



**RESTORING COMMUNITIES' DIGNITY
THROUGH HOLISTIC EMPOWERMENT**
hungercorp.org

I. What's the vision?

Let us give you a big picture of what God is doing through Hunger Corp.

We based our operations in Dorado, a city located in the northern part of Puerto Rico and well known for its rapidly growth compared to others areas of the island. Real estate, tourism, small local businesses, construction and health care facilities are just a few areas where this city stands out. Nevertheless in Dorado there are many communities that have been squatters for the last 80 years lacking property titles, proper education, sound infrastructure, and experiencing high levels of unemployment, violence and social isolation.

Our vision is to adopt this squatter communities for five years or more, walk alongside them to reach their full social, economic and educational development, and help them be part of the flourishing story of the city. Doing so we will fulfill our mission of restoring communities dignity through holistic empowerment.

In other words, we want to incarnate the gospel. As Jesus spoke to the forgotten and acknowledged the oppressed in front of the crowds so will we do. Through meaningful relationships, building houses and improving the communities' infrastructure, launching small businesses and trade schools, offering spiritual guidance and connecting them to faith communities we want to restore people's dignity through the good news of Jesus Christ. In front of everyone, in the light of other communities and cities.

Our vision might take fifteen years to be completed but every week that passes we are getting closer. That's why your visit it's so important to us. Your "one week contribution" is based on a long-term gospel centered commitment.

II. What we believe

We are convinced that poverty is not merely a lack of material goods but moreover a lack of healthy relationships. Shattered relationships with God, family, neighbors, government, and other social structures have a huge impact and hinder people from thriving in God's world. This is the devastating consequence of the fall in Genesis 3 (i.e. broken relationship with God, other human beings, and indeed, the whole of Creation). This is undoubtedly not how God intended things to be in the world He created. But the good news of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ is in the business of renewing all things (cf. Revelation 21:5), that is, bringing healing to all of these broken relationships, both human and non-human (cf. Colossians 1:19-20). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is about restoring all that was shattered in the Garden, and putting it back into right relationship with its Creator. As the church, our ministry is to actively participate in God's glorious mission of reconciliation (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

This is what we long to see in many communities as we have seen in La Hormiga, the first community we adopted three years ago. We desire for the people of this particular communities to be reconciled to God, to enjoy the blessing of fruitful and meaningful relationships with their neighbors, and to flourish in the space where God has placed them. But it will take time, and we are committed long-term. We are committed to walk with this community. Hence our desire is that each short-term group that comes to serve see themselves as collaborators of this larger plan.



III. Community development approach

The model we are employing for this project is commonly referred to as Asset Based Community Development. We do not just want to alleviate the needs of the community; mere charity can actually cause damage in the long-term. We are carefully looking to work hand in hand with the community. We want to give them a hand-up, not just a hand-out. We are seeking ways to identify and leverage the resources that are already present in the community. We want people to rediscover their God given abilities, and to awake in them a desire to dream and see themselves as agents of change.

IV. What kind of work will the volunteers will be doing?

Our volunteers are a most precious resource to this project and they will act as the healing hands of God. Here are some projects we will be working on together:

I. **Infrastructure:** Before Covid-19 we started building Rafael Ocasio's house and now that we are back we are close to finish it. Your group will be installing kitchen cabinets, toilets, sinks, plastering and maybe building a septic tank. As soon as we finish Rafa's we will start Jossie and Camilo's.

II. **Small Business:** If your group has business people in it we want to meet them. We need volunteers as we launch two businesses with the community: a **Coffee Brand** and an **Online Farmers Market**. From market research and running the numbers, to training residents of the community and marketing the businesses, every volunteer that joins this project will be helping La Hormiga gain social capital, create job opportunities and help us have an impact in the city. Some are skilled in construction and others in business, but all can serve.

III. **A new community:** We will start the evaluation of a soon to be adopted community. We need volunteers to do a “house to house” survey in squatters communities we have identified.

VI. Housing

Lodging will take place at Villas del Golf in Dorado. This is a gated community 10 minutes away from La Hormiga. The house consists of 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a kitchen, rooftop area with kitchen, living room patio. The group will have access to a pool area. We will not have more than 3 persons per room and the house will be sanitized before and after every group of volunteers. Every room has AC units.





VII. Transportation

We coordinate transportation from the airport to the lodging place upon arrival and vice versa when departing. We will send a host from our staff to assist you from the moment you arrive.

Some volunteers will be required to drive Hunger Corp. vehicles during the trip. Mainly from the lodging place to the work site and vice versa (roughly 10 minutes). It's important that the selected drivers are 21 years old or older and have a valid driver license with them at all times.

Groups can use the vehicles to go to supermarket and pharmacies, visit restaurants or authorized travel to touristic areas (please seek out permission first). However, the vehicles have a **zero alcohol (or any other drug), and zero smoking policy.**



VIII. Suggested Packing List

We encourage all volunteers to avoid excess baggage. It would be ideal to bring only one suitcase and a personal item such as a backpack.

1. Disposable or Reusable face mask for the duration of trip
2. Sunday clothes
3. Comfortable work clothes for 4 days
4. Clothes to wear after work and during the day off
5. One pair of work shoes, boots or sneakers
6. Hat or cap.
7. Pajamas
8. Swimsuit (optional)
9. Towel and washcloth
10. Twin sheet for the bed
11. Pillow
12. Bathroom items (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, etc.)
13. Insect repellent
14. Personal medications (Inform your leader of any prescription medication that you are carrying).
15. Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher recommended)
16. Reusable Water bottle for the workplace
17. Small bag to carry personal items to the job site

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers are required to bring their own personal safety equipment. Below is a list of the recommended personal safety equipment:

1. Safety glasses
2. One pair of work gloves
3. Ear protection

IX. Covid Protocols

Below you will see the key aspects of our COVID-19 protocols for volunteer groups during the trip:

- Before trip each group of volunteers has to submit the result of a negative COVID-19 test to Hunger Corp. The test must be performed 72-hours before the groups arrival to Puerto Rico. In case of testing positive to COVID-19, the person will not be able to come on the trip. The group has the option of replacing the member with another person with out additional cost, but the change must be notified to Hunger Corp. Also, the change must be for a person of the same sex as the original volunteer to not affect the housing arrangements made for the group.
- Upon arrival on Puerto Rico, Hunger Corp. will send private transportation and a host to take the group from the airport to the lodging place for the week. There the host will give the group a briefing about the housing arrangements and Covid protocols for the duration of the trip.
- The use of mask is **mandatory at all times for the duration of the trip.** The only two moments the group is allowed take their mask off while eating and while sleeping.
- Before the group arrival Hunger Corp. will make sure that the lodging place is disinfected and clean upon the group arrival. However, Hunger Corp. while provide cleaning and disinfectant materials for the lodging place to use during the week. Its important to remember that for the duration of the trip the group leaders oversee disinfecting the lodging place. The leaders of the group will determine the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting the lodging place as they see fit during the week.
- Each sleeping room will have a maximum capacity of 2-3 volunteers per room (depending on room size), to ensure social distancing while sleeping.

- Before each working day, a member of Hunger Corp. staff will go to the lodging place and get the volunteers temperature before heading out to the working site. In case of a volunteer having a temperature equal or greater to 40º, the volunteer must be moved into quarantine apart from the group. The group is in charge of finding a quarantine place for the volunteer. Meanwhile the rest of the volunteers, go into supervision of COVID-19 symptoms' while continuing in the working day activities.
- In case of wanting to get tested for COVID-19 during the trip, there's local testing centers near to the project site. It's important to take into consideration that Covid-19 testing expenses for volunteers are covered by the group and the wait for the results in the testing center may vary to the states.
- If the group needs to take any of his member to the hospital there's a variety of options close to the lodging place ranging on an estimated travel time of 25-30 minutes. Here's a list of our recommended hospital to use in case of an emergency: Manatí Medical Center, Doctor's Center Manatí and Bayamon Medical Center.
- During the working day, the volunteers will have access to hand-sanitizer and hand washing stations. Also, each volunteer will have the option to disinfect each tool before use. Hunger Corp. leaders will encourage the volunteers to wash their hand multiple times a day.
- At launch time the volunteers will have a designated place to have lunch in while maintaining social distancing.
- At the end of each working day Hunger Corp. , with the help of volunteers, will clean and disinfect all of the tools, bathrooms and common areas that were used during the day and prepare them for the next day of work.

X. FAQ

What should the volunteers pack?

Attached below it's an updated Packing Checklist. You can download it to make sure you have everything you need for your upcoming trip.

Does the group need to bring tools for the trip?

The group does not need to bring any tools. Hunger Corp. will provide the tools necessary to perform the task the volunteers will be doing during the service trip.

What documentation do the volunteers need to bring on the trip?

In case of traveling from the US to Puerto Rico, you will need to provide a standard photo ID required by TSA. Also it's highly recommended to bring physical copies of your ID and secure them, just in case of an emergency. In addition bringing your medical insurance card to use in case of a medical emergency.

Also it is mandatory to bring a Negative Covid Test (not more than 72 hours before the trip) and present it at the airport. If someone shows up without the negative test the person has to do quarantine for 14 days. This means it can't leave the housing. The government is taking this seriously and arresting people if they violate the law.

What important information do I need to provide to Hunger Corp. about my group?

Demographic Information: The group's composition tends to change during the month prior to the trip and because of that it's really important to give updated information to Hunger Corp. in advance. This can affect the housing arrangements, transportation and the work in the community.

Allergies and Dietary Restrictions: We pride ourselves in being able to host and have a well rounded service experience regardless of allergies and dietary restrictions by making adjustments that enhance the experience of the volunteers without compromising their safety. The team leader must send a list of allergies and dietary restrictions at least for weeks before the trip so we can share it with the cooks. The list has to mention the full name of the person and the dietary restriction or allergy.

When does our group need to submit payment for our trip to Hunger Corp.?

The cost per volunteer is The group needs to submit their payment to Hunger Corp. at least 30-days before the group arrival date. Payment can be made via a check or an ACH Deposit. Our account info its the following:

If it's via check pay to the order of Hunger Corp. and mail it to the following address:

P.O. BOX 1820
Manatí, PR 0674

In case of paying via a direct deposit (ACH) our account information is the following:

Bank Name: Banco Popular
Account Routing Number: 021502011
Account Number: 138311706

If you had any questions regarding volunteer billing and group payments, don't hesitate contact our Financial Specialist, Kenneth Pérez via email kperez@hungercorp.org, he will gladly answer your questions.

**Do the team and/or the volunteers need to bring extra money for the trip?
How much?**

Since Hunger Corp. will provide meals, snacks, transportation and lodging necessary during the trip, the amount of "extra money" that the volunteers need to bring is completely discretionary to each one. Nevertheless, close to the lodging places and projects are local businesses that sell different goods and it's part of our mission as an organization to impact them in every opportunity we get.

We encourage every group to have dinner with part of our staff on Wednesday night at "Grecafe" , a local restaurant with a great vision for the city. With Grecafe's owner, Hansel Castillo, and local pastors we host a "vision night" to share the table around the topic of what God is doing in our city through the Local Churches, Businesses and the Communities we are serving with. Dinner will be on each person.