



Sterlina wanted me to show her picture to "the big world everywhere" (translator's phrase). -Joeli Hettler, MD



Most of Scarline's arm required amputation. I don't have a picture of her not smiling. -Joeli Hettler, MD

HELP FOR HAITI

When the 7.1 Richter scale earthquake struck Haiti, the news spread around the world and relief efforts began immediately. Clinicians throughout Baystate Health volunteered their time and expertise, traveling to Haiti to provide care and comfort. We are proud to share with you some of their reflections.

The best thing about today was the 16-year-old mom who was finally able to be reunited with her baby. She lost her whole family in the quake, including her husband, and had a large cement block fall on her chest two days after her baby was born premature. She had not seen her baby in two weeks. She sat all day staring and smiling at her baby and was so quick to breastfeed and attend to him. It was a wonderful moment.

-Alison Childs, RN

The Haitian people are unbelievable. Despite the tragedy most have been through, they are so tough, and warm, and grateful. They care for each other in the hospital like you've never seen. They often do the work we assign to our nurses in the States. And they stay with their relatives day and night.

-John Santoro, MD

The patients all recognize my father and I now. Smiles greet us as we walk up to a cot. Everyone has been teaching us Creole. We have the greetings and niceties down pat. The Haitians are so patient and thankful. They seem to especially like it when you try and speak their language.

-Karen Pohlman, C-FNP

We received word of a school collapse in nearby Cap Haitian with mass casualties. There were four deaths, which is sad and tragic, but in this environment, everyone is thankful that there were not more deaths. It was very impressive to see the hospital response in action. The Haitians are wonderful, the American staff is great, and the experience is priceless.

-Mark Pohlman, MD

Spirituality and faith are everywhere. And each child born is sacred and special, and welcomed and adored. As Marjorie, a new mother, said to me yesterday, "If I think about the pain of losing my whole family, my husband, my oldest son, I will lose my mind. I can only pray and take care of my one baby."

-Alison Childs, RN

Every morning, a group of Haitians walks past the compound singing and clapping a very sweet song about counting each and every one of your blessings. I am humbled by two things; the strength and devotion of my teammates, many of whom have done this several times in lieu of vacations and seem to me indefatigable, and the patience of the Haitians who accept their lives exactly as they are.

-Paul Gerstein, MD

I can't stop thinking about my patients and the others I left behind in Haiti. I hope they are still smiling. I hope the new doctors are loving them. I hope they get fed. I hope they can find a home. I hope, I hope, I hope...

-John Santoro, MD

THANK YOU

The list of Baystate Health employees who have gone or are going to Haiti to help in the relief effort continues to grow.

- Reginald Alouidor, MD, Trauma Surgery, Baystate Medical Center
- Debra "Burt" Ames, CNM, Baystate Midwifery & Community Health
- Alison Childs, RN, Baystate Franklin Medical Center
- Bert Fernandez, MD, Baystate Medical Practices-Greenfield Pediatrics
- Kathy Fuss, RN, Parent Education, Baystate Medical Center
- Paul Gerstein, MD, Emergency Medicine, Baystate Mary Lane Hospital
- Ian Goodman, MD, Baystate Children's Hospital
- Joeli Hettler, MD, Pediatric Emergency Department, Baystate Children's Hospital
- Jane Hetzel, RN, Baystate Children's Hospital
- Donna Jackson-Kohlin, CNM, Baystate Midwifery & Community Health
- Lorettajo Kapinos, RN, Emergency Department, Baystate Medical Center
- Peter Kelly, MD, Ophthalmology, Baystate Medical Center
- Stephen Kelly, DO, Emergency Department, Baystate Medical Center
- Sybille Liautaud, MD, Baystate Pulmonary Medicine
- Kevin Moriarty, MD, Pediatric Surgical Services, Baystate Children's Hospital
- Robin Neipp, RN, Emergency Department, Baystate Franklin Medical Center
- Holly Perry, MD, Pediatric Emergency Department, Baystate Children's Hospital
- Karen Pohlman, MSN, C-FNP, Baystate Brightwood Health Center
- Mark Pohlman, MD, former chief of Orthopedics (retired), Baystate Medical Center
- John Santoro, MD, Emergency Department, Baystate Medical Center
- Mike Strapp, PA, Emergency Department, Baystate Medical Center

We also want to recognize the efforts of all of our employees who contributed to this effort from home, collecting supplies, making donations, coordinating schedules, and so much more. You truly exemplify Baystate's mission to "improve the health of the people in our communities every day, with quality and compassion."