



Volunteers

Summer 2009

Daniel Wendel, RN



Daniel, a graduate of University of So Maine, is working as an RN with the Visiting Nurses Association at Home, Health and Hospice. He went to nursing school with an interest in public health and a hope to be able to work internationally as a nurse in developing countries. He has been to Kenya once and hopes to return. Dan joined the Dominican Republic health care mission in 2006 and now goes every 6 months, having been on this trip seven times.

Carol Eckert, MD



I have been a family doctor in a rural health center in a small central Maine community for more than 25 years, having come here from the New York area. My special interests are women's health, environmental and occupational health, public health and health access. Recently I completed an MPH program through UNE. I have been on the DR trip 3 times beginning in 2004 as a clinical provider and mentor and have taught some NP students in my home site as well. The trip rejuvenates my desire to practice medicine simply without the impediments of our current US system. My adult children have both been on this trip, but this will be my first time solo and in the summer.

Diane Nichols



My Name is Diane Nichols. I am a 2004 graduate Nurse of Southern Maine Community College. Immediately after graduation I worked at Maine Medical Center on a Med-Surge unit, and then in Home Health as Nurse Supervisor. I'm currently employed with a great organization Androscoggin Home Health and Hospice as an Intake RN which it has been my privilege to work with such a great group of caring professionals.

My daughter Kristi Kervin was part of the USM DR team in Jan a few years back. She is a graduate of USM and I am a very proud Mom.

Her tales of her previous experience at the DR were as she said " A life changing experience", so when she asked me to go with her to be a mother daughter team, I jumped at the chance. I am an avid hiker, backpacker, painter, gardener, dog lover and a previous Information Volunteer in the hut system for the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Mandy Arnold and Karen Arnold

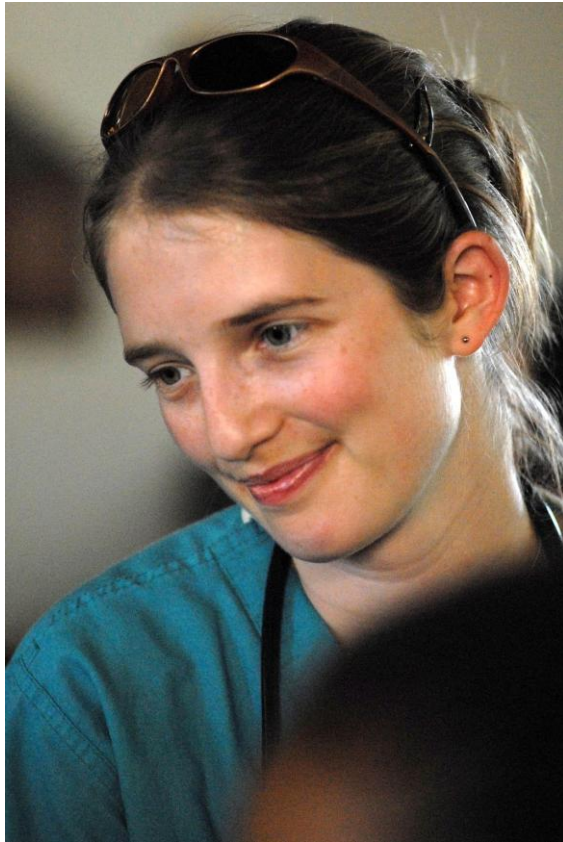


Hey, I'm Mandy and a junior at Gorham High School, eager to get out of Maine. I am passionate about travelling, as I hope to do much more in my future. My plan is to go to college and major in international relations with a minor in sociology. I'm really into travelling, photography and music. I honestly think life is too short to not take a risk and experience life! My three years worth of Spanish classes will certainly get a great workout on our trip. I am pumped to meet and work really hard for a great program with you all. "The night is young, and so are we!"



Hi! My name is Karen Arnold and I am volunteering with my daughter, Mandy. I live in Gorham, Maine with my husband, daughter, and 13 year-old son. We have been interested in volunteering for several years and are so happy to be part of this trip. I grew up in Michigan, moved to New York, then to Maine in 1989. My career as a project manager/mechanical engineer in environmental, health & safety with a large global consulting firm has allowed me to travel to numerous places in the world, including a trip to DR in 2005. I am looking forward to working hard and supporting such a great cause. Little known fact: Jean Burton and I became friends 14 years ago through our then 3-year old daughters at pre-school- time flies!

Elizabeth Digre



My name is Elizabeth Digre and I am currently a nursing student in the accelerated BSN nursing program at the University of Southern Maine. I will be graduating in August 2009 and following the DR trip in August I intend on moving to the west coast and working at a Children's Hospital. My first trip to the DR was in January 2009 and it changed my life in ways I never thought possible. I knew right away that I would be back and I hope to return as often as I can to provide health care to villages surrounding Lajas.

Nicole DuBois



I'm Nicole DuBois. I went on the trip in August, 2005 and I'm excited to go back this year. My dad came on the trip in 2005 (photo above) and both of my parents are going this year. I graduated from USM in December of 2005 and I have worked at Fletcher Allen in Burlington, VT since then. I work on a neurology, neurosurgery, GYN, ENT, and CF floor. I'm also a master's degree student in nursing at UVM, focusing on clinical systems management and I work as a clinical instructor. I live in Essex Junction, VT with my husband, Dave. I look forward to meeting all the volunteers and students!

Kristi Kervin



I went to the DR with the January '05 team, where I served as my teams Jack-of-all-trades. I was amazed and mesmerized by the life altering experience and can't wait to return! It was an experience that I value more than any other, one that I wouldn't trade for the world. I believe it's vital for everyone at some point in their life to be a part of something larger than themselves, to be humbled, and shaken to the core, to help people and the greater good. I'm employed at Casa Inc. in Portland managing a group home for people who have developmental disabilities. I graduated from USM in '07 with a BA in Psychology and Holistic Health. Continuing my education, I'm currently only a few classes away from attaining my RN license, and am hoping eventually to become a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner.

Emily Summitt



Hola! I am Emily Summitt, age 38, from Denton, Texas. I found out about this program through my cousin Lucy Katzen, also going on this trip and joined on the Summer 08 trip. I am married with 4 kids -- two boys adopted from Russia and 2 girls adopted from China. I am fluent in Spanish and will be serving as one of your interpreters there in the Dominican Republic. I work part-time for the local school district as an English as a Second Language teacher for adults. I really enjoy traveling and learning about other people and countries.

Ben Katzen



Ben Katzen, 23, is excited to be coming to the Dominican Republic along with his mother, Lucy, to assist a worthy cause and to see the home country of his adopted younger brother, Michael. Trained as a musician, Ben plays the cello and studied at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in May of 2008. He recently spent five months in a special work-study program on a kibbutz in Israel, and he has spent much of the last year traveling in Israel and Europe.

Lucy Katzen

Lucy has worked as an EMT in New Jersey for the past eight years. She is also a licensed foster parent, specializing in emergency placements, and a guardian ad litem (CASA) providing support and court recommendations for children navigating the foster care system.

Lucy and her adopted Dominican son visit family in the DR every summer and she had been looking for a meaningful way to spend more time in the country so that her son could have a longer visit with his family and discovered PRHDR four years ago. She finds it both satisfying and humbling to be part of an effort that helps at such a basic level. This will be her fourth trip and she is looking forward to another opportunity to practice her Spanish, take blood pressures and be the all round team "grunt"!



Chris Carpenter, MD, MPH

I graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a degree in Genetics and Biology. I then attended The Albert Einstein College of Medicine and obtained a MD. During medical school, I took time off to obtain a MPH in international health. In 2005, I moved to San Francisco for a pediatric residency. In June 2009, I completed a Chief Residency year at UCSF.

I have worked overseas in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, India and Cameroon and look forward to a career in international health.

The picture below is with my family upon medical school graduation in 2005.



Adam Savoie

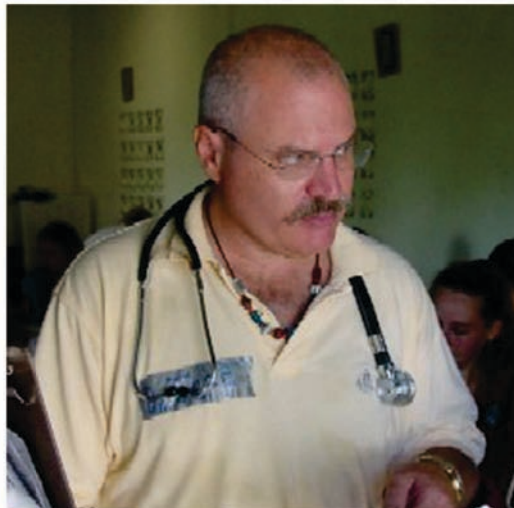


Adam, a graduate of University of Southern Maine, is a soldier in the United States Army who has worked at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and is currently working as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at DeWitt Army Community Hospital. Adam joined the Dominican Republic health care mission in 2003 and since then goes as often as his military service will allow. Adam has served in many roles during his five trips.

Carolyn Field

I was raised north of NYC, lived in Australia for 12 years, and spent 20 years in Brunswick, ME. After traveling, I am back in Maine. I have two children. I have traveled to Europe and Africa and was recently two years with the Peace Corps in Turkmenistan. I have had varied "careers" from cooking, child care, sewing, selling in shops, leading volunteer seminars, to sorting books at the Portland Library. I have also volunteered with Habitat on one local and one foreign house. I was a former tennis player, and enjoy reading and sewing. I'm happy to be visiting a new country and having another "job".

Jeffrey E. Martin, MD, DABME, DABFP, FAAFP



Dr. Martin is a specialist in family practice and a member of the Departments of Family Practice at Mercy Hospital and Maine Medical Center. He is a clinical preceptor for the University of Southern Maine master's degree program in clinical nursing.

An active civic member of his community, Dr. Martin was the founder and first President of the Lakes Region Ecumenical Council, past president and member of the Windham Rotary Club and the Rotary District World Community Service Committee, member of the Windham Action Council on Adolescent Pregnancy, and numerous other Committees. He has served in many capacities with the first Parish Church of York, including as a deacon.

He received an award from the Rotary Club in Lviv, Ukraine for his medical relief efforts there, and was the recipient the Rotary Foundation District Service Award for his humanitarian work in Romania. In 2006, he was given a Real Hero's award by the American Red Cross for his mission work in the Dominican Republic. Jeff has served as President and member of the Board of Directors of Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic. He has joined the medical mission as a volunteer for many years.

David Gagnon , MD
Susan Gagnon, RN, BSN



David has a family practice in Eliot, ME. He accompanied his daughter, Nicole-pictured here, on a PRHDR trip when she was a student at USM, and had a very rewarding experience. He will now be returning with his wife, Susan. She is a school nurse at the Marshwood High School in South Berwick, ME and is looking forward to joining the Summer 09 PRHDR trip.



Jodie Kaufman, RN, BSN, SNM



Hello, My name is Jodie Kaufman.. I will be a return volunteer, having gone in the Summer of 2003 as a nursing student at the University of Southern Maine. It was a life changing experience, and am looking forward to this great opportunity to return.

I graduated from the Baccalaureate program at the University of Southern Maine in 2003 and immediately started working as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at Midcoast Hospital in Brunswick, Maine. I began my Graduate program at the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in November of 2006 and will be completing my program with a Master's in Nurse-Midwifery in May of 2009. I am a Certified Childbirth Educator and teach regularly at Midcoast Hospital.

I have had the opportunity to volunteer and experience multiple life experiences that have brought me to appreciate the diverse and fulfilling vocations associated with nursing. My volunteer background includes two Free-Standing Birth Centers-Northern New Mexico Women's Health and Birth Center in Taos, New Mexico, and Ixmucane Birth Center in Antigua, Guatemala.

I am thrilled to join a colorful and knowledgeable Health Care Team!