



For immediate release
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BACK FOR AN ENCORE

Connecticut Nurse Jennifer Martin Returns to Afghanistan to Work with CURE International

Lemoyne, Pa. August 20, 2009: Last summer, Jennifer Martin got a glimpse of her future, even if she didn't know it at the time.

The 34-year-old nurse from Newington, Conn., spent three weeks last summer in Kabul, Afghanistan, serving at the CURE International Hospital of Kabul, one of two facilities operated by nonprofit medical organization CURE International in that country.

Now, she is prepared to return as the director of nursing in late August.

“When I first heard about this opportunity, I didn't think much about it,” she said.

“But then the more I thought about what CURE wants to do in Afghanistan, the more I saw it matching up with what I would like to accomplish in my own career.”

So, she accepted CURE's offer to take the position.

As director of nursing, Martin will be responsible for planning, directing and evaluating the activities of CURE Kabul's nursing and midwifery departments. She also will assist with training and implementation of new policies and quality assurance standards.

CURE International has operated its medical facilities in Afghanistan since 2005. Specializing in general surgery, obstetrics, gynecology and orthopedics as well as

maternal and neonatal intensive care, CURE International Hospital of Kabul and CURE International Family Health Center saw more than 50,000 patients in 2008.

Martin said what ultimately led her to accept this two-year assignment was her heart for the people of Afghanistan, particularly mothers and their newborn children.

Her new job will be filled with many challenges, like learning a new culture and language, but she said she's looking at it as an opportunity.

“There will be a ton to learn. You really can't understand the culture until you have lived in it, and I got a glimpse of that last summer,” she explained. “I love these people and this country and expect that I'll grow to love them even more during my time there. I also want to use my medical skills to help the hospital's nurses and develop a stronger foundation for this profession in Afghanistan.”

Martin added that her faith has been a motivating factor in why she's going back to Afghanistan.

“Everyone is created in God's image and special to Him,” she noted. “I want to show God's love to the people of Afghanistan and to the staff of CURE Kabul.”

Martin admitted it will be hard to leave behind a successful career in Connecticut---a career which saw her honored as a Health Care Hero by the *Hartford Business Journal* in 2008.

However, the chance to be a part of CURE International's work in Afghanistan is something that she could not refuse.

“An opportunity like this does not come along that often. How could I not go?” she explained.

About CURE International

Founded in 1996, CURE International is the largest provider of pediatric specialty surgical care in the developing world, transforming the lives of physically disabled children and their families through medical and spiritual healing. To date, it has performed more than 64,000 surgeries and seen nearly 1,000,000 patients. Visit www.cureinternational.org for more information.

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