

**A deeper sense of calling,
a deeper form of service
among the least, the last and the lost.**
Transformational Service and Learning opportunities
With Juventud Empoderada para la Transformación (JET)
in the Dominican Republic.

2024-25



**Join our transformational network for
Service with and among, learning through reflection & discernment**



Join grass-roots community leaders serving in vulnerable communities with youth, children, family, justice, community transformation, media outreach, and other similar areas. Develop a vision and calling for a life-time of incarnational work among and with marginalized and at-risk populations.

JET provides opportunities for personal and professional learning and growth through service, mentoring, study, and community engagement. Seek to better know yourself and your own history, as well as getting to know the people and communities with which you will serve, and thereby refining your discernment skills and perspectives in a way that empowers you and others.

Come to the island of Hispaniola, home to the countries of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and engage in service and learning as part of a transformational network. You will see and experience what God is doing through these amazing people in these amazing places. This program will allow you to:

- Serve along-side ministry peers and mentors among the least, the last, and the lost.
- Learn about social and cultural issues in the places of vulnerability.
- Practice how to sustain, support and help each other as a cohort group.
- Grow through spiritual formation.
- Engage in theological reflection with your peers and mentors.
- Team up with young leaders and experienced men and women who serve among high risk populations in hard places.

Transformational Service and Learning (TSL) is a program of JET in the Dominican Republic along with our partners on the field. We place volunteers and interns in missional communities of grassroots leaders who serve high-risk populations in hard places, as part of an international cohort.

Placement can be done any time, although the beginning of academic semesters is the preferred starting time. Sufficient time is needed to permit a complete service and learning experience including the orientation process, cultural adjustments, and language learning. Also consideration needs to be given to preparing for, training for, and scheduling fund raising.

The time commitment for most volunteer positions is from one week to a month, while the cohort of missionaries requires a full year commitment, with options for renewing for a longer period, as well as to transition into a more permanent position.

Volunteers will plug into JET's transformational network, joining a cohort of international missionaries like themselves. They will serve in local missional communities in supportive roles while living and working together with national peers. The main elements are:

- a) Service: volunteers are placed in positions for service appropriate to their gifts and experience.
- b) Cross-cultural learning.
- c) Incarnational ministry: volunteers live with and accompany national peers in grassroots ministry.
- d) Mentoring, guidance, and training is offered by JET leadership.
- e) Spiritual Formation is done intentionally in a community setting, through reflection, interaction, prayer and study, and is designed to strengthen, challenge and sustain the volunteer as well as the community.
- f) Cohort formation: intentionally grouped volunteers, national leaders, and missionaries will mutually sustain each other and give testimony as a missional community.
- g) Education: For volunteers with an educational component, supervision and support for academic credit can be arranged. This includes Spanish language, cross-cultural studies, and various degrees from various academic institutions. Academic credit may be available through the educational institution of the intern/volunteer.
- h) Cultural, historical and contextual learning includes visits to sites such as the Fortaleza Ozama (note flags and bullet holes), the colonial cathedral, El Museo del Hombre Dominicano, Ingenio Nigua, etc. covering the history of conquest, colonialism, Roman Catholicism, slavery, immigration, and current international issues.
- i) Institutional support is through JET, and on-field supervision is by JET and our partners, la Iglesia Cristiana Reformada en la República Dominicana, Sinergia FLT (Christian schools and leadership development) and Resonate Global Mission.
- j) For all teams and volunteers, a tourism option may be available on a case-by-case basis for those who want to enjoy the tropical island's many natural and cultural attractions, such as a small-town beach experience, white-water rafting, mountain trekking, snorkeling, SCUBA diving, birding, etc.

Volunteer opportunities available for 2023 and 2024:



1. **Team opportunities:** we refer to these as Service And Learning Teams, or “**SALT**”.
 - a. **Length of service:** Plan on between nine and twelve days in the DR, plus five to ten hours of reading and orientation prior to departure.
 - b. **Dates:** peak season is between January and March, and summer months, depending on staff schedules.
 - c. **Purpose:** to serve and learn alongside local organizations and projects as well as other volunteers, to develop deep cross-cultural relationships, and to experience the rich hospitality, cultural heritage, and natural beauty of the Dominican Republic.
 - d. A key element of this is a three-way **partnership:** JET is the host and in charge of logistics, the local community organization such as

a church or school plans the activities and project, and your sending organization recruits, organizes, raises funds, sends the team, and handles its internal issues. Each part has its role, and the main story here is the joining of the diverse groups into one team that lives out a sustainable and just experience.

The teams will get an in-depth orientation to the broader ministry and partners, as well as developing cross-cultural friendships with local residents, and experiencing the rich hospitality of the Dominican and Haitian people. This may include visits in homes, and opportunities for youth and children’s activities such as sports and crafts. Teams will be able to appreciate the cultural and national heritage of the island with visits to historical and cultural sites, and of course, we would also include appreciation of the natural beauty (read, beaches, waterfalls, rivers, etc.)

e. Requirements:

1. Sending organization’s confirmation/ recommendation,
2. Complete the JET volunteer application process,
3. Adhere to JET’s vision, mission, values, and policies,
4. Fulfill orientation provided by JET
5. Raise sufficient funds for logistics and the assigned project donation. See detailed budget, below.
6. Home country-based international medical Insurance and evac.
7. Locations: Monte Plata, Sabana Grande, Santo Domingo and/or other areas of the Dominican Republic, depending on project assignment.

f. Three main types of teams:

- i. **Building project assignment:** teams will serve and learn alongside JET and local communities and organizations as they assist in the building of community buildings, repairing homes of under-resources residents, environmental, agricultural, and other physical work projects. Developing deep cross-cultural relationships and experiencing the rich hospitality of the Dominican Republic are key elements in the SALT experience. These teams require a level 1 project donation.
- ii. **Youth service teams** are made up of high school age participants and engage in community service, sports, music, drama, etc., working alongside and in coordination with JET and the community youth organizations. Fun and friendship are definitely on the schedule, with visits to beaches, waterfalls, etc. An additional requirement for youth teams is that the sending organization, be it a church or a school, provide an adult team leader, such as the youth pastor or a teacher, plus one adult participant for each five youth participants. These teams require a level 2 project donation.

g. Finances: Volunteers raise their own funds and/or procure funding through their sending agencies.

The budget worksheet below is for use in calculating the cost with are based on estimated per-person, per-day (p/p/d) cost in U.S. funds. Does not include passport, immunizations, US travel and food, and other personal expenses. All amounts shown are estimates since various factors may change these amounts.

Service and Learning Team Estimated Budget for 2023-24				
North American Expenses, to be handled by the sending organization:				
Per Person Costs	Price	#	Total	Comments/notes
Airfare				
Baggage fees				
Background check (18 yrs and older)				
Insurance (health & evacuation)				
Administration Fee				
Other				
Subtotal, North American costs per person				
Team total, North American costs	P/p subtotal:	# of people	Team total	

In-Country expenses, to be sent to JET	Per person per day	# of days	Total per person	Comments/notes:
Food/accommodation/transportation/supervision & administration	Between \$60 and \$70			Depending on the exact assignment.
Project Cost: level 1	\$65			
Project cost: level 2	\$35			
Subtotal, in-country expenses per per-person				
Team total payable to JET:	P/p subtotal	# of people	Team total	

2. Individual opportunities, Position descriptions (couples and families may apply):

- a. **Community service volunteers:** designed to allow the participant to explore service opportunities within the community, depending on the volunteer's gifts and leading. The focus is to serve "with" the community (as opposed to doing things "for" or "to" the community). Assignments include joining existing community projects and institutions, taking innovative approaches to sustainable and just practices, and serving in a wide variety of specialties such as:



- i. Community health: work with grass-roots and government medical agencies in the needy areas of the city and countryside. Any degree of expertise is accepted as long as there is a willingness to serve. ★ ★
- ii. Small business development: come along-side entrepreneurs to assist in making a business plan, improve accounting practices, and promote sustainable development. ★
- iii. Microcredit and community savings groups: learn, practice, and train in the context of an existing program in marginal communities. ★
- iv. Peace-making and reconciliation within the context of the Haitian immigrant community in the DR. ★
- v. English as a Second

Language and English tutoring classes. ★

- vi. Environmental projects: recycling projects, disaster preparedness and mitigation, soil conservation, organic agriculture, environmental education, etc. ★ ★
- vii. Incarnational ministry among at-risk youth, families, and communities: participate with churches in marginal communities to develop a missional approach with their communities. ★
- viii. Family and marriage counseling: participate with churches and community groups to develop appropriate structures, training for leaders, and restorative practices, in a sustainable way. ★
- ix. Building projects such as disaster repairs, community centers, etc. ★ ★ ★ or ★ ★ ★ ★

Requirements: (in addition to the general requirements, below)

- i. Appropriate professional and service experience and training,
- ii. most placements require significant Spanish language ability; Haitian Creole is also helpful.
- iii. Program funds, depending on placement(see budget);
- iv. Location: Monte Plata, Santo Domingo, Sabana Grande, etc.
- v. Length of Service: most positions, minimum one month, preferred, 6 months to one year.
- vi. Number of positions: 1-3
- vii. Dates: open, depending on field availability.

- b. **Communications and Media Volunteer:** assist in the development of digital media materials for promotion, training, and fund-raising, and improve the technology capacity of the organization.

Requirements: (see general requirements, below)

- i. experience and training with audio/visual technology
- ii. intermediate Spanish,
- iii. some project funds(see budget, ★ ★);
- iv. personal video and audio equipment.
- v. Location: Monte Plata
- vi. Preferred length of Service: 3 to 6 months minimum.
- vii. Number of positions: 1
- viii. Dates: open, depending on field availability.

- c. **Children/Adolescent ministry consultant** to serve along-side national community and school leaders in a collaborative role, develop education and outreach materials and ministry among children and adolescents in marginal areas.



Requirements: (see general requirements, below)

- i. Children/adolescent work experience,
- ii. significant Spanish,
- iii. some program funds(see budget, ★ or ★★);
- iv. Location: Monte Plata or Sabana Grande.
- v. Length of Service: 1 to 9 months.
- vi. Number of positions: 1
- vii. Dates: open, depending on field availability.

d. **School volunteer:** a widely variable position able to be adjusted to the gifts and talents of the applicant. It can be specialized in areas such as curriculum development, teacher training, school administration, advancement, or specialty classes such as arts and music, or can be more general such as classroom assistant, English tutoring, or

general school improvement. A key element is working closely with national school personnel in the local context, learning as well as contributing.

Requirements: (see general requirements, below)

- i. education degree or in-progress, some teaching experience preferred,
- ii. significant Spanish preferred,
- iii. some program funds(see budget, ★);
- iv. Location: Monte Plata or Sabana Grande.
- v. Length of Service: 4 to 10 months minimum.
- vi. Number of positions: 1
- vii. Dates: corresponding with school year (Aug. – June).

- e. **Service and Learning Team (SALT) Assistant:** to assist with hosting teams, including a variety of projects in various parts of the country. Includes working closely with local workers and Service and Learning Teams, under supervision of the SALT/Volunteer Coordinator.

Requirements: (see general requirements, below)

- i. construction experience,
- ii. minimal Spanish,
- iii. some project funds(see budget, ★ or ★★);
- iv. Location: Monte Plata, Sabana Grande, Santo Domingo, etc.
- v. Length of Service: one to three months.
- vi. Number of positions: 1
- vii. Dates: January through April.

Individual and family finances: Volunteers raise their own funds and/or procure funding through their sending agencies.

The budget worksheet below is for use in calculating the cost with are based on estimated per-person, per-day (p/p/d) cost in U.S. funds. Does not include passport, immunizations, US travel and food, and other personal expenses. All amounts shown are estimates since various factors may change these amounts.

In-Country Budget Estimates in US\$ for individual/ volunteer positions	A. Single (p/p/d)	B. Couple (p/p/d)	C. Family (1-3 children, p/p/d)	Comments/notes
1. Logistics (housing, food, transportation, communication, administration) Approximate over-all per-person, per-day rate in-country,	a. \$50 b. \$60	a. \$40 b. \$40	a. not available b. \$30	These costs are paid to JET.

a. with local host family b. Hotel or institutional housing:				
2. Additional costs: orientation, language, other training per day	\$25	\$35	\$50	Payable to JET
3. Children's School			Variable	Payable by volunteer
4. Personal expenses	\$10	\$15	\$30	Payable by volunteer
5. Insurance(health, life):	check with insurance options			Payable by volunteer
9. Tourist Visa	\$10 each initial visa, included in ticket. monthly extensions estimated: \$50 after the first 30 days in-country; \$50 subsequent months			Payable by volunteer
7. Program Funds - see position description for the # of ★ One-time contribution: ★★★★ is for a larger project donation	(★) \$300 (★★) \$500 (★★★) \$2,000 - \$5,000 (★★★★) \$12,000 - \$18,000			Payable to JET
TOTALS monthly in-country costs (there are very general estimates)	\$1,900 - \$3,200.	\$2,600 - \$4,200	\$5,000 - \$7,500	

3. General Requirements for teams, individuals and families:

- complete the application process through JET's volunteer program,
- adhere to JET's vision, mission, values, and policies,
- fulfill cultural and ministry orientation as prioritized by and provided on the field,
- See detailed descriptions for each position with specific requirements in this document,
- Raise sufficient funds for the position's costs and contributing to their assigned project. See detailed budget, below.
- Individual volunteers should demonstrate some fluency in Spanish and/or Haitian Creole, depending on assignment; additional language learning can done on the field as needed,
- Unless otherwise indicated, all the positions are JET volunteer positions.
- Locations: Monte Plata, Sabana Grande, and/or Santo Domingo unless otherwise indicated.
- Length of service: as indicated, although some positions can be extended. One year limit (renewable pending evaluation).



2. Conduct:

- A strong commitment to sustainable and just principles and practices, and an openness to learn and grow must be demonstrated.
 - Participation in the ministry team and transformational network meetings, and the appropriate partner ministry meetings.
 - For those serving with a ministry associated with a partner church, attendance and participation with the congregation is expected.
 - Cultural sensitivity and high moral standards are expected in areas of public testimony and personal conduct.
3. **Supervision** and mentoring is provided by JET's leadership and/or partner personnel, as assigned. For individual volunteers, a schedule of supervisory events include:
- weekly meetings during the first month, less frequent as needed after.
 - monthly ministry and financial reports to be submitted.

- c. Pastoral and personal counseling is available with volunteers on an on-going basis.
 - d. Even though participants will be connected to cohort groups, mentors, and national peers, they need to be able to go about their day to day activities without constant, direct supervision.
4. The **physical demands** described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. Living in a tropical, developing country with a unique cultural, social, spiritual, economic, and other conditions. Some travel by road through rough terrain and difficult conditions may be required. There is limited access to medical facilities; there may be requirements for vaccination against certain diseases.

7. Contacts:

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Volunteer coordinator:

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