



THE LEAST OF THESE
MINISTRIES
MATTHEW 25:40

Sharing **HOPE**
amidst poverty.

June 2025

A House Built by Love

April Mission Team

IN OUR MARCH NEWSLETTER, Board member Jacki Stranathan told the story of a family who lost their home to a fire early this year. The father of the five children constructed a frame for a new house on property that was donated to the family, then added a roof. Sadly, the father passed away unexpectedly some time after doing that work.

Jacki extended an invitation to join a Mission Team that would be serving the week after Easter. The team's project would be completing the house for Renata and her five children. Twelve people answered that call, including two family groups of three!

The team, working with a great crew of local builders and helpers, and equipped with \$1,020 of additional funds raised for the project, completed the home in four days of work! When the team left, only the doors needed to be hung and electricity brought to the home.

In addition to the home construction, team members participated in the Food Distribution each day and children's activities in two communities.

Many thanks to those who sent gifts of support for the project and the many friends and family members who supported the team members in their journey!

See inside for upcoming Mission team opportunities!



Renata with four of
her five children.

Do everything in love.

-1 Corinthians 16:14



Visit our website
(leastofthesemin.org)
for photos of the home
construction and other
team activities!



I HAVE REALLY FELT the definition of community since living in Barahona. Each of the bateys we serve is a small community. I recently served MannaPacks at Mena Los Block. I noticed as the people arrived they greeted each other and spoke about how they were doing. They shared about their family and how they were feeling.

Community

The second way I see community is within the church that I've been attending. They have become like a second family to me. And one of the sweetest things is many people offer a small piece of candy or a mint each Sunday. It is such a meaningful gesture. When I couldn't be with my family on Mother's Day they welcomed me and wished me a happy Mother's Day.



A third community is when we host a mission team. They are only here for a week but they become a small community. Join us for an upcoming mission team and you will feel like a part of that community.

The last community is the community of the staff of Ministerio Cristiano Amor y Esperanza (Christian Ministry of Love & Hope). We laugh and share each other's families and work for the goal of serving those in need.

Ricardo, our Manager here, and his wife, Anny, have become a huge community for me. And I am ever so grateful for their friendly greetings: "Cómo estás, Jacki?"



I hope you can see firsthand the community down here and all the love and hope that they share.

Blessings, Jacki

Jacki Stranathan is a member of the Board of Directors of The Least of These Ministries. She is serving as a Missionary with the organization throughout 2025. Watch our newsletters and Facebook page for updates from Jacki on her ministry in the Dominican Republic.

Ministry Hub Progress

IN OUR CONTINUING EFFORT to improve the exterior appearance of our Ministry Hub in Barahona, Ricardo recently hired a local sign painter to add the ministry name and logo to the front and side exterior walls. This is the first time the building has been publicly identified as housing the ministry. We strive to be a witness to our neighbors in the local area and identifying the organization as a Christian ministry will support that goal. It is also a goal that local donors would support the work being done by the ministry, and increasing our visibility in Barahona will help in that regard.



Future plans are to include graphic depictions of bible stories in open areas of the exterior walls, adding to the witness to the community!

The local construction crew will soon be starting the work to pour the concrete slab that will form the second floor. We anticipate that work to be finished by late summer, allowing us to begin the build out of the ground floor with a mission team in October. Framing and drywall to create the reception area and dining/meeting room will be done by the team, working with a local construction crew.

We need team members to help us get this work done! See below for information on serving, and sign up soon. **We also need financial support to continue the progress on the second floor work.** If you are able to help us continue this project, please send a gift designated for the Ministry Hub!

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

REGISTER NOW!

Scan this code with your phone's camera to access information & registration on our website!



We have a BIG Mission Team season ahead of us, with much work to be done!

No experience is needed—only a desire to serve others. Team members are needed to work on the service project, assist kitchen staff at the mission house with meal prep and clean-up, and plan & coordinate kids' activities.

How is God calling you to serve?

Summer Mission Team
August 2–9, 2025

Service project: Expand an existing church building in one of the bateys.
Experience working with concrete block is helpful, but not required!

Fall Mission Team
October 18–25, 2025

Service project: Framing & drywall construction on the ground floor of the Ministry Hub.
May include electrical/network wiring & plumbing.

Winter Mission Team
January 10–17, 2026

Service project: Depending on team size, we may work on 2nd floor of Ministry Hub and a service project in a batey simultaneously.

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 Fundraising Banquet

WE WELCOMED 115 friends and supporters to our annual Banquet on Sunday, April 6. The event's theme was "When Did I...?" based on Matthew 25:31-40. We were honored to welcome Wilton Gomez, our Director of Evangelism, and his wife, Beatriz, for their first visit to the U.S.!

Wilton, along with Ricardo Beltre (DR Operations Manager) and Jacki Stranathan (Board Member and current Missionary to DR) provided updates on the ministry's activities and shared stories of how families are being positively impacted by God's work through the ministry.

Many thanks to everyone who worked to make the event a success and to all who came to share the afternoon with us!

Visit our website for more photos!

leastofthesemin.org

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

Baughers Restaurant—Westminster, MD

Cousins Ace Hardware—Thurmont, MD

The Cutting Garden—Westminster, MD

Good Soil Farm—Emmitsburg, MD

Minuteman Press—Hanover, PA

Ole Mink Farm Recreation Resort—Thurmont, MD

Sight & Sound—Lancaster, PA

The Vine on Main—Sykesville, MD

Wait, What? Sauce Co.—Thurmont, MD

Weis Markets—Thurmont, MD

**Please support these businesses
in appreciation of their generosity!**



Tables were named after the communities we serve, and each had a jar of rice & beans, with an egg on top!

Ricardo Beltre, Wilton Gomez, and Jacki Stranathan provided updates on the ministry.



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!

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