

Meet Amélie von Saint André-von Arnim

Introduction by Jane Tornatore

I am honored to introduce you to Amélie von Saint André-von Arnim. Proposed by Jeffrey Gill, seconded by Derick Pasternak and Jim Moore.

From a very early age Amélie had a focus beyond her own life. That focus continues.

Growing up in Germany, Amélie was steeped in Rotary. Her dad and brother are Rotarians. They had Rotary exchange students in their home and she is still in touch with some of them. She also spent a year in Italy as a Rotary exchange student. Amélie received a scholarship to a high school in Wales. The main goal of that school was international understanding. Many of her friends were refugees from war torn areas.

Amélie is a pediatric intensivist at University of Washington Hospital and Seattle Children's, and the associate director of the UW Center for International Respiratory and Severe Illness.

Amélie works to improve outcomes for critically ill children in areas with few resources. She is involved in research that trains Kenyan mothers to recognize critical illness in their children, respiratory device implementation in Kenya, and mobile health. She has a grant application in to Rotary for training in pediatric emergency and critical care in Kenya.

Amélie is not afraid of the unknown. While doing medical research in Ohio, she realized it was not a good fit. She called an aunt she had never met and asked if she could stay with her for a couple of months, and Amélie's life in Seattle began.

Amélie met her husband here as he was delivering a baby, literally. Together they have two boys and a girl, ages 13, nine and five.

Amélie chose to do her residency in Lesotho, a tiny kingdom in Africa. The day she and her husband arrived, all the local doctors left. Take a moment to imagine that.

Given the intensity of her job and volunteer work, I asked Amélie what she does to replenish herself—she runs, gardens, and swims.

What I came away with the most from our talk is how good Amélie would be at her job at the ICU. I experienced her deep listening and compassion. Her patients are lucky to have her, as are we. Please welcome, Amélie von Saint André-von Arnim.