



THE LEAST OF THESE
MINISTRIES
MATTHEW 25:40

Sharing **HOPE**
amidst poverty.

July 2024

Rotary-Funded Project Benefits Many Families

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL is well-known for their service projects that address community issues and humanitarian needs. Community-based Rotary Clubs are established throughout the world. Many of our supporters are connected to Rotary and some may have even learned about us through a presentation to a local Club.

We were introduced to Montgomery Village Rotary Club in Maryland by Dale Howard, a member of both our Board of Directors and that Club. Following our presentation to the Club in the fall of 2020, and subsequent updates, this Club has supported our outreach to families living in poverty in the Dominican Republic.

Early this year, the Club provided a gift of \$10,000, specifically to help us address the long-standing need for concrete flooring in homes where we serve. Many of you know of this need either from personal experience on a mission team or from past articles or conversations. In fact, concrete floors have been a common mission team service project for several years.



Showing off their new floor!

Many of the houses in the communities served by our ministry are built of the most basic materials: corrugated metal roofing, rough-cut timber, and various scrap materials. Most of the homes are not built on a concrete slab, so they have dirt floors. These floors provide direct exposure to pests and soil-based pathogens that can cause health problems. Rain and moisture exacerbate the unhealthy conditions, causing mud, and allowing mold and mildew to flourish.

A concrete floor immediately improves the condition of these basic houses, allowing families to keep their belongings dry. Residents are able to more easily keep their homes cleaner, and the floor reduces the amount of pests in the home. The average cost of materials and labor for one floor is about \$330.

Work started on the project in April, with 11 homes completed by the end of May. Our staff in Barahona is working with leaders in each community to identify the most urgent need for floors. The first two communities to receive the floors were Bateys Algodón and Los Robles. As of this writing, work in Batey Altagracia is expected to start soon, followed by Batey Santa Maria.

The floor construction is being led by two local Maestros (a job Foreman/Supervisor) and community members are hired to assist with the labor, providing a short-term employment opportunity. An important aspect of this project is that the Maestros are teaching the trade to men who are interested in learning to become Maestros. Future team members may work with one of these men on a team project!

We are very grateful to the Montgomery Village Rotary Club for this gift that will have a far-reaching impact on many families in these communities!

[Visit our website \(leastofthesemin.org\) for more photos!](http://leastofthesemin.org)

Board Member Makes Preparations for One-Year Mission to Barahona!

JACKI STRANATHAN participated on her first mission team to the Dominican Republic in the summer of 2018. She joined our Board of Directors the following year, and has been back for at least one trip every year since!

Earlier this year, Jacki asked the Board to pray with her as she considered spending a year in the DR, serving as a missionary with The Least of These Ministries. At our banquet in May, Jacki announced that she will begin her year-long role in January, 2025! Reflecting on the story of Esther, Jacki explains, "This has been a calling on my heart for years, and I feel that now is the time to answer it."

Jacki has a long history of serving in short-term mission assignments, both in the U.S. and abroad. She has been working hard to learn Spanish, using online apps and practicing with her friends in the DR.

While serving in Barahona next year, Jacki plans to support the local staff in their outreach efforts, looking for opportunities to expand our impact in the communities we serve. She believes that God has prepared her for this season through formal education and her professional and volunteer experience. Jacki will also assist with the ongoing food distribution and provide support during mission team weeks.

Her role as a missionary is an unpaid position, so Jacki will be using her personal funds and raising support from family & friends. Please consider supporting her financially, if you are able, by designating your donation for her ministry. Jacki also covets your prayer support as she continues her preparation through the remainder of this year.



Supporters Gather for Annual Banquet

120 FRIENDS OF THE MINISTRY gathered on Sunday, May 19, to hear about and celebrate the ways that God is moving in the Dominican Republic. This year's event was hosted at Uniontown

Bible Church and featured wonderful gospel music shared by Jessica Snyder. A delicious meal was served by Kountry Kafe & Katering, from Westminster.

The theme for the evening was "Faithful Endurance," based on Hebrews 12:1-2, highlighting our desire to maintain a focus on Jesus as we seek to do His will in serving communities in the Dominican Republic.

This year's program used a panel discussion format, featuring speakers who covered important ministry topics and updates. Board member Dale Howard presented a current initiative to provide new concrete floors to many families through a gift from his Rotary Club (*see page 1*). Dale also discussed a new project to seek grant funding to provide concrete floors to as many additional families in these communities as possible. He is working with Ricardo to gather information needed for the grant requests.

Our Operations Manager in Barahona, Ricardo Beltre, attended the banquet with his wife, Anny, and their son, Daniel. Ricardo led a discussion on recent outreach activities conducted by the ministry.



[Continued on next page]

REGISTER
NOW!

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sharing HOPE

VISION TRIP

October 15-19, 2024

See & Experience Our Ministry Work In-Person on a Sharing Hope Vision Trip!

\$450
plus airfare

- ♦ Learn more about our work in the Dominican Republic
- ♦ Meet our local leadership & staff
- ♦ Visit our Ministry Hub & Attend Food Distributions
- ♦ Meet Pastors and families in communities we serve

SPECIAL

Fall Mission Team
October 19-26, 2024

We've been asked to help a family that needs a home in one of the bateys. The family is currently being assisted by the local church and church members, but help is needed for a long-term housing solution. This will be the service project for the special Fall Team.

Mission Team
January 11-18, 2025

The focus of this team will likely be finishing work on the ground floor of the Ministry Hub.

Both Mission Teams will also include opportunities to serve with the daily food distribution ministry, children's activities, and evangelistic outreach!
Mission Team participation is \$725 *plus airfare*.

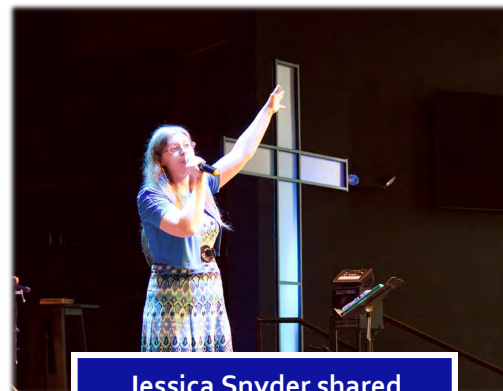
Register online at leastofthesemin.org or call 443-918-7105!

Annual Banquet

[Continued from Page 2]

Board member Jacki Stranathan announced her plan to serve on mission in Barahona during 2025 (*see page 2*). And board member Mel Arbaugh led the panel in an update on the Ministry Hub project. Our Executive Director, Marty Hogan, shared the goal to have the ground floor work completed by early next year. This will provide a quiet, air-conditioned meeting space and an operational kitchen. Marty shared that we need mission team members and financial support to ensure the progress continues.

A special thanks to the banquet planning team for their hard work in putting together a wonderful event, and to Run Moore in downtown Westminster, for their generous donation of shoes used



Jessica Snyder shared
wonderful gospel music!

Silent Auction!



for the centerpieces. These shoes will be taken to Barahona on an upcoming trip and donated in the communities we serve!

"...Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us,
keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith...."

—Hebrews 12:1-2 (CSB)

Visit our website for more photos!

leastofthesemin.org

Thank You!

WE ARE SINCERELY GRATEFUL to the following businesses that contributed to the success of this year's Banquet by donating items for the event:



Hebrews 12:1-2

- ♦ Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
- ♦ Carroll County Farm Museum
- ♦ Cousins Ace Hardware—*Thurmont, MD*
- ♦ Kountry Kafe & Katering—*Westminster, MD*
- ♦ Magic Mountain Chimney Sweeps, Fireplaces & Grills—*Westminster, MD*
- ♦ Minuteman Press—*Hanover, PA*
- ♦ Ole Mink Farm Recreation Resort—*Thurmont, MD*
- ♦ Run Moore—*Westminster, MD*
- ♦ The Vine on Main—*Sykesville, MD*
- ♦ Wait, What? Sauce Co.—*Thurmont, MD*

Please support these businesses in appreciation of their generosity!

Sharing Hope through Tributes

Gifts given in Memory of:

Chuck Chaney *by* Deborah Chaney

Barry Dahl *by* Michelle Dahl

Steve Hull *by* Jay Hull

Dan Hypes *by* Jutta Hypes

Tim Hypes *by* Jutta Hypes

Pamela Martin Seabaugh

by Mike & Linda Henning and Joyce Stambaugh

Etlia & Cliff Simmons *by* Idalia Craig

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Gifts given in Honor of:

Ricardo Beltre *by* Mel & Carol Arbaugh

Deb Chaney *by* Ann Hull

Reenie Harris *by* Ann Hull

Conni Highfield

by Jan Halman-Miller, Bunny Johanson, Barb Luckenbaugh, Linda Wood, and Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling

Marty Hogan *by* John & Terry Eason

Ron Lytle *by* D. Lyn & Susan Dotson

Alice Phelps *by* Robert & Traci Goodfellow

Thursday Book Group *by* Ann Hull

If you would like to honor or remember a friend or loved one through a donation to The Least of These Ministries, simply provide the information on the enclosed form, or send a note with your gift!

The Least of These Ministries, Inc.
PO Box 2824, Westminster MD 21158

443-918-7105 (voice or text)

info@leastofthesemin.org

Founded by Steve and Ann Hull
www.leastofthesemin.org

Marty Hogan, *Executive Director / Board President*, marty@leastofthesemin.org

Board of Directors: Rev. Bill Warehime, Jr., *Vice-President* • Ted Forman, *Treasurer*
Debbie Stewart, *Secretary* • Mel Arbaugh • Dale Howard • Randy Huver • Jacki Stranathan

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