

Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission

Guidelines for Short-term Teams – 2014-2015

1. Short-Term Mission Opportunities

Each Fall and Spring the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission Team (**DRLM**) will revise a list of projects and needs that can be fulfilled by short-term mission teams and/or individuals with specialized skill sets. This list will be presented at the DRLM Partner Forum. It is important that the needs of the missions and institutions generate the projects for the short-term teams instead the mission finding projects to fulfill needs of short-term teams.

See Attachment 2: DRLM 2014-2015 Short-Term Mission Opportunities

2. Short-Term Coordination with MOST Ministries

DRLM will work with MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term; www.mostministries.org) to facilitate matching teams to projects, logistics, pre-trip training orientation, on-site care, and post-trip debriefing and care. Teams that MOST Ministries will not be able to accommodate, will be coordinated by the DRLM mission field with terms similar to MOST coordinated teams.

See Attachment 3: MOST Ministries Team Coordination and Care Outline –

3. Support of Field Missionary and Mercy Institutions

All sending congregations/institutions of short-term teams must be prayerfully and financially supporting a volunteer or career missionary through the LCMS *Together In Mission* program to foster a long-term relationship and between the congregation and field. Likewise, congregations can be supporting on a regular basis DRLM mercy institutions (Concordia Schools/Disability Ministry)

Missionaries who Currently Need Funding

Gail Ludvigson: www.lcms.org/ludvigson
Danelle Putnam: www.lcms.org/putnam

**For more information on how to support a missionary and current funding needs, go to:
www.lcms.org/TogetherinMission, or write to debra.feenstra@lcms.org**

4. Short-Term Team Costs

Short-term teams will cover all their on-field costs (food, housing, and transportation) and will be asked to raise additional funds to cover the cost of projects, this is usually between \$3,000 - \$5,000 USD depending on the project. Per person mission trip costs range from \$2,000 to \$2500, subject to airfare, with \$100 due at application, \$1000 due 90 days prior to departure and the balance due 30 day prior to departure. Team member payments and project funds for teams facilitated by MOST Ministries will be paid to MOST Ministries, a 501c3, who will handle the transfer of funds to the DRLM.

5. Short-term Team Requests

If you are interested in sending a short-term team that can serve in one of the areas mentioned in the short-term team opportunities list, please contact: **Debby Suchyta of MOST Ministries:** dsuchyta@mostministries.org or (734) 994-7909 x11.

Debby will be in contact with the Dominican field in regards to team placement. Debby is the liaison between MOST and the DRLM.

Teams that cannot be facilitated through MOST Ministries, will then be referred to Danelle Putnam and Ruth Pollex of the DRLM who will begin coordinating those teams.

The DRLM is not able to accommodate all the requests for short-term teams. In an effort to support the work of the LCMS and her RSOs, teams that the DRLM cannot host will be referred to:

- a) **MOST Ministries** opportunities in Latin America and world regions (www.mostministries.org)
- b) **LCMS International Short-Term Mission** (<http://www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=428>)
- c) For youth and college students:
 - **MOST Ministries** (www.mostministries.org)
 - **Bethesda Lutheran Camps** (<http://bethesdalutherancommunities.org/retreats>)
(One-on-one experiences between youth and campers with developmental disabilities.)
 - **LCMS Servant Events** (<http://servantevents.lcms.org/>)
 - **LCMS Youth Corps** (<http://www.lcms.org/youthcorp>)
- d) **LCMS Mercy Medical Teams** (<http://lcms.org/mercyteams>)

6. Short-Term Team Size

Maximum number of members on a short-term team will be 13 members plus a MOST Ministries team leader for a total of 14 people. Ideal group size will depend on the project. Groups with smaller numbers can be accommodated.

7. Team Accommodations

Teams in the *Santiago* area will be hosted in the Lutheran Seminary in Palmar Arriba (3 bathrooms, 3 dormitories with bunk beds, hot water) and meals will be fixed by Dominican church members.

Teams hosted in the *Santo Domingo* area will be hosted in a hotel (breakfast and dinner included, lunch served on-site by church members).

A van with a driver will be rented to transport teams. Transportation costs will include rental, insurance, gasoline, and driver.

8. Initial questions

The DRLM is working to make changes in the way we manage short-term teams in order to maximize the mission experience and provide ways in which teams and the field can foster long-term relationships. Please contact Danelle Putnam with any suggestions at danelleputnam@gmail.com. Please also feel free to call: 1-809-902-9055.