

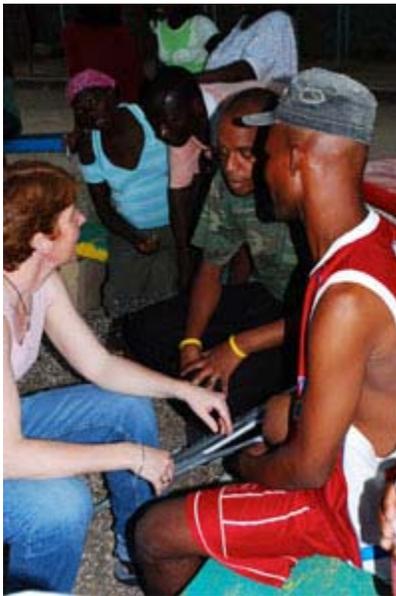


## NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

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## Madonna research director joins relief efforts in Haiti



*Lincoln, Neb.* — When Dr. Judy Burnfield watched the first news footage of the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, something touched her deep inside. “Beyond the immediate devastation, I was concerned for the estimated 300,000 injured, including the thousands who had experienced amputations,” said Burnfield, a physical therapist and director of the Institute for Rehabilitation Sciences and Engineering and the Movement and Neurosciences Center at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Neb.

Ranked as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, even before the earthquake, Haitian resources for rehabilitation were overwhelmed. When colleague and friend, Dr. Caroline Goulet, associate professor in the department of physical therapy at Creighton University, contacted Burnfield about going to Haiti to help out, Burnfield responded, “Count me in.” In April, the two flew to Haiti, joined by colleague Dr. Susan Effgen, from University of Kentucky.

**Dr. Burnfield consulting  
with injured in a tent city  
in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.**

From the moment they left the Port-au-Prince airport, widespread damage was evident, with buildings reduced to rubble. Tent cities had sprung up on any available land. Burnfield and her colleagues spent an afternoon at one tent city consulting with and caring for approximately 50 individuals who had experienced amputations, fractures, head injuries and other traumas. “I was amazed by the deep faith these individuals expressed as you listened to their personal stories. In the midst of indescribable destruction, the phrase heard repeatedly was ‘God is good.’ A husband was lost, but the children survived, ‘God is good,’” said Burnfield.



**Dr. Burnfield counsels a young boy who lost his arm in the Haiti earthquake.**

The team also provided a workshop for healthcare workers in collaboration with Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince, International Child Care and three nurses from the U.S.. The workshop focused on rehabilitation of individuals with amputations. Burnfield led a three-hour lecture and patient demonstration session.

One woman brought her 7-year-old son, Robinson, who had experienced the amputation of his lower leg. The mother was caring for Robinson, another son and her uncle in a tent city. Her husband had died in the earthquake. When a group member suggested that Robinson might be a

future research assistant in Madonna's Research Institute, Burnfield couldn't help but hope that the earthquake would serve as a catalyst for new opportunities for survivors living in the Western hemisphere's poorest country.

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Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital provides hope and healing to thousands of people whose lives had been interrupted by traumatic events or illness. Madonna's approach to rehabilitation is much more than just therapy, it's rebuilding lives and families; and putting hopes and dreams back together. Through CARF accredited rehabilitation programs and services, Madonna offers individualized treatment to help every patient heal in mind, body and spirit – and ultimately live life to the fullest. Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital is located at 5401 South Street in Lincoln, Nebraska, 68506; 402-489-7102; [www.Madonna.org](http://www.Madonna.org).