

Day 3 - Home Visits, Construction, and Gardening

Monday, June 12, 2017

Good evening from the DR!



Today started with team devotionals at 7:15 a.m. - Sandi and Jamie led the group in singing "Lean on Me," where we reflected on how relying on God and on each other will be so important throughout the week. We ate a quick breakfast and then headed out to El Almirante to start our day with the community.

Once we arrived, we quickly initiated home visits, pre-construction on the water filtration building, and working on a community garden. Home visits are a chance for members of High Point and Crossroads to visit directly with the children and families that they sponsor. We'll sit with them in their homes, share stories, discuss how things are going, and give them a few boxes of food.

The building that will house the water filtration system contained some debris, including wood, nails, and rocks. The team worked hard to carry and wheelbarrow the debris out of the building to make way for cement, and eventually the water filtration system. Over by the garden, the project began with a large pile of dirt that by lunch turned into a flat field for the planting of local vegetables!



Following the morning activities, we drove to the Hands of Hope office where Patricia, Millie, and a few other local women cooked us a Dominican lunch consisting of rice, beans, veggies, fresh pineapple, and beef. It was delicious! We also took the opportunity to put small dinners together for the kids who attend Vacation Bible School (VBS).

We then drove back to El Almirante where we filled the afternoon with more construction, gardening, and the first day of VBS! During VBS, we sang fun songs and taught the kids about Zacchaeus. The lesson being that Jesus provided salvation and accepted Zacchaeus even after he treated others unkindly and stole from them. The kids left happily from VBS with a ham sandwich and a juice box. Additionally, teens of the community had fun

working with Bonnie and Pat painting the Tree of Life, and painted some gorgeous pictures!



The onsite time ended with a friendly game of basketball, the kids loved running around with the team members and teaching them a thing or two. Both Doug's experienced some type of "fall-down" event, which we regret we did not document :).



We got back to the hotel around 6:30 p.m. where we held evening devotionals, led by Lynn and Alison, which focused on the power of prayer and letting God take control. We sang "Oh Fill My Cup" campfire-style, then followed-up with dinner and a local flan desert.

Hebrews 10: 24-25
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

