Newsletter #1

Join a HHART Mission in Spring 2027

The Rotary Club of Wasaga Beach's international service team, **HHART (Hispaniola Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Team)**, is preparing two missions to the Dominican Republic l early 2027. We're inviting former team members and new volunteers to apply to participate.

Mission dates

HHART 34 | January 23–February 7

Please plan to arrive January 23. Preliminary activities begin January 24, and operations run January 25–February 6. Departures are planned for February 7.

HHART 35 | February 20–28

Please plan to arrive February 20. Operations run February 22–27, with departures on February 28. Arriving a day or two earlier or later may be possible, but the scheduled arrival date is preferred.

Planned projects

In **Batey Cangrejo**, we plan to work on village waterworks and flood mitigation. This will include repairing water outlets and fixing any leaks we find in the distribution system. Skimming of roadways and walkways to prevent pooling of water will also occur.

We'll also help undocumented residents gather information and documents through interviews. This work will support a case to the government for progress on applications for legal status and, where appropriate, potential citizenship.

Other planned or possible activities include:

- Continuing dental services at **Amigitos Community Center in Pancho Mateo**. Dentists, hygienists, dental assistants and denturists are welcome.
- Distributing reading glasses and providing fluoride treatments to children.
- Supporting a Montessori-style school with furniture.
- Making cosmetic improvements to the two-storey schoolhouse in Cangrejo and tiling its second storey bathroom.
- Fun activities for children, with crafts, crayons, music and learning activities.

We'll source supplies locally wherever possible. If anything needs to be brought from Canada, we'll let the team know in a later update.

Accommodation, travel and budget

We've secured excellent rates at **Sosúa by the Sea**, our long-time accommodation provider:

- **Double occupancy:** CAD $90 per person, per night
- **Single room:** CAD $100 per person, per night

Both rates include room, meals, taxes and open bar. Tips are extra. Please budget an additional **8% of your accommodation cost** to leave as a tip for the staff on your departure.

Steve will book your hotel accommodation. The application form will prompt you to identify your preferred roommate. Please arrange this in advance if you can. If you want double accommodation but don't have a roommate in mind, we'll try to match you with someone. If we can't find a roommate for you, please plan to pay the single-room rate, even if you indicated a preference for double accommodation.

Unless you have a rental agreement for a local condominium or apartment, team members are expected to stay at Sosua by the Sea.

Please also budget a **CAD $500 donation to the HHART operations fund**. Tax receipts will be issued. HHART missions are self-funded, and additional fundraising can help us do more and increase our impact. Payment instructions will be sent in a future newsletter before the end of 2026, so donations made by year-end can be claimed on your **2026 tax return**.

Team members must book and pay for their own flights to **Puerto Plata**. HHART will arrange transportation between the airport and Sosúa by the Sea.

You can pay for accommodation from Canada by e-transfer or credit card through Stripe. We'll provide payment instructions in a future newsletter.

With these accommodation rates and a tax receipt for all donations to the operations fund, this will be the most economical HHART mission in many years. You are encouraged to spread that message and help us assemble a great team for spring of 2027.

How to join the Team

- **HHART alumni and former team members:** You're pre-approved. Book your flights without delay to take advantage of the Black Friday seat sales. Then complete the registration form by clicking here.
- **Family members and close friends participating with an alumnus:** They can be considered pre-approved if they're **16 or older** and mature enough to conduct themselves appropriately in the villages. Alumni know what that requires. They must also register by clicking here.
- **New applicants:** If you haven't been on an HHART team and aren't a family member or close friend of an alumnus, please apply here and wait for a reply from HHART Chief of Operations Steve Wallace before booking your flights.

Questions?

Contact Steve Wallace, HHART Chief of Operations – (705) 444-4012, email steve@HHART.org, WhatsApp +1 (705) 444-4012.