

Mission Team Office Report  
Dominican Development Group Meeting

February 17, 2014

The mission team office finished up the year 2013 with a total of 50 teams consisting of Vacation Bible School, Medical, and construction (repairs). Much was accomplished in the way of forming relationships with the American teams and people of the Dominican Diocese. I have had related to me some wonderful stories of new friendships formed and old ones renewed.

This coming year we have scheduled 50 teams so far, which includes 14 medical teams (as compared with 9 last year). As we speak there is a team at Clinica Esperanza doing an eye clinic – which is a new addition. They plan on leaving a large amount of equipment in the clinic, and perhaps returning with a team for cataract surgery.

There have been a number of new ministries started last year. The knitting team from Georgia continues in Jarabacoa, and a new shoe ministry has been started from South Carolina. Over 1500 pairs of shoes have been disbursed throughout the Diocese. Collections of baseball equipment have been received, and pillows in the shape of frogs sent for ill children in hospitals.

There are still the issues of high airfares, which some teams have overcome by arriving during the week instead of Saturdays. Because raising money in American churches is not always easy, we must do a better job of accounting for the money that is sent to this Diocese. Teams want to know how their funds are spent and there is a plan to implement this.

This office has the capable help of Patricia Martin who makes arrangements for our teams, and Charlie Nakash who assists and advises on construction issues with groups.

We are always available to do exploratory tours to help a church or diocese discern where they would best fit into our Diocese. The many needs continue, especially with maintenance of the buildings.

The scholarship program also is the responsibility of this office. There are many issues with this program, from compliance to receive profiles, to seeking and reporting to the donors. We are hoping to make changes for next year's campaign.

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