

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Caraballo Trip Report

July 16-23, 2011

TRIP PARTICIPANTS:

Martha Campbell, Joe Chester, Ginny Conn, Claire DeJoseph, Grace Galazan, Tony Galazan, Rosalie Kane, Jordan Lynn, Greg Midwinter, Kayli Midwinter, Bruce O'Brien, Sherry Ontko, Angela Ploszaj, Tim Ploszaj, Cerise Taylor & Heather Taylor



Teacher Training Team: Ginny, Greg, Kayli and Sherry

Ginny Conn went to DR one week early to assess the training needs of the teachers. Besides lesson planning, our team taught a model lesson so that the teachers could observe the various components of a lesson in real life. In DR, children only attend public school for half a day, and most stop going after 8th grade. The average DR high school student only has a 3rd grade reading level. Most teachers in Kids Alive schools attended DR public schools and are not trained past high school. They need knowledge to teach specific subjects and to prepare their students to be Christian examples to the community. Kids Alive Caraballo teaches 250 kids in Bible, mathematics and reading. When the children graduate from 8th grade with Kids Alive, some will attend public high school with the help of sponsorships.



Sewing Team: Martha, Claire, Rosie, Angela, Cerise and Heather

Eleven new sewers joined us in 2011. They were taught the basics of operating the machines and then learned to sew a straight line. This was very challenging for some. Next the students were given quilting kits. Heather Taylor made wonderful new sewing instructional booklets to guide the girls step by step. One girl returned to our class from 2010 and four girls have been training with us since 2009. Our instructor team was effective despite varied degrees of sewing experience.



Construction Team: Joe, Grace, Tony, Jordan, Bruce and Tim

This group ranged in age from 15 to the mid 50's. They constructed concrete block walls on the 2nd floor of the Kids Alive school building. Kids Alive ordered 1,000 blocks for our group. By Tuesday afternoon those blocks were laid so an additional 600 were ordered. Kids Alive provides supplementary education to Haitian immigrants. Haitians receive very poor education in DR public schools due to their undocumented status.

Brian Veen, our Kids Alive missionary leader, expressed gratitude for our hard work in the unusually hot weather. With the completion of second floor classrooms, an additional 60 Haitian students can be added to the school this fall.

Valley plans to send another team to Caraballo in 2012.

Would you like to go? Contact the World Outreach Office, 860.673.6826 x130 or check valleycommunity.cc.



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