



International Student Volunteers, Inc
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UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VOLUNTEER IN THE CARIBBEAN

University of Idaho students feel their world shake when disaster hits Haiti

On December 29, 2009, International Student Volunteers sent a group of 12 University of Idaho students and 3 UI staff members to the Dominican Republic to participate in a humanitarian project in a setting of cultural education and immersion. The group volunteered in the San Cristobal region at the Rancho Campeche Ecological and Sustainable Development Project.

Over the course of three weeks, the team was able to experience a great deal of the DR, while contributing an enormous amount of support to the Rancho Campeche community, including:



- The renovation of four homes, installing floors, roofs, new windows and walls
- Improving community facilities through the extension of a basketball court, construction of park benches and assisting with trash cleanups
- Organizing and running a children's camp, complete with Olympics Day and Carnival
- Participation in Dominican-led group discussions to enhance understanding of the political and economic struggles of the area, and to better understand the rich culture of the country

On January 12, 2010, the group had the poignant experience of witnessing first-hand how deeply a developing nation can be affected in a crisis when the neighboring sister nation of Haiti was hit with a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that has left over one million people without food, water, shelter, and communication. Together with the Rancho Campeche community, the UI group rallied with prayers and donations to assist in the effort for Haiti. Back at ISV's home base in California, a fund was created to raise additional monies to send directly to the Red Cross efforts in Haiti which to date is over \$13,200!

International Student Volunteers is a US based non-profit organization that annually sends over 4,000 volunteers to 6 continents in programs that combine conservation and community development work with cultural adventure tours. **ISV** provides university professors with the opportunity to travel with a group of students on customized volunteer programs that are specifically tailored to suit the needs of the group.

For further details about ISV Programs, visit www.isvonline.org. If you would like to volunteer with ISV through a customized group program, please email info@isvonline.org or call 714 779 7392.

"A lot of people can build houses and give to their community, but few understand the growth that occurs when you give to a community like Limon. Listen, give and learn. New motivation" – **Mitchell Odom, University of Idaho**

