

Nicole Tomasello



“After I completed undergrad at Duquesne, I moved down to Florida to work at Disney World as a College program intern. It was definitely a memorable experience! My plan was to stay in Florida to live and work, but I moved home to be with my family. It took me awhile to figure out what to do with my life. I finally found perfusion, sort of accidentally, while searching for what I wanted to do. I attended Perfusion School at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY. I completed 2 more years of school and moved to Hartford, CT for my first job.

After a year and a half in CT I moved to Boston, MA to work at Brigham and Women's Hospital. I finally feel like I found my way :) I love the city and the people I have met, yet I find it hard to be a Bill's fan here ;)

Working as a perfusionist has given me the opportunity to take my career and passion to help those in need abroad. I have gone on 2 open- heart surgery missions with Team Heart in Rwanda, Africa. It has been such a tremendous experience to touch the lives of those who are not used to the bells and whistles we are accustomed to here in the states. I help educate the Rwandan perfusion team while also performing heart surgery on 16 sick patients that would otherwise die without heart surgery. The boy pictured is my little buddy Israel who was too skinny last year to have surgery. He made weight this year and he is a little devil! Does not speak a word of English, yet steals your heart the moment you meet him <3 The Rwandans have a very tough past given the genocide they all lived through, and the one thing that sticks out in my mind is how progressive they are as a culture. They are

very aware of their past, but so willing to want to move forward and learn from their past. I only wish we could all learn a little bit of their forgiveness and ability to move forward.

While living in Boston, I became a member of the Junior League of Boston; which is a women's non-profit volunteer group. We work with a variety of girls and women throughout Boston and the greater Boston area as mentors. I really do enjoy giving back personally and professionally!

I started dance at the age of 3. Looking back on my childhood, I think of all of the fond memories and friendships I made over those years. I'm just not quite sure how that time went by so fast?!?"