

SPRING/SUMMER 2002



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Heather Oster from DePauw University enjoys a special moment with Victor at the Good Samaritan Orphanage in Esperanza, the Dominican Republic. DePauw students volunteered in both Esperanza and Monte Cristi.

Orphanage Outreach Spring 2002 Volunteer Program



Volunteers from DePauw University complete a major portion of the block wall at the orphanage in Monte Cristi.

Don't hesitate, just do it. It will change your life. We have so much to offer the orphanage and community. Deciding to be a part of Orphanage Outreach was one of the best decisions I have ever made for myself.

...*Carrie Kleeb, James Madison University*

Participating in Orphanage Outreach was the best decision I have ever made. It changed my whole way of thinking all at once. In this case the change wasn't incremental or linear, it happened in one week without my knowing it. Don't let any small doubts or anxieties keep you from participating in the program, don't let your fears cause you to miss out.

...*Brendan Asquith, University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

With Orphanage Outreach, volunteers are given the opportunity to truly experience another culture and give something back in return. ...*Meghan Trombley, Providence College*

This was an unbelievable experience, one that I find difficult to describe to people in a way that can capture everything I saw, heard, and did! I am so glad I was given this opportunity; the children were incredible and the volunteers were awesome! It was an unforgettable week and I can honestly say that I had fun-I couldn't imagine going on a regular spring break to Cancun! The Dominican Republic is a beautiful country with beautiful people. This trip enables you to experience their culture first hand and see life from a totally new perspective!

...*Jacqueline Murphy, Cornell University*

Working at the orphanage was just as rewarding as I expected it to be, and much more fun than I thought! I had an amazing week....*Erin Rogers, University of Georgia*

In college we all say that we want to go out and help change the world. After taking the Orphanage Outreach trip, I felt for the first time that I had done just that.

....*Joe Hansen, Grinnell College*

Going to the Dominican Republic is all about expanding your horizons and pushing yourself further than you think you can go; physical comforts and mental limits are pushed to the extremes. I wouldn't trade that week for anything in the world.

....*Simmons Tucker, University of North Carolina*

Working with children in the Dominican Republic was an absolutely incredible experience. They will break your heart and make you cry. They will also make you laugh and sing. In one week, you will make friends that can last a lifetime. You won't want to come home. And you WILL come back...

...*Elizabeth Hartman, University of Colorado*

It is truly a life altering experience. I recognized the many aspects of American culture that were unnecessary and revolved solely around material pleasures in comparison to the lifestyles of the people I encountered on my trip. These children touched my heart and soul in so very many ways it is impossible to convey with words. The Dominican people are remarkable human beings. Take that leap out of the world you know so well and embark on this journey. You will walk away a changed individual...*Lara Thompson, Providence College*

It was the best experience of my life. I appreciate everything that I have and take nothing for granted. I would say to anyone that is interesting in going don't think twice about it.....just go... you will have fun and feel good about making a difference in someone's life!...*Sara Bower, Central Michigan University*

THIS WAS THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE!!!!

...*Jenny Pazmino, James Madison University*

The orphanage lives in my heart forever!! I am already thinking about my next visit next spring!! Once you visit the orphanage you will NOT want to leave!!!

..*Courtney Smith, Mississippi State University*



Volunteers painted new garbage cans for the orphanage in Esperanza.

Making a Difference

In January, health and construction teams from DePauw University volunteered at both the orphanages in Monte Cristi and Esperanza. At both orphanages, health teams conducted health clinics for the orphanages and for the local community. In Monte Cristi, a construction team helped build a major portion of a block wall around the orphanage, sealed the orphanage roof, and planted flowers and trees. In Esperanza, the construction team built a 11,000 gallon water cistern to store irrigation water. In addition, they began installing an irrigation system for new orphanage fruit trees.

In March, a team from Penn State-Altoona volunteered for a week at the orphanage in Monte Cristi. They completed the block wall, and planted 70 shade trees.

Volunteers from around the country worked at the orphanage in Esperanza for four weeks in March. The orphanage was a completely different place at the end of the month compared with the beginning of the month. Some of the impact the volunteers made include:

- * Taught the children from the orphanage and community
- * Installed the first water filtration system at the orphanage
- * Installed a battery powered light system for power outages
- * Donated seven tons of clothes and other supplies
- * Built new closets
- * Built a new laundry room
- * Built a new recreation ramada
- * Built a mini-court for tether ball, four square, and other games
- * Built a new water cistern and gravity feed irrigation system
- * Built eighteen raised garden beds for vegetables
- * Planted sixty two fruit trees
- * Built new bleachers by the basketball court
- * Painted a new mural
- * Installed additional garbage cans
- * Built new volunteer bathrooms
- * Provided funding for orphanage basic necessities

It's a pleasure and an honor for me to work with volunteers and donors who are living the following quote from George Bernard Shaw:

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one, the being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no "Brief Candle" for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

Thank you for your support, and for helping to make a difference both in the lives of the children we work with in the Dominican Republic and in the lives of the people who volunteer.

Tom Eklund

Tom Eklund
Executive Director



This new play area will provide tether ball, four square games, and mini basketball court for smaller children.



To help manage towels, sheets, and clothes, new closets were built at the orphanage in Esperanza.



This new ramada now replaces an old rickety ramada that was ready to fall. Two cement ping pong tables are being built in this ramada to provide more recreation.

Spring 2002 Classes

Volunteers worked with 700 children, kindergarten through sixth grade, at the Good Samaritan Orphanage in Esperanza. They taught English, art, reading, and more. The volunteers taught in front of the classroom, in small groups, and one on one.



www.orphanage-outreach.org

Please e-mail volunteer@orphanage-outreach.org to automatically receive newsletter updates via e-mail.

Spring 2002 Projects



DePauw volunteers conducted health clinics in both Monte Cristi and Esperanza.



The bleachers in Esperanza were completed. People will use the bleachers to watch games and programs.



Orphanage Outreach volunteers donated seven tons of shoes, clothes, school supplies, and other items to the orphanages. The clothes in this photo are just a small part of the total donated items.



This chlorinating, activated carbon water filtration system will provide a consistent supply of clean water to the orphanage in Esperanza for the first time.

For the first time, the orphanage in Esperanza has an indoor laundry room. Before this, laundry was done outside, water would make the ground muddy, and the washing machine and clothing were not in a secure area.



Spring 2002 Projects—The Orchard/Garden



This new water cistern enables the orphanage to store water for irrigation use during the dry season.



The boys helped to install a PVC irrigation system to move water from the cistern to the new garden and orchard.



The orphanage now has eighteen 20'X5' raised garden beds, watered with a new drip irrigation system. And sixty two new fruit trees are each connected to the new irrigation system.

Orphanage Outreach Spring 2002 Volunteer Program



I got more out of this Spring Break than I ever dreamed possible. The sight of a child's eyes lighting up when we walked in to their classroom or when they finally mastered a new skill was priceless. The things I experienced in my one short week in the Dominican Republic will stay with me for a lifetime. This was definitely more fulfilling than spending my spring break on a beach somewhere!...**Maureen Baker, University of Minnesota**

I am a different person since my trip to the Dominican Republic. I learned so much about another place, another language, other people and myself. I believe that the orphanage also taught be about another kind of love, one that has filled my heart with light and opened my eyes. I can't wait to return to Esperanza.
...**Nora Dumke, University of Colorado**

I think this was an extremely rewarding experience. Everybody in the Dominican is very welcoming, and the orphanage children are so warm and loving. I wanted to take them all home with me, but since I couldn't, I was very glad that I had the opportunity to spend time with some great kids!...**Kim Barber, ASU**

My time in Esperanza was incredible. The whole trip has changed my perspective forever, and has impacted my everyday life tremendously. My memories of the boys at the orphanage bring a smile to my face time after time. I feel that this trip is one that everybody, especially young adults, should experience. It brings rewards of love, laughter, accomplishment and pride, and instills a strong feeling that one person can make a difference.
...**Emily Brod, Providence College**

This was the most eye-opening experience of my life. I know that I was sent to this orphanage to teach these young children, but it is what they taught me that is immeasurable."
...**Jenny Sutherland, James Madison University**

I left part of my heart in Esperanza. What I did there, from picking rocks in a field to teaching English vocabulary, can't compare to how I grew as a person. There is nothing more rewarding than

to help another human, and there is no better way to do it than in sunny Esperanza with a group of people that care just as much as you do. To me there is no happier place on earth than Esperanza, where the joy that you create with your help is immediately visible in the smile on a child's face.

...**Julia Seymour, University of Wisconsin**

If you think you might want to go on the trip, just do it! Sending in my deposit was the single best decision I ever made. When it is all done and over with, you won't regret a thing and you won't want to trade your trip, experiences and new friends for 500 trips to Cancun.

...**Jackie Whalen, College of Charleston**

Working with Orphanage Outreach in the Dominican Republic is a very rewarding and challenging experience that I will never forget. You learn about the children, the people, the country. Your impact on the children at the orphanage as well as the surrounding community is very visible and it's very encouraging to see the difference a few people can make.

...**Catherine Smith, University of Colorado**

It is the little things that will make the trip amazing. Helping a first grader write six English words and watching his eyes light up after he finished each word was the most rewarding experience of my life. Reading Jorge Curioso (Curious George), playing Frisbee, teaching a new word in English, those are the things that matter to the kids, and that is why this opportunity is so amazing.**Renee Alleman, University of Minnesota**

You walk into the Dominican Republic hoping to make a difference in someone's life. You leave realizing that they made the difference in your life. I read a book down there by John Eldridge and in it was this quote-"Don't do what the world needs. Do what makes you alive because what the world needs is more people who are alive." The spirit in those kids, the hearts of the volunteers and the mission of Orphanage Outreach is what made me alive!...**Keri Sullivan, University of Georgia**



Volunteers at the Orphanage Outreach Spring 2002 Volunteer Program in the Dominican Republic took the children from the orphanage to a nearby water park. They obviously had fun!

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SPRING 2002 VOLUNTEER
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS!