.

[View Full Story >](#)

New Abbreviations in Epic April 14

We've abbreviated several buttons on the Epic toolbar. Beginning April 14, these abbreviations will appear throughout the system.

[View Full Story >](#)

Give Erika Ideas on How to Celebrate without Food

[Read Erika's latest blog post](#) and offer your ideas on how she can celebrate.

[View Full Story >](#)

Children's Employees Win First Catch Me at My Best Drawing

Many of our employees go above and beyond to provide this level of service to our patients and their families, as well as their peers.

[View Full Story >](#)

Congratulations DAISY Award Winners

Congratulations to DAISY Award winners **Michelle St. Cyr** and **Holly Sealer**. The

Tommy joined the DMAT team in November 2002, and has since been deployed to several disasters: G-8 Summit in 2004; Hurricane Charlie and Hurricane Ivan in 2004; Hurricane Katrina in 2005 (twice); Hurricane Ernesto in 2006; Hurricane Dean in 2007; Hurricane Gustav in 2008.

In Haiti, Tommy worked with the logistics chief, communication officer and other members of the logistics crew to set up the base of operations. After setting up the base, he switched to working as a medic with the nurses treating patients. He also helped load patients onto the Blackhawk helicopters that were transporting them to the USNS Comfort.

"Haiti gave me a new perspective on my life and an appreciation of the things in my life," said Tommy. "I have the ability to get good medical care any time I want. I can go to the store and buy food and supplies needed for my family at any time. Most important to me is that I have my family. Unfortunately, people in Haiti have lost so many of their family members, and in some cases, all of their family members. My Haiti deployment showed me that even though Haitians don't have much of anything, they do have courage and the determination to live and make do with what they have. They have my respect."

Tenia White, IS&T Clinical Informatics Specialist, The Park

Tenia joined DMAT while working in the ED at Children's at Egleston in the early 90s. "Serving on DMAT is a way for me to share the gift that was given to me," said Tenia.

She was called to Fort Dix, N.J., in 1999 to assist Kosovo refugees and Houston in 2001 after Tropical Storm Allison. Since February 2007, Tenia has traveled to Messialier, Haiti, each year with a church mission group to provide medical and dental care, and to construct an orphanage.



In her recent visit to Haiti to assist earthquake victims, she worked as a nurse. The team set up its own clinic, so Tenia helped put up tents, move trunks of supplies and organize medical supplies.

"I am very thankful for my family and friends, but I am more comforted by the ability to buy fresh fruit and food at the local supermarket or have a choice between five pharmacies in my neighborhood to get medications, if needed," she said. "Reflecting on my experience is sometimes difficult, especially coming from a place with so many resources."

Children's thanks all employees who are helping in the Haiti relief efforts.

[Learn more about how you can help.](#)

[Back to News Center >](#)

DAISY Award recognizes nurses for their commitment to the highest standards of nursing and for making a difference in the lives of the patients and families we serve.

[View Full Story >](#)

Merits Reflected in April 9 Paychecks

Merits for eligible staff, managers and physicians will be reflected in the April 9 paycheck.

[View Full Story >](#)

Children's Hosts Workshop during 2010 Decennial Conference

The afternoon of March 18, Children's Infection Control/Facilities team hosted a workshop at Children's at Egleston in conjunction with the conference.

[View Full Story >](#)

What Does Our Chief Academic Officer Keep on Her Bookcase? The Answer May Surprise You

Barbara Stoll, M.D., who specializes in issues of neonatal infectious disease and child survival, assumed the role of SVP and Chief Academic Officer at Children's in January. We sat down with Dr. Stoll to learn more about what led her to a career of medicine and academia, as well as what she enjoys that isn't work-related.

[View Full Story >](#)

2010 Goals: Where Do We Grow?

Without a crystal ball we can't predict every twist and turn the future might bring (like the impact of healthcare reform or changes in the economy), but by pinpointing what's most important to us, we can synchronize the steps we take together along the way to reach our goals.

[View Full Story >](#)

Are You a Working Parent? Here's How to Take Time Out for You

Working and being a parent are both full-time jobs and together, can leave you completely worn out at the end of the day.

[View Full Story >](#)

Know Any Golfers? Tell Them about Stewart Cink's Tweek Off Challenge

Stewart Cink is not only a professional golfer, but also he's a dad who realizes the importance of investing in kids' health and wellness.

[View Full Story >](#)