



April-July 2017

What an eventful summer full of blessings for Giving Hands Foundation! In April, daily medical service and weekly children's Sunday School continued, along with construction of the Segura home. This family lost their homes in a fire in December, and their new house finally took shape. Meanwhile, a group of 30 women were getting into shape through regular exercise meetings. This was all coming together, along with stateside team building, in preparation for the New Life Baptist Church mission trip.



In May, Dr. Jacob and Felicia Ramirez hosted New Life's group of 12 individuals, including 2 children, as Giving Hands' first official mission team!



Together with visiting interpreters and Altagracia's home staff, the team held 3 days of formal clinic serving around 400 people in 3 communities, a day of nurse visits to Altagracia's shut-in patients and elderly,...



...4 days of VBS reaching about 300 kids, award parties for the highest-attending school students and women's fitness group, and a children's movie night with Bible lesson.





The team's electrician installed safe, quality wiring throughout the Segura home, as team funds provided for the community construction team to complete the floor, walls and front door installation. The team's nurses organized the Giving Hands Clinic and trained the nursing staff to better serve patients. And throughout the week's activities, the Love of the Lord was spoken across language and cultural barriers. We praise God for the impact this single week has in the hearts of so many on both sides of the trip!



In the rest of May and June, more homes received renovations, including roofs, a door and building material contributions. The current Giving Hands building was repainted a lively green, and the regular scheduled activities continued. In the US, the Back-to-School Sponsorship Program began, and Dr. Jacob received the news that a local doctor in Pennsylvania would make a single donation to



purchase nearly 3 acres of land in Altagracia where the future Giving Hands Clinic and volunteer housing will be built!



With God's great blessing of the property funding, July was a month packed with preparation for an end-of-summer trip to complete the purchase, break ground for the clinic and distribute at least 300 school uniforms in the bateyes of Altagracia and Algodon. The individual child sponsorships poured in, and word spread about the clinic building. By the end of July, the goal of 300 school sponsorships was met, including a single donation of 300 pairs of brand-new shoes from a generous local shoe store owner. Praise

the Lord! Additional fundraising continued for the August-September mission trip to accomplish the sponsorship distribution, as well as clinic groundbreaking and necessary renovations to the Ramirez home in Altagracia, which is the temporary housing for small groups of volunteers.

Our stateside summer ended with two long-awaited pieces of wonderful news. First, Giving Hands Foundation received official recognition by the IRS as a 501(c)3 non-profit public charity. This will open many more doors of support and opportunity for the foundation. Finally, the Dominican Public Health department has issued Dr. Jacob's medical license after 10 long months of processing, which will bring official credibility to the Giving Hands Clinic and allow him to serve Altagracia's medical needs immediately.



We praise God for the contents of this update and for His blessing of loving support from our prayer partners and donors. Please keep praying for the safety, financial and spiritual needs of this upcoming trip, as the Ramirezes lead 5 individuals in service to our two home communities. We look forward to sharing the next chapter of God's stories when we return!

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