

Giving thanks in the Dominican Republic

The image is taken from the interior of a vehicle, looking out through a semi-circular window. The view outside shows a dirt road stretching into the distance, flanked by tall, green grass. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The text "Giving thanks in the Dominican Republic" is overlaid in large, bold, red letters across the center of the image. The vehicle's interior, including a side mirror and part of the dashboard, is visible in the foreground.

About the DRMP

- Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church (DRMP) established in 1991
- Partner w/ Dominican organizations to provide healthcare services to impoverished Haitians & Dominicans of Haitian descent who live in under-resourced **batey** communities where there is little to no access to health care.
- DRMP is a partner ministry of Village Church; falls under VPC's 501c3 status
- Autonomous, board-led, nondenominational, city & country wide





Island of Hispaniola

HAITI

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Please Watch

Understand our trip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFColg8gdes>

Understand those who we serve in the bateyes:

Rotten (Netflix): season 2, episode “A Sweet Deal”

Quick history (good for kids & adults):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-XZLYGILBA>

Current news re: mass deportations (preview before you show your kids):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c21Wlir3QGI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKHLRAswMuc>

Quick History

- **1492:** Christopher Columbus established the first European settlement in Cap Haitian, Haiti
- **1680:** France starts bringing slaves to the western side (Haiti) from Africa
- **1697:** the western third of the island was ceded by Spain to France; by 1795 the entire island was ceded to France
- **1791:** Slave revolt/Haitian revolution; former slaves create independent nation
- **1808:** Dominicans started the war of reconquest to drive out the French and return the eastern part the island to Spanish rule
- **1822** Haiti had established control of the whole island once more.

Quick History

- **1844:** DR gained independence from Haiti
- **1937:** On Oct. 2, 1937, Dominican dictator, Rafael Trujillo, ordered massacre of Haitians in border area. Trujillo wore makeup to lighten his skin; obsessed w/ whitening the mixed-race island. Dominican soldiers asked dark skinned people to say the word “perejil” (parsley); “r” sound difficult for Haitians. 10,000-25,000 killed over few weeks
- **2010:** earthquake in Haiti; exacerbates immigration issues to DR
- **2013:** DR rules that Dominicans born to Haitian parents are not citizens
- **2024:** On Oct. 2, 2024 (not a coincidence) Dominican president Luis Abinader ordered the mass deportation of 10,000 Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent per week. Compared to ethnic cleansing. Will have devastating effect on economy

Who do we serve?

- Haitian sugarcane cutters & Dominicans of Haitian descent who were born in the DR but denied legal status due to their ancestry
- Live in **bateyes** outside of La Romana, the hub of DR's sugarcane industry & where we stay.



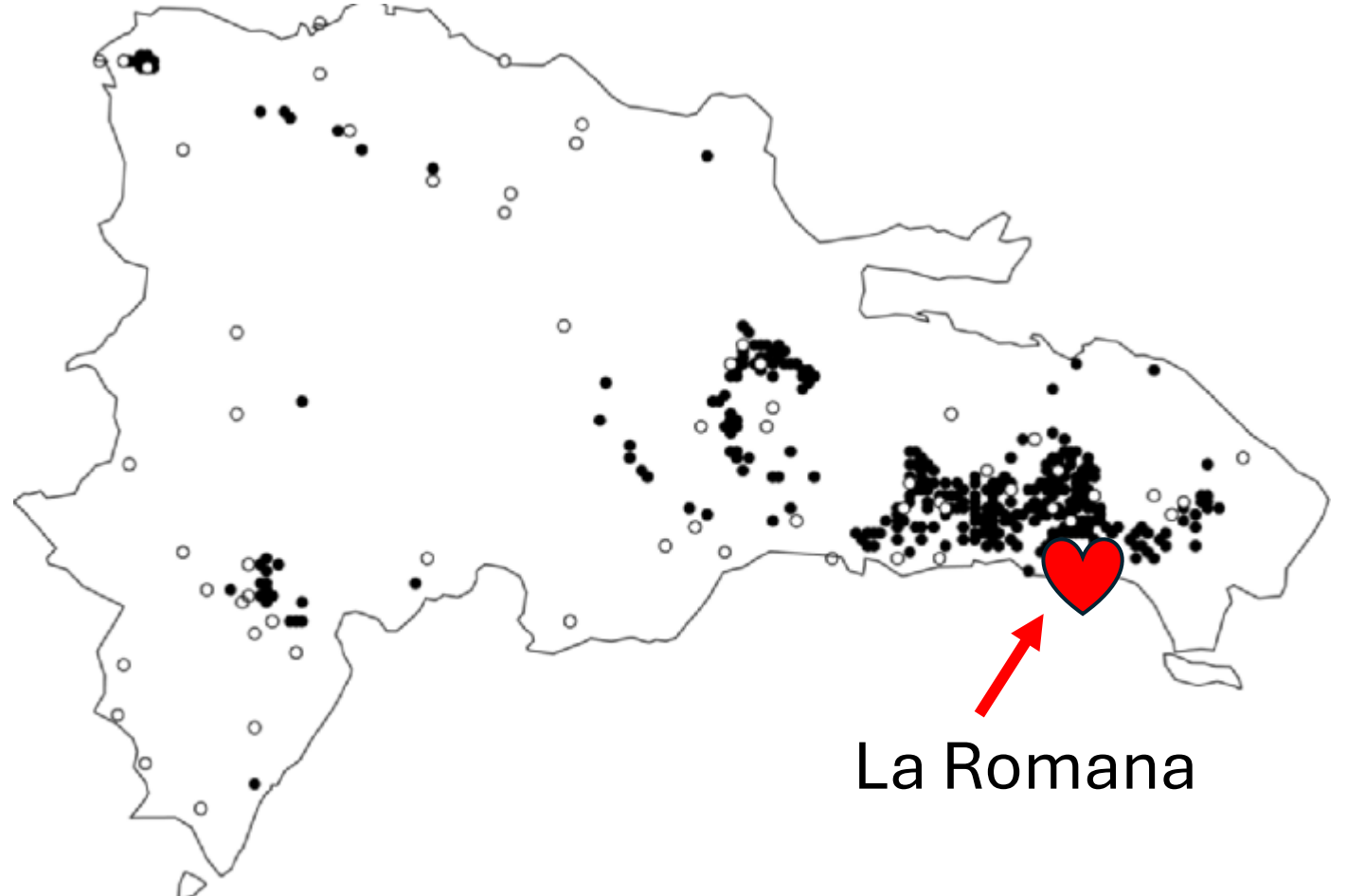
What are batey/bateyes?

- Remote & impoverished housing communities owned by sugar companies
- Lack electricity, fresh water, access to public transportation, healthcare or fresh healthy foods



Map of Dominican Bateyes

- Approx. 400+ bateyes in the DR; home to 500,000+ Haitian immigrants and their descendants who are denied legal status due to their Haitian lineage



Bateyes





typical batey toilet





Purpose

Provide much-needed healthcare and health education to an underserved population



- Learn about public health
- Experience inequity & privilege in real time
- Compare what sparks happiness in you & those you serve
- Question your needs

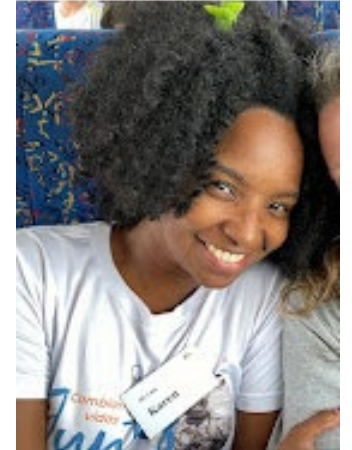
Dominican-
led...we take
the back
seat

Led by our Dominican healthcare partner organization, Fundación Enciende Una Luz (FEUL); Light A Candle Foundation (LAC).

Support the medical & health education programming LAC & DRMP collaboratively developed.

Our Bosses

Fundación Enciende Una Luz | Light A Candle | LAC



About our daily clinic & stations



Each day for four days, we will set up a health clinic at a different batey. We will provide compassionate healthcare & education and engage with the community in meaningful ways.



We will bring everything we need to set up clinic each day. This includes tables, chairs, lunch, water, medical equipment, medications etc.

Load & unload bus; heavy lifting





Doctors – Dominican & American



Blood Pressure Station



Pharmacy

HIV Testing & Education





Dental Station

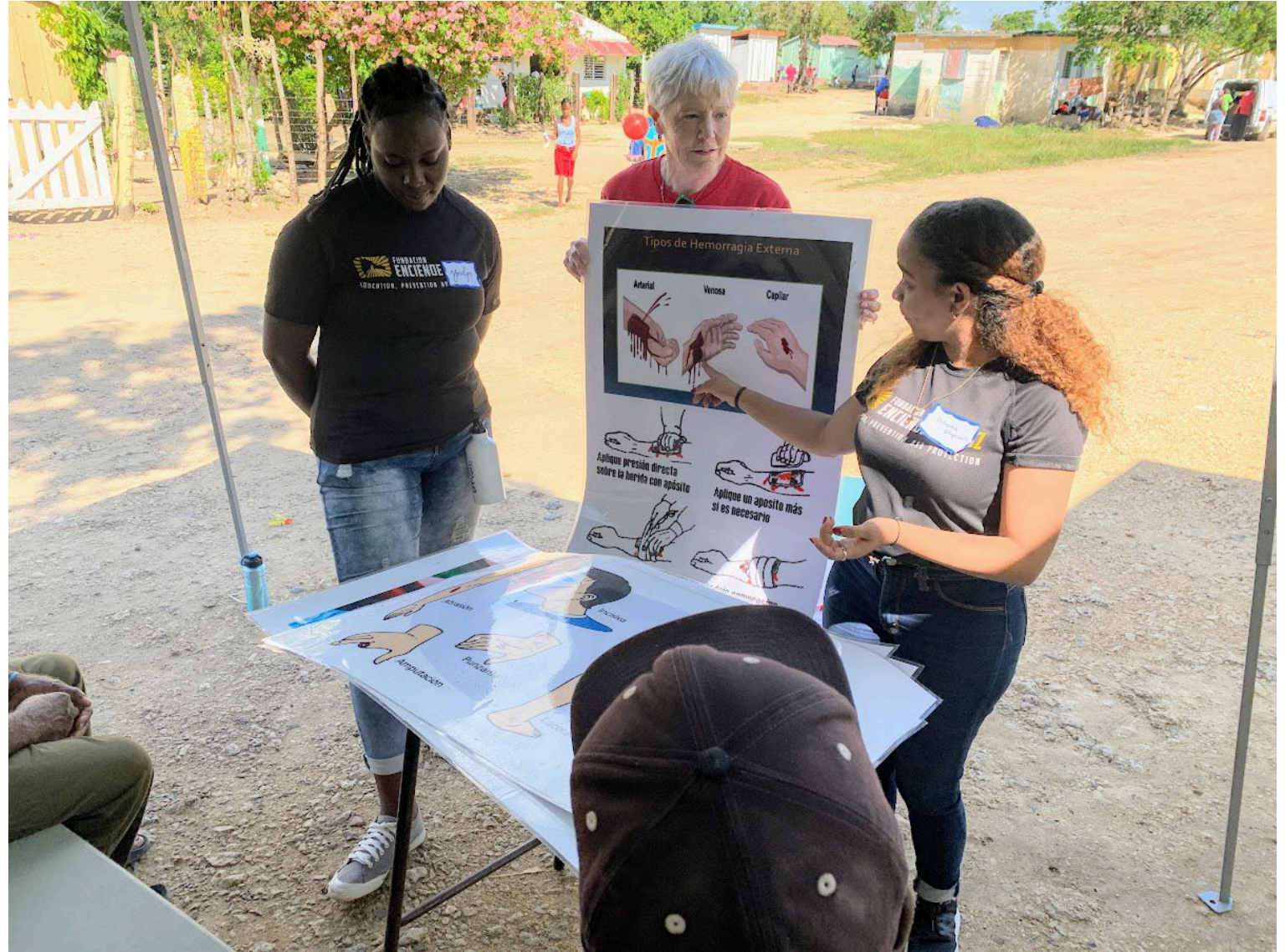


Parasite Treatment Station



Children's Nutrition Station

First Aid Station



Sewing & Embroidery Station





Community interviews for new book



Photographer for new book



Salon & Barbershop



Kids PlayZone



Kids PlayZone



Babysitting Station

Travel Details



Immunizations/Travel Health

GOOGLE “**CDC DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC**” FOR A COMPLETE LIST
OF SUGGESTED IMMUNIZATIONS



DISCUSS WITH YOUR
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

Immigration Forms

Please complete by Nov. 15, 2024

<https://eticket.migracion.gob.do/>

See instructions attached to email.

Airport transfers

ARRIVALS:

Stay tuned for details re: getting from your arrival airport to La Romana

DEPARTURES:

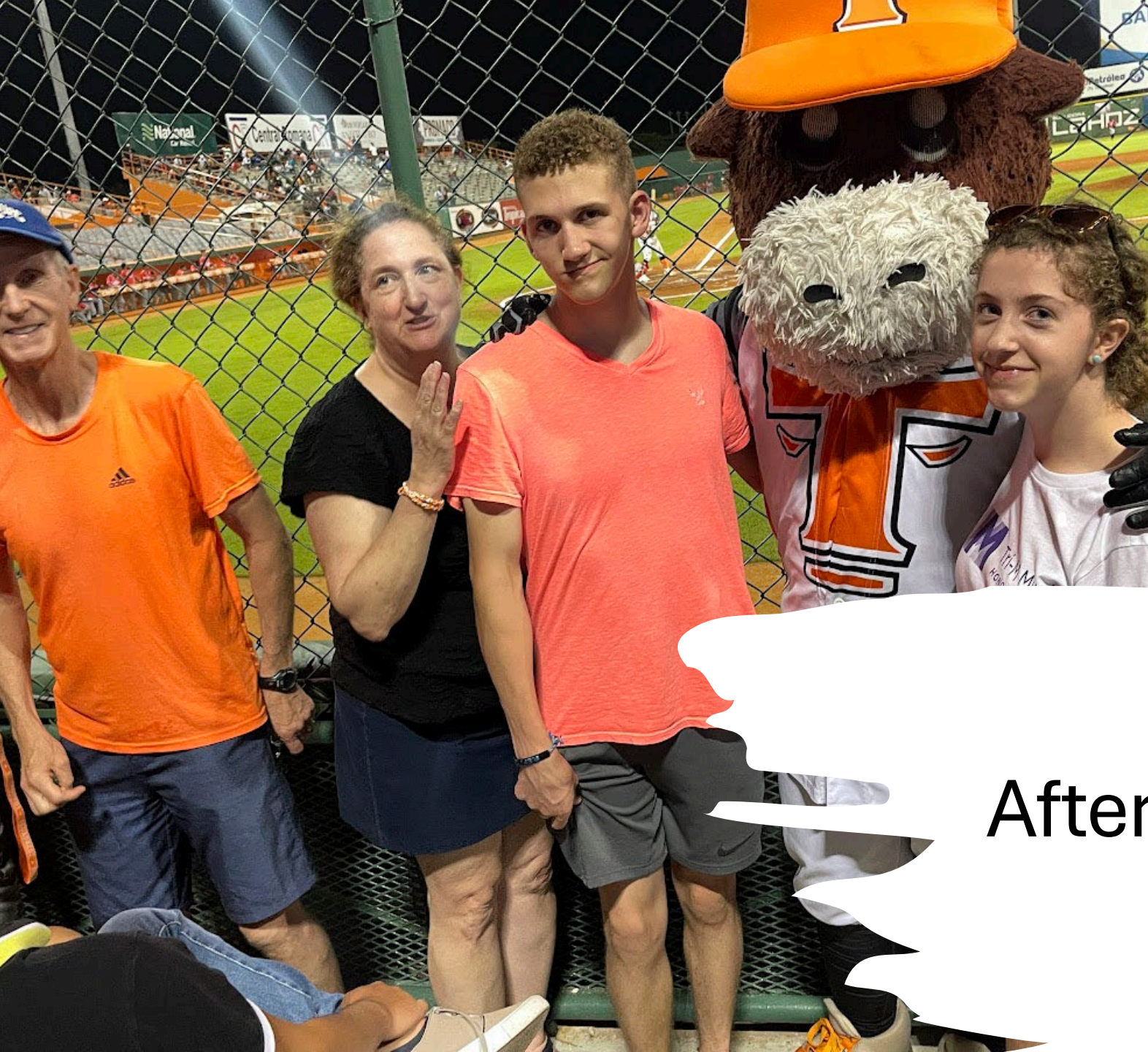
Light A Candle will take us from La Romana to our departure airport



Accommodations – Casa Pastoral







After-hours









Reflection