



DRMP NOW

Latest News from the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership

Celebration Dominicana 2019

Same Party | New Date

Please save the date for the 2019 Celebration Dominicana on **Fri., Sept. 6th** at **the Madrid Theatre starting at 7pm.**

This event makes it possible for the DRMP to continue our vital work of providing medical care and health education to improve the health and well-being of children and families living in impoverished communities in the DR.

If you would like to help with preparations for the event or even help on setup day, please email event chair Sarah Weekly: sweekly331@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE

Celebration
Dominicana 2019

A Benefit for the
**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MEDICAL
PARTNERSHIP OF VILLAGE CHURCH**

FRI., SEPT. 6 AT 7PM
MADRID THEATRE
3810 MAIN
KANSAS CITY, MO 64111

WWW.VILLAGEPRES.ORG/CD2019
DRMP.INFO@GMAIL.COM

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DRMP TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

November 2018 Trip Report

by Amy Christiansen, Team Leader

The November trip focused on establishing a diabetes monitoring pilot. We saw 100 patients in bateyes Cacata and Magdalena, ending with 18 patients: one new and 17 previously diagnosed. These patients were started on oral meds (two types) with Dr. Dorcas trained as the diabetes pilot manager. The pilot will ultimately become a part of the quarterly HTN clinics that LAC conducts.



February 2019 Tubal Trip

by Sarah Weekly, Team Leader

The 2019 tubal trip was another great success. We were there from Feb. 9-16 and served 65 women during our week.



March 2019 Village Church Youth Trip

by Lora Garrison, Village Church

This year, 42 students, youth leaders and adults from Village Youth spent spring break assisting Light a Candle in their batey healthcare and educational services and also working on construction at Kilometer 6. Batey work included blood pressure monitoring, child nutrition education, hygiene education, 1st aid education, healthy cooking education for adults

January 2019 Medical & Surgical Trip

by Rita Luallin, Team Leader

This year our surgery team did 35 surgeries (less than normal but more complicated procedures). The medical team saw approximately 400 people in our designated bateyes and made six house calls.



NEW DRMP TRIP

Recognizing the desire for Village Church members to get involved in our work, DRMP is launching its 1st annual Givingthanks Dominican Republic from Nov. 22 – 27, 2019. A team of approximately 35 VPC folks will head to La Romana to help with construction of Light a Candle's new Community Health Center, assist with Light a Candle's healthcare and education work in the bateyes and help host a medical clinic. Thanksgiving is on Nov. 28th so team members can be home in time for the holiday. Some members are choosing to stay the rest of the week to celebrate Thanksgiving Dominican-style!

PLEASE COME
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP'S
VPC MISSION TRIP
GIVING THANKS
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
MEDICAL • EDUCATION • CONSTRUCTION

DATE Nov. 22 - 27, 2019
(Thanksgiving is on Nov. 28)

COST \$1,400 person includes air, room/board, meals

PAYMENT SCHED. 6-1-19: \$100 deposit person
7-1-19: \$700 person
8-1-19: \$600 person
Send checks payable "Village Church" to contact below

LIMIT 35 participants *of all ages* Unaccompanied minors must be 16 by 11-22-19

LIGHT A CANDLE TO BUILD COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

DRMP's Dominican-based partner organization, Fundación Encienda Una Luz (Light A Candle), recently received a generous donation of nearly ½ acre of land from the township of Caleta (four miles southwest of La Romana) to build a much-needed Centro de Salud Comunitario (Community Health Center). The health center will serve approximately 16,500 low-income residents living in the surrounding area. The building will include a health clinic, social service department, dormitory & computer lab for scholarship students (nursing students from bateyes and other scholarship students), and other related community services. The transaction is official and the contract states that construction must begin by January 2020.



New health center site

NEW DRMP PROGRAMS

UTI PROGRAM

by Maithe Enriquez, APRN, PhD

DRMP has started a new quality project that seeks to correlate the symptoms described by women with their results with Uritest, a previously validated rapid diagnostic test for urinary tract infection, which assesses the presence of white blood cells or bacteria in urine. Nurse Rosalia Molina and Dr. David McKinsey are leading the new project, which started in January 2019.



David McKinsey MD, Rosalia Molina RN & Christiana Oyewusi RN

Bateyes are remote sugarcane villages in the Dominican Republic, populated by Haitian migrant workers and their families. These villages often lack running water and electricity. Among the batey adult female Haitian population, voiding symptoms are common but the prevalence of symptomatic urinary tract infection has not been defined. Health care providers on medical mission trips to the bateyes often base treatment decisions on symptomatic assessment in the absence of confirmatory laboratory diagnostic tests. This program will allow us to effectively diagnose and treat UTIs.

DIABETES PROGRAM

by Steve Stiles, M.D.

In November 2018, DRMP began a pilot program for treating diabetes in the batey communities we serve. This project, like the Hypertension Program, focuses on providing continuing care, education and medication. Partnering with the doctors and staff of the Light a Candle Foundation, we did screening tests and evaluations in two of the bateyes. We provided those who met the parameters for diabetes with medications as well as basic education on diet and self-management of this condition.

Our LAC partners have made two subsequent visits to do additional screenings for new patients and to follow up with established patients, monitoring their progress and making any necessary medication adjustments.

Has this pilot program been effective? Our preliminary results are encouraging. As with our other health-related programs, we have built in ongoing tracking and measurement of outcomes to ensure that our efforts are on target. This pilot will continue for a full year, after which we will analyze the results and explore potentially expanding the program to other bateyes.

VILLAGE CHURCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

Answering Our Call to “Be the Church” in the D.R. by Julie Foster



It started at the 2017 Celebration Dominicana, the annual fundraiser for the DRMP. My dear friend Patty Zender and I were moved by DRMP’s purposeful work and decided that we would attempt to “Be the Church” together in the DR. And now, for the past two years, we’ve been a part of their January team, which provides orthopedic surgery and medical care in the bateyes (communities of Haitian sugarcane plantation workers and their families). Out of the 34 total participants, six were VPC members: Ginny & Dr. Scott Beall, Joy Biard, Pete Tattman, Patty and me. Making it extra special was that this was Joy’s first DRMP trip!

Each morning our batey team loaded the bus with supplies and drove into the sugarcane groves. We could see Haitian workers cutting sugarcane with machetes, their overseers on horseback watching them from a distance, and teams of oxen pulling carts full of cane to weighing station. Once we arrived to the batey, we set up work stations in the church or school. There was no electricity or water, yet windows allowed light, and a soft breeze floated through the room.



Three American physicians and pediatric nurse practitioner worked alongside a Dominican physician and dentist. Because of limited access to healthy foods, hypertension is widespread. An outreach program working closely with the DRMP, Light a Candle, provides medication for, and monitors blood pressure carefully.

Patty and I gave deworming medication to children and adults. We worked with our interpreter to determine age and administered the medication accordingly. The children flocked to our station to take their medication where they could also jump rope and play games.

From the words of King Solomon, “In the day of prosperity be joyful, in the day of adversity consider.” The people of the Dominican Republic are faced with adversity every day. They are strong, they are resilient, and they are filled with abundant joy... may they continue to prosper.

SAVE THE DATE DRMP Service Night at VPC is on Sun., Oct. 27, 2019 at 6pm

ALL OF OUR THANKS



The DRMP is grateful for your support in helping to achieve our mission of serving our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic.

If you are interested in volunteering with DRMP, please contact: Lora Garrison, Director of International Mission: lora.garrison@villagepres.org or 913-671-2390.