

Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic

January 2014 TRIP

Recruiting address: **PARTNERS FOR RURAL HEALTH IN THE DR**
ATT: Mary Berg - Volunteer Coordinator
Po Box 1742
Portland, ME 04104
Email: volunteer_coordinator@prhdr.org

Dear Interested Volunteer:

We are looking for volunteers for our January, 2014 trip and hope you will be interested in participating in the Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic (PRHDR) project. Our non-profit organization, PRHDR, will be eagerly looking forward to receiving your letter of intention as well as application and project payments. Time is short, so please email me of your interest in participating as a volunteer now. There is a short "[Letter of Intent](#)" which helps us understand your specific skill set and qualifications. Please click on the [Volunteer page](#) of the website and click on the "[Letter of Intent](#)" first and email to info@prhdr.org as soon as possible. This goes to Whitney Lutz, President of PRHDR and she will review your references prior to acceptance as a volunteer. Once accepted, please fill out the Volunteer Application which you will find on the [Volunteer page](#) of the website.

We are in the planning stages for our next trip. Therefore some of the dates and arrangements may change, but we want to give you as much information as we can at the present time so you can plan to attend. This letter will be updated as we confirm the dates, flights and prices, so please check the website frequently to receive current information.

DATES: We will be going December 29th to January 11th. This includes flight days.

TRAVEL: For everyone within driving distance from Portland, Maine, it is strongly suggested that you fly together with our group of nursing students, providers, and interpreters since your checked baggage will contain all the medicines we bring with us and you will have to clear customs with us. You may bring one checked luggage and one carry on of your own. We will assign you another checked bag which will have medicine. It is EXTREMELY helpful if you can pack everything you need into a carry on so you can be assigned two medicine bags. If you live outside of Maine, arranging your flights to coincide with the groups is your responsibility. We will arrange for airport pick up. Please arrange to fly into either Santiago or Puerto Plata Dominican airports.

AIRLINES: GROUP FARE FROM PORTLAND:

We plan on saving 8 seats on the group flight for volunteers from Portland. Availability for seats will be first come, first served basis. Your group airfare will be **approximately \$630 with Jet Blue**. If you plan on coming with the group, please get your \$50 deposit in ASAP. This will go to reserving your seat and will go towards your volunteer fee cost. Be sure your name on the ticket is **exactly** the same as on your passport when you pay. We fly out of **Boston the evening of the 29th** and land in Santiago early in the morning. Please note the flight information:

Jet Blue Flight 923 29DEC BOS-STI 10:36PM-3:30AM

Jet Blue Flight 924 11JAN STI-BOS 4:14AM-7:10AM

AIRLINES: OTHER:

If you are not traveling on the group flight, then you will need to make your own arrangements for a flight. Try to arrange your flight so that you arrive around the same time as the group flight so you can ride to Lajas de Yaroa with the rest of the group if possible. We will be landing at the Santiago airport (STI) December 30th at 3:30 AM. Please let me know your flight plans as soon as possible. Travelers not connecting with the group as we travel to our destination in Lajas will be expected to pay their respective driver \$40 for transportation from Santiago airport or Puerto Plata airport. We will arrange the pick up once your airline reservations are finalized. We will be picking up rental vehicles later in the day on the 30th at Puerto Plata (POP) Airport so arriving on that day at that airport would help us immensely.

Evacuation and Medical Insurance: We require that you have this in case you have a medical emergency. This insurance covers costs rejected by your personal health insurance, evacuation for serious illness, possible travel by a family member, plus accidental death insurance and other benefits. We use Gateway International Plan for this insurance (www.GatewayPlans.com/ahins/). Most of you know there is no safe medical care in our region of the DR; Cost **is included** in the comprehensive lodging fee.

LODGING FEE will be set soon. It will be between \$600-\$700. We will let you know as soon as possible when this fee is set. A **\$100.00** deposit (which will be applied to your room and board) must be received by November 1st. This will be applied towards the fee costs. An early bird discount of a savings of \$100 if all your fees are paid by **November 20th!!!**

So, if the fee is \$650 and you meet the November 20th deadline, the fee will be \$550. Final fee payment is due no later than December 1st.

Please make checks out to : **Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic**
Please mail your check to PRHDR, PO Box 1742, Portland, ME 04104 or [send electronically using PayPal](#). This fee includes:

Room accommodations for the entire trip including laundry and tips

All meals (except flight days, beach and hospital days),
A one day excursion trip to the beach at Cabarete,
All transportation with the group while in the DR with four-wheel drive vehicles
Group costs and evacuation insurance
Please be in touch as soon as possible with PRHDR as to your plans or any changes.

You will **ALSO** need a passport (**do not skip this point!**), vaccines including hepatitis A, typhoid oral or injectable and TB skin test within a year prior to going. (Polio booster for volunteers over 40, flu shot, tetanus booster every 10 years, and hepatitis B series of 3 vaccines are recommended since even non-medical persons can be exposed to body fluids. Occasionally we have a case of traveler's diarrhea. However, but we have not seen malaria.

For more detailed health information for travel to the Dominican Republic go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/dominican-republic.aspx>

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION, MEDICAL, AND RELEASE FORMS

The following may be downloaded, completed and mailed or emailed to PRHDR:

1. [Letter of Intent](#)
2. [The Volunteer Application](#)
3. [Dominican Republic Medical Information Form Parts 1, 2, and 3](#)
4. Risk and Release of Liability for Volunteers Form (part of [The Volunteer Application](#))
5. [Photo and Biography](#) for future PRHDR Volunteer Booklet
6. [Release and Authorization of Photos, Film, Video & Audio](#)

All the aforementioned forms may be downloaded at the bottom of the [Volunteer page](#) of the website. **Please mail back promptly.** Please send the [Photo and Biography](#) for the future PRHDR Booklet electronically to booklet@prhdr.org.

ORIENTATION MANUAL

The [Dominican Republic Health Outreach Program Orientation Manual](#) may be downloaded on the [Volunteer page](#) of the website. The Orientation Manual is directed to nursing students, but there is a lot of information about the trip that will be of interest to volunteers.

DONOR LETTER AND FUNDRAISING

All volunteers are expected to participate in fund raising for the trip. 100% of donations are used for medical supplies. [Please download our new donor letter](#). We ask that each person joining the team work on fundraising so we can average about **\$300.00 per participant**. We spend an average of \$15,000 on medications!!

Please feel free to call or email me at any time with questions or concerns. I realize we have asked you to fill out a lot of forms. To help you keep track of all of these items, **please use the checklist at the bottom of this letter and check off each item as you send it to us**. We look forward to working with you in the future and welcome aboard.

Whitney Lutz, PRHDR President
<mailto:info@prhdr.org>

Mary Berg, Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer_coordinator@prhdr.org

PRHDR Checklist for Volunteers

- _____ **Letter of Intent**
- _____ **Volunteer Application**
- _____ **Copy of Photo Page of Passport (now or as soon as it is available)**
Including photo page in Passport with readable passport number. Expiration date, correct spelling of name and birth date.
- _____ **If applicable, \$50.00 deposit for group flight seat (ASAP, first come, first served, 8 seats available) The remaining amount due by December 1st**
- _____ **Risk and Release of Liabilities for Volunteers Form (Part of Application Form)**
- _____ **Employment Services – Volunteer Statement (Part of Application Form)**
- _____ **Dominican Republic Medical Information Form and Immunization record (due by Dec 1, 2012)**
- _____ **Release and Authorization of Photos, Film, Video & Audio (Separate form, due with application)**
- _____ **Photo and Biography for future PRHDR Volunteer Booklet (Please**

send both electronically to: booklet@prhdr.org (Separate form due with application)

_____ **Evacuation Insurance and Medical Insurance: Your birth date is needed by July 1st. Cost will be part of fee.**

_____ **Lodging fee deposit \$100.00**

_____ **Remainder of lodging fee (due by December 1st)**

¡Muchas Gracias!