

Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic

Dear Interested Volunteer:

We are delighted that you are interested in participating in our mission! Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic (PRHDR) is a 25-year-old non-profit organization that runs a biannual service-learning program with the University of Southern Maine in the Dominican Republic. Faculty, volunteers, and students work together to deliver health care to approximately 20 villages in the mountains of the Dominican Republic. PRHDR needs a variety of volunteer personnel including health professionals, support staff, and interpreters to run the clinics alongside faculty and students. Health professionals have a unique role from other missions because their primary role is to support and mentor students at clinics. You will be contributing to the foundation of future health professionals in the setting of primary care.

Trip Dates: TBD 2021.

Flights: Faculty and Student Flight Information to come. As a volunteer you are responsible for your own travel arrangements. Many volunteers like to be on the same flights as faculty and students. This is very convenient for all. We recommend that you do this.

Volunteer Application: Please fill out the application found online as soon as possible. Once accepted you will need to complete the Medical Information Form (DUE____) which requires a signature from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant.

Trip Fee: The volunteer fee for this trip is \$820, which includes room and board, all ground transportation, and evacuation insurance.

- **TBD:** \$100.00 deposit must be received. This will be applied towards the overall trip cost of \$820.
- **TBD:** Total amount of \$820 must be paid in full and **Medical Form is Due.**

Payment Options:

- **Online Payment:** Fees can be paid with your credit card, via Paypal on the PRHDR web site, first page, on the right.
- **By Check:** Please make checks payable to: Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic. If you are international, please email PRHDR before sending a check.
Mail your check to: PRHDR, PO Box 1742
Portland, ME 04104

Volunteer Fundraising Requirements: All volunteers are expected to participate in fundraising for the trip, with a goal of \$300 per participant. This funding is essential to helping PRHDR purchase medications and equipment for the trip. If you would like more information on ways to fundraise you can contact Board Members:

Corinna Campbell ...Corinna.campbell@maine.edu

Jamie Freeman ...Jamie.freeman@maine.edu

Trip Orientation:

TBD

10:00 am to 3:00 pm at USM

Required if you live close to Portland or Boston.

Please email Volunteer_coordinator@prhdr.org if you cannot make the orientation.

This is an important meeting where you will meet members of the team and gain information regarding your role and responsibilities. You will also participate in packing bags full of supplies and equipment for the trip. Feel free to bring family and friends. A pizza lunch is provided. You will receive more information regarding orientation as time draws near. So, mark your calendar!

Volunteers on the PRHDR trip are covered by On Call International insurance. This is a U Maine system policy and includes comprehensive medical insurance and risk coverage, which covers Emergency evacuation. You will be receiving more information on this. Please read the policy carefully for all information when the policy is sent to you.

If you have not done so, please email us as soon as possible to let us know that you will be applying for the summer mission.

Other Info to Remember:

*Updated Passport is required.

*Vaccines including: hepatitis A, typhoid oral or injectable and TB skin test within a year prior to travel, *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.

*Some volunteers will want to take malaria prevention tablets. For more detailed health information for travel to the Dominican Republic please check the Center for Disease Control web site.

*Dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya have all been reported. We take precautions by liberally applying insect repellent and use netting on beds.

Two books highly recommended regarding the tumultuous history of the Dominican Republic:

“WHY THE COCKS FIGHT” by Michele Wucker

“THE EASTERN STAR” by Mark Kurlansky

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you on the trip!

Sincerely,
Alex Beggs
PRHDR Board President

Keiko Kurita
Volunteer Coordinator
keikoPRHDR@gmail.com