



## **Lindsay Novick**

B.S. in Nursing

Graduate: May 2010

Experience: Alternative Spring Break Trip to Dominican Republic with School of Nursing, Spring 2010

### **Why did you choose to do this experience?**

As a Catholic and a nurse, I feel called to help people. What better way to help than to work with the poor as a nurse and a Christian.

### **What are the benefits of doing this experience?**

The Mercy tradition instilled in me through my education at GMC will forever be part of my life. Whether it is at work, with my family or with my friends, the lessons I have learned carry over to all parts of my life. I am blessed and privileged to have been a part of the service trip to the Dominican Republic

### **Describe any exciting project or responsibility you've worked on during your experience?**

Collecting donations and fundraising for the trip is exciting and rewarding. This year I received so many donations I was overwhelmed with happiness. I knew that the people of the bateys (Batey is what the people living on the sugar cane plantation call the villages in which they live) would be so grateful. As Mother Theresa once said, "Do ordinary things with extraordinary love." My family, friends and church donated simple things like tooth brushes and Tylenol. All the donations helped us to be able to serve those who may not receive healthcare otherwise.

It was wonderful to have a hands-on experience in my academic career. The word *poverty* can be described in a textbook in many ways. Seeing it in person is a different story. Adding my own personal definition of poverty helped me realize how blessed I am at work and at home.

Getting to know my professors, (Betsy Black and Tammie Kear), was awesome! I am very thankful for the dedication of my teachers. They went above and beyond to give us such a wonderful experience outside the classroom.

### **What advice would you give to other students who may be considering a similar experience?**

Take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that GMC has to offer. Service learning or community service has many benefits. Those you serve can teach you many life lessons that enhance what you learn in the classroom. For example, the people of the bateys may not have many material items but they are some of the happiest people I have ever met. To see this first hand is inspiring.

**Is there anything else you would like to share?**

I feel it essential to the modern college student to take part in some type of service. Giving back to society is what makes the world a better place.