

# St. Joseph's Mission Trip – 2017



March 17, 2017

## Two Days and Counting!





Welcome to our St. Joe's Mission Trip blog! We leave at o'dark thirty day after tomorrow and will fly to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic where we'll be greeted by Fr. Sandino of San Jose Episcopal Church in Boca Chica. We'll then join him and the Bishop of their Diocese for our patron saint day and a Holy Eucharist celebration. We'll then go to the Orphanage (which will be our work central for that part of our week) and check out all our supplies and visit with the children and staff.

We ask for your prayers for safe travel and in celebration for this privilege to be helping all God's children. I'll be posting our first blog on Sunday night with photos. We have a great team and we give great thanks for all of your support and encouragement. Thank you!

March 20, 2017

**We're here and at it!**



From all of this luggage in Rev. Wendy's office.



To here... ready to board at FLL



To San Jose feast day at San Jose Episcopal Church in Boca Chica with Fr. Sandino and Bishop Holguin.

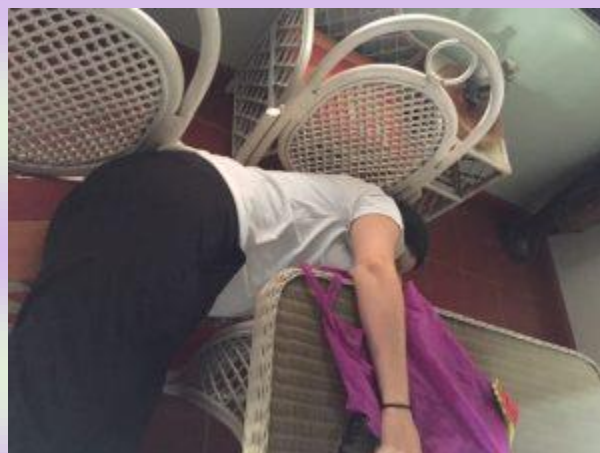


Rev. Wendy after lunch with Ysabel, Fr. Sandino, and Barbara



And then everyone got tired really quickly. (We'd all been up since 2:30am to catch our early flight. Here's more:

Debra asleep



And Colleen:



And Maddie:



Then we went to the orphanage called ENED to asses all of our supplies. Here are two of the children who were out front when we arrived:



Learning wall before Joan T and her team transformed it.



And after primer... (this is Julio)



Bob, Terrance, and Jerry figuring out the toilet, shower, and sink "we'll" install...



before shot of area where we'll build chicken coops:



Doors to the present outdoor toilets that we'll replace:



Joan and Barbara cleaning up...



Joseph. Happy.





Phillip and Maddie with new friend



The eighteen children we'll serve are from ages 3-18. They are at the orphanage for three reasons: either their parent(s) are in jail, they were removed from their homes due to abuse, or they were orphaned and found on the beach or the streets.

After assessing our supplies at ENED we returned to the hotel for a yummy taco dinner and then our daily circle/prayer time. We spoke of the privilege of serving in this beautiful country with those in such need and we recalled our 'God moments' from the day. Everyone is off to bed early in anticipation of a big day tomorrow at ENED and also the nursing home for the indigent elderly who we support with our outreach fund.

hasta manana!

March 21, 2017

## Wonder- Full First Day!

After a sacred prayer time led by our two father & son duos, Dan & Joseph Muggeo and Dave & Anthony Sardo, we left for two locations, the nursing home and ENED, the orphanage I wrote about yesterday. At ENED we have three (and maybe four) projects:

- 1: A Geography Learning Wall led by art teacher extraordinaire, Joan Therien
- 2: Adding a sink, a shower and a toilet with doors and replacing the old doors on the two existing showers and two existing toilets. If we have time, we'll tile the two old bathrooms as well.
3. Build a large chicken coop half of which will be for laying hens and half for breeding hens.

For the Geography Learning Wall Joan had projected and then traced a map of the world on paper.

This picture shows her and her team covering the back of the paper with black chalk:



Now the paper is placed on the wall with the chalk in back. You can barely see it but the traced map is now facing outward and the chalk back is against the wall. The team will trace all of the outlines of the countries. The paper is then removed and the black chalk stays on the wall as an outline for the paint.



Then it's ready to fill in with colors!



We finished all of the fill in and now we'll outline with black sharpies when we return on Wednesday.

Thanks to Joan and her team for a great project!





Even the boys got involved and loved it!



Jerry Guthrie and team (especially Dan Muggeo and Lisa Hyland) worked tirelessly to pour all of the concrete for the floor of the new shower and bathroom areas as well as the walkway.

Maddie, Cody, Phillip, and Joseph cleared the site for the chicken coop. Really hard work in the sun! Then helped paint inside.

Under Bob Lees and Terrance Roche's expertise, the chicken coops are coming along nicely. We'll meet our goal of one large coop for ENED and then four smaller ones for the homes and families of four Caminante kids. Chickens ordered today! Caminante is the organization that rescues oppressed and exploited children.

Barbara and her team at the nursing home were able to assess all of the patients and staff and recorded all range of motion for each patient. They were excited to see old friends there and to interact with them to continue to improve their way of life.

Back to the hotel and a much needed rest! We're all exhausted and happy!

March 22, 2017

## A Beautiful Tuesday in Gautier...

Ola amigos! We began our day in prayer led by our wonderful prayer team, Debra, Lisa & Phillip Hyland, Maddie Carpenter, and Patrick Rowland. We loaded seventeen suitcases of uniforms, shoes, school supplies and painting supplies and we were off to Gautier. Gautier is the village where Santo Tomas church is. You might remember them from our Prayers of the People each week. Our friend, Fr. Sandino is the priest in charge there.



Our wonderful bus driver, Juan, and the sign for Gautier in the background.



A beautiful morning despite predictions of rain. This is the building where we'll do our photo project taking pictures of the children from the village. Here they are lining up waiting to come inside:



Our photographers and print masters, Debra & Dan.



Patrick with kids at photo project



Carrie too



Down the street is the school where we donated the uniforms and shoes. Thank you St. Joseph's School and Gulfstream School!

While we were doing the photo project in the hall next to Santo Tomas and delivering the uniforms and shoes, a group led by Bob, Terrance, and Jerry painted one of Fr. Sandino's parishioner's homes in the village. Pics of that to come tomorrow.



Here's a shot from yesterday at the nursing home: We delivered the nursing home supplies. L to R here's Carrie, Joan, Barbara, Dave, and Lee Ann with nurse.

We had a great dinner and then Rev. Wendy met with Julio from Caminante about the chickens! He was having a hard time getting them in Boca Chica so had to travel to Santo Domingo. He tells us there are now thirty hens and six roosters in the large coop that will be waiting for us when we go back to ENED (the orphanage) in the morning. ¡Nos vemos en la mañana, las gallinas y gallos!



March 23, 2017

## Return To Ened



Day 3: This silhouette of our bus driver Juan and our wonderful friend and interpreter Jean is the scene we've seen every morning as we depart for our mission work. They are Spirit-filled men and guide us with grace and joy. We are grateful indeed.

Three of us were dropped off at the nursing home so Barbara could finish her assessment. As you may know, we support them financially through our Outreach Fund year in and year out and they must meet certain protocol to continue receiving our funding. They are, thanks to Barbara. Here's a shot of her with Julisa, a painfully shy young woman who only survives because of this place. She'd be on the streets otherwise. So too, the other residents including those shown below with Carrie and Lee Ann.



Julisa has lived at the nursing home ever since we've been going. She is usually extremely shy and not open to anyone coming near her and Barbara won her over. Here's Carrie and Lee Ann with two of the other residents.



Then on to ENED to greet the chickens (!) This is a dream come true for Caminante and their project supervisor, Julio, pictured below. Julio was one of the so-called 'beach kids' rescued by Caminante and now works for them serving and rescuing boys. He will be overseeing this project as it progresses toward sustainability as a small business for ENED and feeds and provides income for the four other coops we'll build at the homes of four other Caminante children's homes.



Our trusty Coop Creator team, Bob, Terrance, Dave, Julio, and others created the big coop that will stay at ENED and are building the 'kits' for the others. Look! Dave's a chicken!



Meanwhile, our painting crew inside started Geo



Grapy learning wall #2 and gave the other two walls in that room a much needed coat of paint.

Joann and the youth started painting an area adjacent to the new outdoor showers.



And (!) our hard-working Team Concrete (Dan, Jerry, Jean, and Cody) continued to work on the concrete for the new shower, toilet, and sink. Joey, Anthony, Phillip, and Maddie helped clean up. They'd been painting both inside and out...



Before shots of shower area, toilet area and existing two outdoor toilets, the only ones for all 18 boys & staff.





As I wrote ENED in the title of this post (the name of the orphanage we are serving here in the DR) it dawned on me that we could rearrange the letters to be Eden, our Biblical paradise of beginning. For the eighteen orphans who now live here it has become that paradise not only in the shelter provided but by the love, education, and care they receive from volunteers like Paulina, pictured here after receiving some of the clothes and shoes we brought. We also gave them tons of school supplies and toiletries.

All of us who continue to contribute to our work with here in Boca Chica and Gautier either here in person, in prayer and in financial support are playing a part in bringing hope and light... a new beginning, dreams come true to our partners here and we are grateful.

And if all of the above weren't enough, Joan Therien and her crew worked tirelessly on outdoor murals transforming the walls and learning areas into beautiful works of art and vibrancy. Before and after pics to come tomorrow. Wait 'til you see!

One final note: please keep all of our missionaries in your prayers. I'm afraid we've passed around a sore throat and cold and many of us need your prayers for healing. What's so beautiful is that the attitudes of gratitude and serving one another is Christianity at its best. Big thanks to Marta and Hotel Zapata for the soup and compassion!

March 24, 2017

## Realization of A Dream Begun...



Day 4: This is Julio who you met earlier in this blog. This is the FIRST EGG of a three year dream and was produced by the chickens at ENED in the big coop we created. He along with our Coop Creating team delivered three kits and built one coop in the picture below. Julio will put the others together with the children and families and oversee them.

The little boy below is one of the boys who live at ENED and he's mixing dough for bread made with this egg and a second one!





Here's Julio after teaching one of the boys about the feeding and watering of the chickens. (24 of which will go to the other four coops)



And here are the brains of the Chicken Coop Creators, our dueling duo, Terrance and Bob! (All with love, of course!)





As promised, here's the wrap around art wall created by MANY of us under Joan's direction.



The wall you see below is the before shot of a wall that has now been transformed as well into a child's dream creation.



And then the first coat of blue and the drawings & painting begin:



I didn't get a shot of the whole wall but we'll have them in our power point in church on Sunday. The children were over the moon creating 'their wall'.





the wall behind Anthony here is now a vibrant green.



Isn't this a great shot of Joan inside touching up the geography learning wall? And Uncle Bob with two of the kids.





As I write this it's really day 5. The unfortunate news is that two others caught the shared germs of a cold/flu. The happy news is that two of those who caught it are feeling much better... Infected about a third of our group and all are being cared for and encouraged to rest. Marta made them great soup. On to get ready for our morning Eucharist and our San Jose fiesta parade morning with Fr. Sandino. Adios for now from the east side of Hispanola.

