



Live Like Alex - University Public 2026

Ages: All • Length: 8 days • Service Hours: 40

Fundraising Goal: \$2,995 + Self Managed Airfare

May 5, 2026 - May 12, 2026

On May 5th, during this build, Alex would have been turning 30 years old. As a gift, the build will be an amazing opportunity for young adults to take a moment to Live Like Alex. We have made it a priority with this build to connect with youth to continue to spread the legacy of her life - making it a priority to show love and compassion towards others as we learn so much about ourselves. We are so excited to be joining forces with some amazing youth groups from Universities in Ontario to bring together a group of like minded young adults who will make a lasting difference in the lives of so many.

Alex joined us on the ground in the Dominican Republic for a World Vision Leadership Build in 2013 and became a big believer in the work that was being done. Alex loved to journal, and while sitting on the beach in Sosua she wrote that she had met "the most humble and giving people" in reference to the community. She especially loved the children and admired their sense of humour and resilience. She wrote "they have the biggest smiles and warm hearts". For her, it was a life-changing experience and after returning home, she vowed that she would return. Unfortunately, due to a tragic accident that cut her life short, she never had the opportunity to revisit the community and continue making a difference in the lives of families that were needing safe housing. In honour of her life, Alex's mother Pat along with her good friend Tina began to organize a special trip that would help further Alex's dream of families receiving places to call home. Pat and Tina have organized 5 trips thus far and are getting ready to make another one happen...this time with Alex's cousin Andrea. Alex was a reminder that when we die "the stuff" doesn't come with us. It's the memories and the legacy we leave behind that matter.

When you join us on a Build in the Dominican Republic, you'll have the chance to immerse yourself in the culture while leaving a lasting impact in the lives of families and communities that need it most.

You'll work hard alongside volunteers, ground staff, translators, local contractors, and a deserving family so that you can all celebrate together and welcome them into their safe, new home. During the 9 days, lives are changed and connections are made that can last a lifetime.

The work itself is the reason we come together, but we'll also be introducing you to all the communities we work in, bring you to our favourite Caribbean restaurant called Mama Maria's, and give you a chance to see why it's called paradise (think of palm trees and views overlooking the ocean).

Over the years, volunteers like you have joined us to construct homes, schools, community centres, and other projects for communities along the north coast of the island. No previous experience is necessary for a Build, only a desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you for your interest in this life-changing experience. Please read through the following information and feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions.

Minimum Fundraising Requirements:

\$2,995 - This is the amount each volunteer has been asked to fundraise/contribute in order to join us on this LiveDifferent Build, with an initial **\$300** due within two weeks of registration.

What's Included

- Airport shuttles to and from the resort on the day your Build starts and the day your Build ends
- Meals and accommodations at Sosua By The Sea Resort (www.sosuabythesea.com)
- Materials, local labour required for your Build project(s)
- Transportation to and from resort and project sites each day
- Construction foreman
- Translators
- Group hosting and facilitation
- Evening debriefings and activities
- LiveDifferent staff on-site and available 24/7
- Family Visit Experience
- Furniture and groceries for the family's new home

What's Not Included

- Flights to and from Puerto Plata (POP), Dominican Republic
- Any immunizations or testing required for travel (please consult your family physician or local travel clinic)
- Airport shuttles to and from the resort **if** arriving before the Build starts or leaving after the Build ends
- Emergency Travel Medical Insurance (**required**, please see [here](#) for important considerations outlined by the Government of Canada)
- Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance
- Private room - \$240 CAD / per person (for the 8 nights) *paid ahead of time to LiveDifferent
- Personal spending money (for items such as snacks/souvenirs)
- Optional Staff Tip (Recommended \$40 USD)
- Optional Team Dinner Out - \$30 USD (Estimated Cost)
- Optional Excursion Activities (Will be presented closer to trip dates - \$60-\$80 USD Estimated Cost)

Please Note: LiveDifferent is not responsible for flight delays or cancellations.

Itinerary

Day 1

Fly into Puerto Plata (POP), Dominican Republic.

Settle into the resort: Sosua By The Sea (www.sosuabythesea.com).

Meet the staff and orientation.

Day 2

Awareness Day & Meet the Family

You'll spend the day getting to know each other and learning about the communities that LiveDifferent works in. And you'll get to meet the family you'll be working alongside.

Day 3 - 6

House Building Days

When you first show up to the worksite, there will be concrete mixes, bucket lines and rebar waiting for your energy and enthusiasm! Together, with the family, you and your team will be a part of making their dream a reality. Through this experience, you will develop friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

Family Visits

Spend some time visiting with a local family in their home. It may be hard to imagine but one visit can change your perspective in ways you never imagined possible. You'll work, laugh, and learn alongside new friends as you step into their world to help out in their daily routines. Translators are always present, so language is never a barrier as you connect together. And these families that you're spending time with are often potential families that could be receiving a new home in the near future.

Day 7

Day off!

We fully support taking advantage of the beauty and excitement of each host country! Each volunteer will be afforded one day off for relaxation and/or adventure! You'll have the option to enjoy the natural beauty or adventure that the Dominican Republic has to offer, so whether you want to choose from a list of excursions or take the day off to read a book under the shade of a palm tree, just know that you've earned it!

Day 8

Time to celebrate!

You'll spend the morning preparing for the house celebration, and in the afternoon, you'll be there to welcome the family into their new house that you helped build! It's a moment that will be etched in your memory for many years to come.

Preparation for what's next!

Your LiveDifferent Build is going to be one of the most intense and life-changing experiences you will ever have. We believe that this is just the beginning and want to help prepare you as you integrate this experience into your everyday life. We'll have a final debrief where we talk about how to continue making a difference in our local and global communities.

Day 9

Fly home out of Puerto Plata (POP), Dominican Republic.