

EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH CTO

Conversation with Kathy Pazaropoulous | OR Nurse

[Point of view, OR nurse, Kathy Pazaropoulous]

[Kathy Pazaropoulous, OR Nurse, Columbus, Ohio, USA]

I'm Kathy Pazaropoulous, I'm a nurse in the operating room. I worked for 43 years at Nationwide Children's in Columbus, Ohio. I am now retired, but I'm a permanent part of the CTO team, and I travel with Marc on his different mission trips that he takes. I work in the operating room. Sometimes I'm scrubbing with him, and sometimes I'm circulating in the room, or I work with any of the surgeons that he has working with him on our different missions. I worked with a lot of surgeons, but I've never met anybody like Marc Levitt. He came in and opened up my world. He is the best team builder I have ever met. I've never been treated as an equal within the OR [operating room]. There was no hierarchy of doctors and nurses. If you were on Marc's team, you were as important as the next person. He set the expectations for us very high, which was hard to get used to, because that was not something we were used to experiencing, and it just built my confidence in myself as a nurse, and as a team member.

My first trip with him was to Peru, and to see a different environment and a different culture, and see how happy those families were that we were coming in and helping their children. On top of that, I met surgeons from all over the world. I met surgeons from Germany, and from Italy, and from Peru. And then working in between the trips that we were taking, he had surgeons coming in to work with us, residents from Korea and from Russia and from different countries. So, I now know people all over the world. Next, we went to Vietnam. Just the way people treated us and welcomed us because we were part of Marc's team, and to get to work in other environments has always been an exciting part, and just an exciting part for me to expand my nursing career.

And not only did he share the world with us. He shared his family with us. I've worked with his cousin. I've traveled with his wife, his daughter, his mother, met his father, his wife's sister. So, Marc is just the most giving, supportive person I've ever worked with. And to see how people react to him is amazing, and I couldn't ask for a better experience. And unfortunately, it came at the end of my career instead of the beginning, but I am thankful every day that he came into my life and welcomed me onto his team, and has allowed me to continue to travel with him.