

Republica Dominicana
St. Norbert TRIPS 2008

Turning Responsibility Into Powerful Service

Strangers becoming friends, experiences colliding,
languages and cultures coming together.

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Our group embarked on this journey to the Dominican Republic with few expectations of what lay ahead. Upon our departure, we found ourselves thankful for our lack of knowledge, for any expectations we may have had were far surpassed. The friendships created with the people we met and their spirit of generosity reached out to our hearts. The evenings we spent on the rooftop of the parish where we stayed, counting the shooting stars and building friendships within the group, were moments we wish would never have come to an end.

We realized soon enough to release any of our inhibitions, to live in that moment in time, to try and take hold of the pure joy the people we served possessed. We strove each day to capture the flavor that was their existence and learn to let go of the notion that we were serving, but to simply embrace the love they offered, a love rooted in solidarity: sincere, passionate, simple, and true. We believe with our hearts they truly meant "Mi familia es tu familia." No words could ever capture or give justice to how remarkable these people are. The moments that lack words are forever stored in our hearts as we aspire to be more like the individuals of the Dominican Republic who touched us all so deeply.

