



Giving Hands Foundation of Barahona

FUNDACIÓN DANDO LA MANO

August - October 2017

The fall of 2017 has begun as successfully as the summer ended! In August and September, The Big Trip was an overwhelming success. October has already brought many blessings, and it promises even more success stories and resources. Praise God!



In August, final school uniform sponsorships were fulfilled, and a huge donation of school shoes was received, plus lots of personalized school supply gifts collected in New Castle, PA and shipped in from across the U.S. School and construction supplies were packed in 16 bags for 7 travelers, and the blessings were delivered to the D.R. in three stages.

Dr. Jacob

Ramirez and Bob "The Builder" arrived first to begin remodeling the Ramirez home into a more accommodating group facility that will soon house up to 12 visitors! Praise God for the funding and willing hands that came together to make this transition! During this week, Jacob also completed the purchase of the land where the Giving Hands Clinic will be built. Praise God for a smooth purchasing process and the story behind the individual donor who made this possible!



Next, Felicia Ramirez and Bobby arrived with more school shoes and supplies, ready to begin the first phase of the back-to-school program. Felicia and Lauren, who led the arm of sponsorships in Minnesota, spent several days sizing Algodon's sponsored students, shopping, then returning to deliver the uniforms to nearly 80 students! This is only the beginning of

our service to our neighbors in Algodon. Praise God for steady growth in the reach of Giving Hands!

Soon, Esther, Kylea, and Nicole arrived with the remaining 8 bags of donations, as the final phase of the back-to-school team. With Felicia, they sized the students of Altagracia, including those sponsored by-name and those who would receive uniforms out of undesignated sponsorship funding. We praise God for supplying the back-to-school program in excess,



which allowed us to serve every student in Altagracia! With sizes recorded and tallied, Felicia and Jacob traveled to the capital, Santo Domingo, to shop at the most affordable stores, and returned the same night with nearly every uniform garment for Altagracia! Praise the Lord!



The team quickly organized the purchased and donated items, then set up a mass pick-up event where students "shopped" one-by-one to receive their uniform top

and bottoms, shoes, socks, and basic school supplies. We praise God for the shoe miracle, when in late July, the majority of the shoes distributed in both Altagracia and



Algodon (300 pairs!) were donated by a shoe store owner in West Middlesex, PA. Thanks to this donation and individual sponsorships, hundreds of clothing items, shoes, and school supplies were received, and over 260 students were ready to attend school at no cost to their families! We

praise God for our sponsors', donors' and volunteers' roles in serving with us to alleviate a burden that our neighboring families are unable to bear each year, while promoting the blessing of education as a priority and a tool to grow our community!



As Felicia concluded back-to-school tasks and began the school year's attendance incentive program, Jacob and Bob gathered a crew and materials, breaking ground to begin construction of the Giving Hands Clinic. With a 30-man team, great progress was made in the foundation of the large medical facility of

Altagracia's future. Praise God for working in and through each

member of the Giving Hands family, giving them the desire and power to honor Him by serving the needs of their community!



Further construction is now on hold, as we await sufficient funding for the next round of materials and labor. A construction team is being formed through New Life Baptist Church to visit Altagracia in January 2018 and make further progress, in conjunction with a team who will carry out our children's Christmas gift sponsorship program, Navidad Internacional.

Please pray with us as we prepare and continue to serve the Lord and our neighbors through these endeavors!



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