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## NORTHERN VA SCHOOL TEACHER TAKES ‘AMAZING’ VOLUNTEER TRIP TO UGANDA

**Lemoyne, Pa. September 9, 2009:** Kate Bertrand knew her trip to Uganda this summer would be a cultural experience. She couldn't, however, have anticipated just how dramatic that experience would be.

“It is hard to put it into words,” she said. “My time in Uganda was amazing.”

Bertrand recently returned from this East Africa country where she spent two weeks volunteering for CURE Children's Hospital of Uganda (CCHU) along with seven others.



The 22-year-old school teacher from Northern Virginia split her time between the hospital located in the city of Mbale and traveling to other parts of the country.

CCHU is a hospital operated by CURE International, a nonprofit medical organization, that treats children with neurosurgical conditions such as hydrocephalus. It's the only facility in the country offering this type of advanced specialty surgical care for these children.

“The hospital was absolutely beautiful,” she said. “It is clearly a place where children are being healed. CURE is a unique organization because it combines advanced medical care with sharing the message of God’s love with its patients and their families.”

After a few days working at the hospital, Bertrand joined other members of her team and hospital staff on a journey to the northern part of the country.

She spent the next week working at mobile clinics that were set up in the villages and towns they visited. These clinics enable the hospital to bring care to areas of the country far from Mbale. They are also a way to identify children who are in need of medical attention.

Bertrand says what she encountered at the mobile clinics was the highlight of her trip.

“The mobile clinics were hands down the richest part of my experience,” she explained. “I got to be among the people and serve the moms and their babies.”

Bertrand helped cook meals and provided child care for the mothers who came to the clinics seeking medical attention for their children.

“You meet these mothers, and you hear their stories,” said Bertrand. “They work so hard while maintaining a family and a sick child. I was amazed and humbled by their strength and perseverance.”

Bertrand said she’ll be affected by what she experienced for a long time to come.

“I was a part of something beautiful,” she explained. “To have the privilege to hold the babies, play with the children, spend time with the mothers and do what I could to serve them, I’d go back and do it again and again if I could.”

## **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](http://www.cureinternational.org) for more information.

Every year, CURE International sponsors various short-term volunteer trips for medical professionals and other individuals to its 10 hospitals throughout the developing world. Since 2004, more than 2,200 volunteers like Bertrand have served.

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