

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL PROVIDER WELCOME

We at Partners for Rural Health, welcome you and want to extend a heartfelt thank you for donating your time and talent to help those in need as well as educating the next generation of medical personnel! Here is some information that will help clarify your role in joining this mission, and assist you in having a productive experience.

We are an international service learning program. This means that both the **service**, which we provide to clients in the Dominican Republic, and the **learning**, which we all experience are equally valued. Many international medical missions engage volunteers to perform the role of practitioner in their specific discipline. PRHDR, on the other hand, has a multilevel approach.

We bring students who may be studying nursing, medicine, Spanish-language, physical therapy, dental hygiene, occupational therapy, sports medicine, social work, public health, or another discipline. Medical volunteers work as role models, educators and mentor skills for the students. You may have time to see clients in your discipline and work individually with them. However, the bulk of your time will be spent in the role of a mentor, working with and encouraging students to think critically and thoroughly in their role.

An important objective is to provide students with a successful multi-disciplinary team experience, where all participants and disciplines are working amicably for the welfare of the patient. We find that this teamwork is what people often remark on and seem to highly value!

PRHDR is committed to nurturing the next generation of professional nurses and medical personnel. Our work is intended to be supportive and welcoming for all students and providers. All volunteers are to be accessible to anyone who needs support or a consult.

PRHDR strives to encourage all participants to perform to the highest level of their ability. We encourage the development of critical thinking in all disciplines, and discourage an authoritarian or judgmental approach to mentorship.

THE RN ROLE: As an experienced nurse, you will be demonstrating taking a history and doing a physical exam, as well as mentoring students in doing the same. There may be times where you will see clients on your own. Nurses and nursing/other students are expected to act only within the scope of practice for which they are prepared.

THE PRESCRIBER ROLE: You will be consulting with students or RN's in their patient evaluations. You will be teaching elements of a thorough assessment, presenting differential diagnosis, and encouraging critical thinking skills. According to your clinical judgment, you may examine the patient, and then collaborate with the student as to the findings, and develop a treatment plan.

Please email any questions about the role we are expecting you to perform. It is important for everyone to have a complete understanding of the volunteer role on the team before arriving in the DR.

Thank you so much for considering volunteering with Partners for Rural Health in the DR.