



MEDWISH MEDWORKS MEDICAL BRIGADE

June 16 - June 21, 2025

Villa Altagracia, Dominican Republic



Participating in a MedWish Medworks Medical Brigade is a wonderful way to give your time, talents, and compassion to those in need. During this Brigade, participants will be serving the community of Villa Altagracia, Dominican Republic.

Both medical personnel and non-medical volunteers are welcome on this trip; however, to ensure that there are enough medical personnel to run a successful clinic, a number of spaces are reserved for medical professionals. Registration is first come first serve and will close once the trip reaches capacity.

Please review the following trip information carefully before registering. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Horan at choran@medwish.org or call 216.692.1685. We hope you will be joining us for the 2025 Dominican Republic Brigade!

ABOUT MEDWISH MEDWORKS

MedWish Medworks (formerly MedWish International and Medworks) is a humanitarian nonprofit dedicated to advancing health equity and environmental sustainability. We achieve this by providing essential care, redistributing surplus medical supplies, and connecting medically underserved communities with vital resources, in Northeast Ohio and around the world. Our international Medical Brigades have been part of our programming for 20+ years. Past Brigades have been to Honduras, Kenya, the Dominican Republic, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

MedWish Medworks diverts roughly 600,000 pounds of medical surplus from our local landfills every year. This is done with the support of local hospitals and healthcare providers, who generously donate medical supplies and equipment to MedWish Medworks. Roughly 3,500 volunteers help sort through these donated supplies annually. Supplies are distributed locally and all around the world to support people and communities in need. All Brigade participants will take 50 pounds of medical supplies with them on the Brigade for use at the clinic and to support our host location.

MedWish Medworks hosts free pop up clinics locally all throughout the year. At these clinics, we provide 100% FREE medical, dental, and vision care to uninsured and underinsured residents of Cuyahoga County/Northeast Ohio with no



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qualification questions asked. Our team then works to connect these individuals to ongoing care through health insurance, medical homes, and other needed social services. Like our international Brigades, volunteer medical professionals and community volunteers fully staff our local clinics. Since 2009, we have provided over 50,000 free health services to nearly 30,000 local patients.

MedWish Medworks envisions a world free from healthcare disparities, where everyone has access to high-quality care and essential resources. Harnessing the power of volunteerism and partnerships, we work to eliminate barriers to medical supplies, referrals, and care, empowering individuals to live healthier lives.

ABOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic is located in the Caribbean and is about twice the size of New Jersey. It is located on the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with Haiti. Spanish is the official language. The country's total population is just over 11.33 million, with 23.9% estimated to live below the poverty line. The average life expectancy is 74.17 years. The majority of the population works in the service sector, 72%, with 20.6% working in industry, and 7.71% in the agricultural sector.

To learn more about the Dominican Republic, please [CLICK HERE](#)

ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE PROJECTS DR

LightHouse Projects DR is a faith-based organization that is based in Los Alcarrizos, Dominican Republic. LightHouse has been active in the community since 1992, engaging in projects such as water purification, education, vocational training, English as a Second Language classes, ministry projects, and more. In the last four years, LightHouse started working in a neighboring community, Villa Altagracia. It is working to bring the same scope of holistic services to the community as it has in Los Alcarrizos. So far they have constructed a water purification plant, constructed a vocational school, baseball field, basketball court, and are finalizing the construction/launch of a first attention clinic as this community does not have nearby medical service. MedWish Medworks worked with LightHouse to ship a container of medical supplies to furnish the clinic which we will be able to see while there!



Please note that although LightHouse is a faith-based organization, MedWish Medworks Medical Brigades are not religious. Participants may choose to opt in or out of Lighthouse customs such as prayer at mealtime etc.

TRIP INFORMATION

Eligibility

Brigade volunteers must be 12 years old or older at the time of the Brigade. Any participant that is under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or authorized guardian. Both medical professionals and non-medical



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volunteers are welcome. While we welcome volunteers of all backgrounds, we do reserve a number of places for professionals in the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry and eye care.

Accommodations

We will be staying in the LightHouse Projects DR guesthouse. It is clean, safe, and comfortable. Up to four people can fit in a room (bunkbeds) but we will aim for two per room depending on our group size. The accommodations are basic, but there is running water to shower (not necessarily hot though!), bathrooms in each room, and electricity. Additionally, there is a beautiful pool at the guest house where our team can relax and unwind each day.



Airline Reservations

We will be arranging group airline reservations through Cleveland Hopkins Airport. Participants that do not wish to have their flights booked must contact MedWish Medworks at the time of registration to indicate their intentions. Any participant traveling independently must provide MedWish Medworks with his/her flight information by May 16, 2025 and must coordinate their travel with the group.

Cost

This MedWish Medworks Medical Brigade is \$2,750 per person. A non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 is due by Sunday, March 16, 2025 to reserve your place. Reservations are taken on a first come first serve basis. A percentage of spots will be held for medical participants, so secure your spot TODAY!

The remaining amount of the total trip cost will be due in increments leading up to trip departure as shown below:

Trip Payment #2 - \$750 - Due by April 16, 2025
Trip Payment #3 - \$1,000 - Due by May 16, 2025

Your Trip Contribution Includes:

- **Airfare:** Flights will be booked to and from Cleveland, Ohio
- **Lodging:** 5 nights stay at the guest house
- **Meals:** Breakfast, lunch, and dinner when in the Dominican Republic
- **Trip Logistics:** Supplies for the clinics, translators, ground transportation while in the Dominican Republic, and tips for services provided to the team
- **MedWish Medworks Apparel:** Participants will be provided with one MedWish Medworks top. Additional apparel will be available for purchase.
- **Free Day:** On this trip we will have 3 “work days” and one free day. On the free day, LightHouse will facilitate some local travel to see some sites and enjoy some rest and recuperation. We will work with the team to determine the activity that the group would enjoy most.



It does NOT Include:

- Any meals while traveling to and from the Dominican Republic
- Spending money for souvenirs or personal purchases
- Vaccinations or medications needed for travel
- Travelers Health Insurance



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- Passport expenses
- Any transportation, lodging, or meals outside of the group MedWish Medworks Medical Brigade

Trip Orientation

There will be team orientation meetings prior to departure. At these meetings, participants will have the opportunity to meet, learn more about the upcoming Brigade, and talk with the MedWish Medworks team and LightHouse Projects DR about what to expect and how to best prepare. The date and location of these meetings will be announced in early April 2025.

Supply Pickup

MedWish Medworks will be providing the medical supplies needed for the mobile clinics run during the Brigade. Each participant is expected to transport one bag full of supplies with them on the Brigade. Participants will need to come to the MedWish Medworks warehouse prior to departure to pick up the bag of supplies. The specific pickup times will be announced at orientation.



Participant Information

Once registered, participants will be provided with a participant information packet that must be completed and returned to MedWish Medworks by May 16, 2025. This packet may be returned via fax, email, or mail to MedWish Medworks. Information needed for airline reservations will be required upon registration.

Immunizations and Travelers Health

You may need country-specific pharmaceuticals and/or immunizations when traveling to the Dominican Republic. To learn more, please visit the CDC's website or [click here](#). For health-related concerns, please speak with your primary care physician or a local travel clinic. Traveler's health insurance will not be purchased for participants and is the responsibility of each participant to secure if desired.

Passport

A valid passport is required for entrance into the Dominican Republic. Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after our date of return.

SAFETY

There is a travel advisory in effect from the US State Department for travel to and from the Dominican Republic. Please visit their website for further information, or [click here for more details](#).

Complete the following registration form and mail it, along with your \$1,000 non-refundable deposit per person, to MedWish Medworks. Registration closes Sunday, March 16th.

**If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Horan at choran@medwish.org or 216.692.1685.
Don't miss out on this amazing experience!**



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 2025 BRIGADE REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name: FIRST: _____ LAST: _____

Day Tel: () _____ Eve Tel: () _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ | Will you be booking your own flights? Y/N

Date of Birth: _____ Occupation: _____

Other Skills: _____ T-Shirt/Scrub Top Size: _____ Spanish Speaking: Y/N

Terms and Conditions for MedWish Medworks Medical Brigades

By signing below, I affirm that I am 18 years of age or older and that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the following terms and conditions set forth by MedWish Medworks. I further state that I am legally competent to sign this affirmation and release; that I understand the terms herein are contractual and not a mere recital; and that I have signed this document as my own free act.

MedWish Medworks reserves the right to change, edit, and alter the following terms and conditions. In such a circumstance, participants will be notified immediately via email. I also certify that all information provided to MedWish Medworks in the above Brigade application is valid and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Terms and Conditions:

- Should a participant's conduct be found to be dangerous or inappropriate during the Brigade, that participant may be asked to leave the trip or denied participation in future MedWish Medworks Brigades. Refunds will not be provided to participants that are asked to leave.
- Traveler's health safety is the responsibility of the participant. Participants are encouraged to visit the CDC website for travel recommendations and seek the counsel of a physician or traveler's clinic before this trip.
- Upon the completion of registration, participants will receive various communications via email, phone, and mail from MedWish Medworks with information and updates on the trip. Participants are responsible for reading and listening to all materials provided by MedWish Medworks pertaining to this Brigade to ensure that they are fully prepared for the trip.



- Participation in this Brigade may present participants with opportunities for various levels of physical exertion. Each participant is responsible for determining what he/she is safely capable of doing. If a participant is uncertain if he/she is fit for international travel or the activities outlined in the Brigade description, it is his/her responsibility to consult with a physician before registering for this trip. By signing below, each participant certifies that he/she is fit for international travel and agrees to only act in ways that are within the limits of his/her own health and safety while on the Brigade.
- Participants are responsible for providing MedWish Medworks with any health information that will be relevant to this trip. This includes, but is not limited to, dietary needs such as food allergies so that MedWish Medworks can accommodate. If accommodation is not possible, MedWish Medworks will inform the participant immediately.
- By signing below, the participant authorizes and gives full permission to MedWish Medworks for the use of the participant's name and photograph, still or video, in connection with this Brigade and consents to the use of such material or its reproduction in any manner and by any medium which MedWish Medworks deems appropriate. The participant equally authorizes and gives full permission to MedWish Medworks for the use and reproduction of any personal photos or videos that were taken on the Brigade by the participant and then provided to MedWish Medworks.
- Participants agree to follow directions and safety guidelines set forth by the Brigade leaders and local hosts and to act in a manner that is safe, both with regards to each individual participant and the group.
- Participants agree to follow the laws and regulations of the host country.
- Participants will be sensitive and respectful of local culture.
- Participants agree to represent his/herself and MedWish Medworks in an appropriate manner both in-person and through online publications during the Brigade.
- Participants are each responsible for transporting one bag of medical supplies with them to the site location of the Brigade. Each participant agrees to travel with those supplies and take them through customs in the host country.
- Participants agree to only act within the bounds of their professional training and experience while on the medical Brigade. Although non-medical participants may assist in medical services, they will not be administering medical counsel or care.
- Should a participant choose to extend the length of his/her stay in the host country, either before or after the dates of the Brigade, the participant understands that MedWish Medworks is not liable or responsible for these supplemental arrangements.
- The participant affirms, understands, and agrees that MedWish Medworks and the Brigade leaders are only responsible for making reservations or arrangements for: lodging, transportation, and meals during the trip. MedWish Medworks and Brigade leaders will be held harmless for any occurrence in connection with or operation thereof, which may result in injury, death, or other damage to the participant. MedWish Medworks and the Brigade leaders will not be held responsible for loss of or damage to any equipment, luggage, or personal property taken on the Brigade.
- The participant personally assumes all risks in connection with this Brigade and further releases MedWish Medworks and the Brigade leaders from all claims, demands, and actions and for any harm, injury, or damage which may befall the participant while on the Brigade, including all risks in connection therewith whether foreseen and unforeseen, and further to save and hold harmless MedWish Medworks and representatives, arising out of the participant's participation in this Brigade.



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- In order to prevent disruption and assure a meaningful Brigade environment, it is MedWish Medworks policy to prohibit unauthorized solicitation of participants and/or distribution of non-MedWish Medworks related materials during the Brigade.
- MedWish Medworks Brigade participants are asked NOT to give any money and/or gifts to any of the locals, children or staff of the organizations we visit. This is for the safety of the recipients and members of the MedWish Medworks team. If a participant feels compelled to give gifts or leave items such as clothes, shoes, candy, etc., he/she must consult with the MedWish Medworks Staff person in advance.
- In the event that an extended stay or quarantine is required due to COVID-19, MedWish Medworks will review the travel and financial logistics on a case-by-case basis and may require that additional, incidental costs are covered by the brigade participant.

Signature of Applicant (Or legal guardian if under 18): _____

Name of Applicant (Printed) : _____ **Date of Affirmation:** _____

Payment Method:

- Check Enclosed (\$1,000) Please charge my credit card \$1,000 for one Brigade participant.

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ **CVV:** _____

Expiration Date: _____ **Billing Zip Code:** _____

Authorizing Signature: _____

***Return to MedWish Medworks / 1625 E. 31st St./ Cleveland, OH 44114
Before Tuesday, March 16th to secure your spot!***