



thrivent[®]



GPMC MISSION TRIP

San Cristobal, Dominican Republic

March 29 – April 5, 2025

WE HAVE A PLAN

What: GPMC has partnered with Thrivent and Habitat for Humanity to pave new concrete floors in the San Cristobal, Dominican Republic region.

When: Saturday, March 29 – Saturday, April 5, 2025

Where: San Cristobal, Dominican Republic

Cost: Thrivent and Habitat have prepared a construction package for us of \$1,275. GPMC Outreach will make a \$500 donation for GPMC members to Habitat for Humanity. Your net expense will be about \$2,000 depending on your own transportation choices. Options for fundraising are available through Habitat.

Accommodations and Meals: Volunteers will stay in double-occupancy rooms at a hotel. Single-occupancy rooms are available by request for an additional charge. Please contact your team leader to request a single-occupancy room. Meals will vary slightly from day to day. Breakfast will be provided at the hotel. Lunches will be served on the build site on workdays and dinner will be at the hotel, local restaurant, or arranged by the country program.

Itinerary:

Sunday, March 29: Arrive

Arrive in the Dominican Republic with a welcome dinner in the evening!

Sunday, March 30: Orientation

Welcome orientation followed by lunch with the homeowners

Monday, March 31 – Thursday, April 3: Build

Spend the day on the build site and break for lunch, snacks, and water

Wednesday, April 2: Activity

Spend the afternoon doing a social learning exchange activity where volunteers will visit and work with a local entrepreneur

Friday, April 4: Celebrate

Spend the day working on the build site followed by a farewell dinner to celebrate the week's accomplishments

Saturday, April 5: Goodbyes

Continue your journey independently, or depart for home.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why Mission Trips?

From the first century to today, Christians have believed that service to others matters. Whether we are reaching out across the street or around the world, our members can provide resources to improve the lives of others. Along the way, we find that we also benefit, spiritually and in community with others. We learn from distant communities and grow in compassion for people everywhere. Please note that this trip does not take away from our local mission. Our focus continues to be our local mission, both in time and funds.

Why Dominican Republic?

Since 2022, Habitat Dominican Republic has joined the regional initiative 100,000 Floors to Play On with the Inter-American Cement Federation (FICEM), to replace 100,000 unsafe, dirt floors with concrete floors in the country. Unpaved floors serve as a breeding ground for disease-causing parasites, bacteria, and insects that can lead to major health and hygiene threats. Research shows that dirt floors can also stunt children's cognitive development. Volunteers will work alongside partner families to help pave new concrete floors in their homes. A study made by the World Bank and the University of Berkeley, analyzed the data of the health improvement of the families after the change of dirt floors for concrete floors in Mexico. It demonstrated in children a reduction of 70% of parasite infections, 49% in diarrheas, and 81% in anemias. Additionally, it favors the cognitive development of around 36 – 96%.

Why Habitat and Thrivent?

We will work with experienced mission partners who have proven track records in hosting groups and building homes. Thrivent is a not-for-profit member-owned, fraternal benefit financial organization founded by Lutherans. They have a focus on charity and volunteering. Thrivent has allied with Habitat for Humanity since 2005, building homes around the US and around the world. Because of their contributions, we can participate in a powerful rebuilding effort in an affordable way.

Will there be meetings ahead of time to plan, learn, and build community?

Yes, plan for the following meeting dates: November 18, 2024, January 20, 2025, and March 17, 2025 at 7 pm. Please plan to attend these to be prepared for the trip.

TRIP RESERVATION DETAILS

Trip is planned for up to 20 travelers.

To secure your spot on the trip, return this form with a \$100 deposit (payable to GPMC) to Julie Huellmantel's mailbox in the church lobby.

Remaining deposit schedule (*payments are non-refundable*):

- \$300 directly to Habitat for Humanity by December 3, 2024
- \$375 directly to Habitat for Humanity by February 1, 2025

Church members will have priority through Sunday, December 1. If the trip has space remaining, it will then open to non-members. Reservations will be accepted in the order they are received until we reach our maximum number of travelers or February 1, whichever comes first.

For more information or questions, contact:

- Julie Huellmantel, jhuellmantel@gpmchurch.org
- Mary Mobley, murraymt@comcast.net

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC RESERVATION FORM

Full Name

Birthdate

Cell Phone Number

Email Address

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

US Passport Number

Expiration Date (Must not expire prior to Oct. 5, 2025)