



**The
Samaritan
Foundation**
Building Futures Today

INFORMATION PACKAGE

Dear Partner in Service,

We are excited that you have chosen to serve with The Samaritan Foundation in addressing the needs of the poor in the Dominican Republic. For more than 30 years we have ministered among them, showing the love of Jesus Christ in very tangible ways, and thus changing their lives dramatically for the better.

It is often surprising to hear that many people have very little knowledge of the poverty that exists in the Dominican Republic although it is understandable because of the successful marketing for tourism. Visitors are often shocked when they witness the living environments that many families are confined to. Their shelters are usually nothing more than a tin shack held together with only a few nails and some branches. Many of them sleep on the bare ground or a thin worn-out foam mattress. Recently while visiting some of these areas, one person commented that most of the poor seemed to only exist and nothing more. They live their lives literally one day at a time, with the hope that their daily needs will be met.

Despite this, we can make inroads in these precious lives that will produce positive life changes for generations to come. Even though we cannot possibly change every life, with your help we can make changes that will benefit many families.

In the sixteen communities that have been developed, over 2,000 families have received a modest block home free of charge. We have built 12 churches, 8 schools, 5 medical clinics, 3 vocational schools, and multiple community outreach and enhancement programs. Praise the Lord for the many blessings provided through people of care and compassion.

Jean Melnick
Mission Director

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[Participant Application](#)

[Trip Evaluation Form](#)

[Travel Release Form](#)



Frequently Asked Questions

To make your upcoming trip as exciting and rewarding as possible, we have put together some frequently asked questions that are often presented to us. We are often asked questions regarding health and safety issues, transportation, and medical concerns. These are items that most people take for granted in their home country, but which are very different in developing countries.

What is the weather like?

The weather varies greatly depending on the time of year you plan to come but this is the general rule of thumb:

February – May: High 20's C (80F-87F)

June – October: Mid 30's C to low 40's C (87F – 102F)

November – January: Mid 20's C (75F-80F)

We recommend you drink plenty of water. Don't worry, you sweat it out so you won't need to make frequent trips to the washroom.

What are the workdays like and how are they scheduled?

Because every group is different, we want to design your time here in a way that best suits the needs and expectations of your team. With most of our visiting teams we do outreach ministry programs as well as construction work. Construction can be working on a home, for example mixing concrete, laying of blocks, back filling with dirt and painting the outside of the home. Working in the wood shop is a great option, building doors and windows for the homes and painting them. We invite you to look over the list of options and then we can work together on your schedule.

What are the costs that the team is expected to cover?

We know that you must work hard at raising the funds needed to come and be a blessing to the poor, so we try to keep the expenses as manageable as possible. First, we would ask for a \$500.00 (CDN) nonrefundable deposit which will be put towards your building project. We ask each visiting team to pay \$250.00 (CDN) per person that goes towards the expenses of managing your team. This covers the expenses of 6 days of transportation to the worksite and ministry locations, translator, daily ice & water plus a Dominican lunch for the team.

We also request that you donate \$9,000 (CDN) towards a building project. In 2019 we started a renovation program in our older villages, where we replace roofs, fix parging and re-paint homes. We will also continue to build new block homes for poor families. Both renovations and new builds will be a blessing to the families. If you are part of a group that is able to sponsor a larger project, we would love to tell you about projects needed within these communities that cost more than the price of a home.



If you are able to bring humanitarian aid we are asking teams to bring some items for us to stock our pantry, linen closet and hygiene products for our bathroom closet so we can help those in need over the entire year. Please ask us for further details.

Tour the Vocational School in Paradise (Paraiso)

The vocational schools were established to help the under-educated people of the North Coast learn skills that would lead to viable employment. This allows them to provide for their families and avoid a life spent in compromising situations. Classes offered at the school include sewing, beauty school, furniture & upholstery, electrical engineering, plumbing and English.

If you would like to teach one of the classes that are offered, we can arrange that. Over the past 5 years, well over 2,000 students have graduated and are now able to provide for their families. We invite you to come alongside this great work and see the vocational programs in action.

Visiting the sick in the Public Hospital located in Puerto Plata

This hospital services almost a million of the poorest people in the surrounding areas who have no resources for other healthcare possibilities. By spending a little time visiting and praying for these people, you will make the patient's stay a little bit brighter. We also encourage teams to give a small gift of hygiene essentials.

Vacation Bible School

For those who wish to do Bible teaching we can arrange for you to go into either a school or a church. Generally, VBS is one week but we can also do a day or two. We ask that you bring with you any teaching/craft materials you need.

Visit a school in Villa Emmanuel (Nest of Love) or Asher School

You can share a talent or participate in games or sports at recess time. For a reasonable cost to you, The Samaritan Foundation can help you provide a snack prepared and distributed by your team to the children. If you wish to provide a lesson or activity, please provide all the supplies necessary for the activity.



During Non-School Weeks

A children's juice program can be held at a local church where the team will prepare and participate in telling Bible stories through dramas, songs, or other means. Translators will be available to help you make the most of your experience. The cost would be dependent on what kind of snacks you would like to provide. E.g., Juice, banana, and a cookie pack. Please check with us regarding the costs, 150-350 children on average will attend depending on the location.

Prayer Walk

Your team can pick one of our villages to go door to door and pray with people. We have gospel tracts we can hand out and/or you can bring Spanish bibles to give out.

Gift / Hygiene Packets

This is a great way to help a village of people. Your team can bring pre-made packets or bring the individual items and you can make the packets here. For example, deodorant is around \$7.00 CDN. Most items are at least double the price here. Often you can get items donated to make up a nice packet.

Movie time in a village

The team will go into the community and invite people to attend a movie shown in the local church or school one afternoon or evening during their stay. We have various Christian children's movies in Spanish available to choose from. There will be an opportunity for testimonies and discussions using our excellent translators if you wish at the end of the movie.

Serve Lunch in a village

Your team can help some local ladies to make a big pot of soup, rice & beans, etc... Then the team can serve the local people in whichever one of our villages you would like.

It is our desire to make your ministry activities as rewarding as the work programs. Again, we know that each group's desires and plans are unique to themselves, so please help us prepare a program that best suits your expectations. It will be our pleasure.



GROUP ACTIVITIES (EXCURSIONS)

For some groups, a midweek or trip ending activity is a nice way to unwind. Here are just a few ideas that you may want to consider for your teams in an afternoon off to enjoy a relaxing change. If you would like to use your free time to do an excursion let us know which day you would like off. The cost is not included in the fees you have paid.

Your team could take a cable car ride up Mount Isabel de Torres in Puerto Plata, visit Monkey Jungle or the 27 waterfalls might be where you would like to go. You may also want to spend an afternoon relaxing on beautiful Cabarete beach where kite surfers and windsurfers abound, shop at the local tourist hot spots and enjoy dinner on the beach at one of the local restaurants.

You can check some of these out online.

If there are still some questions that you may have that we have not addressed or have overseen, please let us know. We want to have your confidence, knowledge and trust as we work together to make a difference in these precious lives.

In conclusion, teams are asked for a minimum donation of \$9000.00 (CDN) for a construction project and \$250.00 (CDN) per person for in-country costs.

If you are interested in staying longer than one week (7 days) please contact us for cost details.

It has been a pleasure to share with you our desire to serve the Lord in this humble calling of being the hands and feet of Jesus among the people of the Dominican Republic. The Samaritan Foundation and all our associate ministries hope and pray that God has been revealed to you through the simple call of serving and helping.

The King will reply, 'truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers & sisters of mine, you did for me' Matthew 25:40

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