

Los Toros June 2025



Los Toros girls' volleyball team wearing St. Joseph School jerseys.



Helping out with a walker donated by a St. Joseph Parish member.





Meeting with scholarship students and parents.

## **A Personal Experience of the Los Toros June Mission Trip**

**by Lori Koziczowski**

It was a very busy, inspiring, and productive trip!

On our first 2 days after arriving in Santo Domingo we visited the two apartments of our scholarship (beca) students: Casa San Jose and Casa Mariposa. We chatted with them and listened to their needs. We replaced a broken fan at Casa San Jose (there is no air conditioning) and saw the completed repairs to the kitchen. The young women at Casa Mariposa mentioned that their blender and air fryer had broken, and we soon sent replacements.

The next day we visited The National School for Deaf Children in Santo Domingo. We were with them for the flag raising at the start of the school day and welcomed all 403 children from K3 through high school. We then met with the director of the school.

After a two and a half hour bus ride, we arrived in Los Toros and were welcomed by our host families. The next seven days were filled with activities.

We sorted and distributed the items St. Joseph Parish members had donated. The much-needed over-the-counter medications went to the medical and dental clinics and to the prenatal health promotores. The sheets and towels were given to the expecting mothers during home visits. The toothbrush packets went to the dental clinic.

We gave the coaches the sporting goods we sent in the shipment in March.

We met with new scholarship students and followed up with current students. We met with the four tutors who give after school help to public school students.

At Sunday Mass we presented the crucifix donated by St. Joseph's Parish for their parish church's altar.

We met with teachers from the school for deaf children in nearby Azua for a progress report on a boy in Los Toros who we are sponsoring.

We spent one afternoon in nearby Sajanoa which the people of Los Toros have taken as a mission. We met with the staff of the clinic and the prenatal health promoters. We gave them over-the-counter meds, a glucose monitor, and a blood pressure monitor. We saw homes where improvements, such as cement floors, were done or in process. We visited families' homes where very ill or elderly people were being cared for. We saw the very rough baseball field and met the volunteer coach.

On Wednesday, we hosted a pizza party for our host families and committee members. They sang Happy Birthday to me and shared cake. On Thursday, my birthday, I received a blessing from Deacon Deseado at the Communion Service. Then we all had dinner with my host family and more fun for my birthday. It was very special!

I always leave a piece of my heart in Los Toros. Thank you to all my family and friends in Los Toros, especially my host family, Bimbo and Rosita. Thank you to my family, friends, and parish members. Without your generous support, we couldn't do the things we do in Los Toros!

**For more information about the Los Toros Mission in the Dominican Republic, visit the *Los Toros Foundation* Facebook page and our website, [lostorosfoundation.org](http://lostorosfoundation.org).**