

DR Reading Week 2027

Ages: All • Length: 9 days • Service Hours: 40

Fundraising Goal: \$2,975 + Self Managed Airfare

Feb 12, 2027 - Feb 20, 2027

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:

\$2,975 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 being notified that we have reached our minimum requirement for volunteers needed to move forward with the Build. **This amount will be confirmed by September 1st, 2026 due to fluctuating supply costs.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

- \$300 Deposit - within 2 weeks of registration
- Flight Itinerary - 12 weeks pre-departure
- 50% Fundraising - 12 weeks pre-departure
- Final Fundraising Goal Due - 8 weeks pre-departure
- All supporting documents (CRC, Consent Package, Travel Insurance) - 6 weeks pre-departure

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)
- Emergency Travel Medical Insurance (**required**, please see [here](#) for important considerations outlined by the Government of Canada)
- Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance
- Private room at the resort - Extra \$30/night CAD
- Additional Nights at the Hotel - \$110 CAD (single) \$85 CAD / per person (double)
- Recommended resort staff and translator tip: \$40 USD
- Personal spending money (for items such as snacks/souvenirs)
- Team Dinner Out
- Excursion Day Activity

***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.