Kristen Marie Guida, DNP, ANP-C, ACNP-BC, AGACNP ('12) became involved with Seattle King-County Disaster Team through a UConn Facebook post. She had been looking to volunteer and provide care to impoverished people and the timing worked perfectly. Along with another APRN, Kristen embarked on the long and tumultuous trip to Haiti where the team stayed at a local priest’s residence within walking distance of the clinic.

Over the course of 5 days, Kristen and the other volunteers provided care to approx. 1,000 patients. Some of her patients included 2 women with broken wrists, a woman with facial trauma, multiple burn victims and many local residents that required extensive primary care.

We asked Kristen more about her experience in Haiti:

*It was quite the experience to provide care to the residents of Haiti in such an austere location. The people are amazingly resilient and are quite adaptable to their surroundings. I am planning on returning to Haiti to participate in another medical* mission this coming October. If the healthcare members of this clinic do not go to this area, these patients do not have access to quality medical care. Seattle King-County Disaster Team goes on several medical missions a year to provide care and I am so fortunate to have met and worked with an amazing group of individuals.

Kristen will be receiving the AANP’s State Award for Excellence in June at the National Conference in Denver, CO. The State Award for Nurse Practitioner Excellence, founded in 1991, recognizes a nurse practitioner (NP) in a state who demonstrates excellence in practice.