

## *"Shocking, traumatizing, unbelievable"*

are just some of the words Nicole Voltaire, a R.N. at St. Catherine's Rehabilitation Hospital, used to describe her recent mission to Haiti.

January 12, 2010 will always remain a somber day in many of our hearts. For one person in particular, who grew up in Port-au-Prince, and saw first hand how the earthquake affected her family, neighbors and friends.

Nicole Voltaire volunteered with the Order of Malta, a mission to help the sick, the needy and the most disadvantaged in society operating in more than 120 countries. Ten members from this mission, from all over the world and all in the medical field, went over together and worked in what was left of the main hospital in Port-au-Prince. The city is without electricity, water and has very limited quantity of food. The



Nicole Voltaire helping a child

hospital, except for a small section, collapsed in the earthquake. How do you perform the many surgeries needed for all of the victims? They did it with modest medical supplies. When the generators overloaded, they

moved the hospital beds closer to the windows or had to perform the surgeries outdoors in the open. They stayed for 6 days and nights working around the clock. When Nicole was told she was a hero, she stated, "I am not a hero, I am a Haitian. I love my country. I wish I could stay longer and continue to assist". Nicole and her family are collecting donations so they can send the much needed supplies to their country. Straw mats, flashlights, ponchos, water resistant blankets, batteries, boots and canteens are just some of the items that are desperately needed at this time. If you would like more information on how you can participate, please contact [famillevoltaire@gmail.com](mailto:famillevoltaire@gmail.com) or La Famille Voltaire on Facebook.

"Prayers.... lots of prayers" were her parting words when asked how she is coping at this time.



Fabiola Pepe

*"The disaster that happened in Haiti will forever be imprinted on my mind. This tragedy is by far the worst that could ever happen to a country which many consider poor and by right, the majority of the island is.*

*If the people of Haiti were separated, this disaster has allowed them to come together,*

*as if a new hope is restored for the people of Haiti. Out of this tragedy has emerged a chance at a better start, new stable homes, a chance to re-build. Places which hold memories are gone, places children played, and for many, places where a "big event" happened changing their lives forever, places where Haitians called their home no longer exist. Many who survived are living with a sense that they were lost. They now belong to a greater cause and which is helping them to help each other...giving each other a hand to rebuild the memories they lost while restoring hope and pride to their children. I wish people could see the sections of Haiti that are beautiful and breathtaking, because places do exist. Instead the world focused on the slums and where of course the most damage was done. I can only pray that these slums, these areas which hold people who are poor, sick and the dead can be transformed and form it's true colors of love and unity, to be evident to all!*

*May God Bless The People of Haiti !"*

Fabiola Pepe

Medicaid Account Specialist

