



Dear Member,

For 5 years now, Project Helping Hands has been sending volunteers to the Dominican Republic. In June, 9-time PHH veteran Tammy Tally-Ingrao led our latest team to Puerta Plata-an important province at the northernmost point of the country. For 9 days, our volunteers provided health care and education to the impoverished people of Tubagua, Yassica, Cabarete, and the Haitian Bateyes of Munoz and Barrio.

In the classroom, the team was encouraged by the villagers' eagerness to learn how better to care for both their families and their neighbors. After receiving multiple requests for specific topics, the team chose to begin with basic first aid: bandaging wounds, splinting broken bones, treating head injuries. Additional topics included self-breast examination and the prevention of sexually transmitted disease.

When the team set up and began to provide medical care, they were instantly struck by the sheer lack of access to basic medical care. For example, a 12-year-old boy showed up at the clinic in Munoz. He had badly burnt his ankle 18 days prior and could no longer walk due to complications with the wound. Our people cleaned up the burn, fit him with a protective shoe, gave his mother instructions for continued care, and sent him on his way with antibiotics.



For our professionally trained health care providers, the encounter was entirely routine-something you could take care of in fifteen minutes at a local urgent care. For the residents of Munoz, however, finding someone

to bind up your wounds is much more complicated than heading down to the corner. Who knows what they would've done if we hadn't shown up? This was only one story of many-a little reminder of why organizations like PHH exist.

Our volunteers have spent the past 5 years getting to know some incredible people in the Dominican Republic. These indigenous supporters have done more to support our work than the local government ever could. Nevertheless, we were encouraged to see state funds go to building a new emergency area and additional patient rooms for the local hospital. We have a long way to go in getting the people of Puerto Plata reliable access to health care and are looking forward to seeing even more cooperation between the government and its people in the future.

Looking forward

PHH will continue our tradition of helping the Dominican Republic with the launch of our next team deployment into the Munoz and Cabarete regions. This deployment will take place in May 2018 and is currently accepting applications. Please learn more about our deployment and apply for the team by clicking the link below.

Find full details and apply for the team here:

[Dominican Republic Team Deployment- May 2018](#)



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