



All Things Ignatian



Physical Therapy in the DR: Men and Women for and With Others

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The Department of Physical Therapy (PT) at Creighton University has been working for and with others in the Dominican Republic since the inception of the PT program. Since 1995, PT students have had the option of completing 4 weeks of clinical education as a part of Creighton's ILAC (Institute for Latin American Concern) program. While being supervised by U.S. licensed PTs, the students work in various clinical sites providing physical therapy services and education for pediatrics to geriatrics. For many students, this experience is a highlight of their Creighton experience and a culmination of their Jesuit education.



For & with...the underserved

Students provide PT services in a variety of settings. Here the professional skills and knowledge of the PT student are shared with orphaned children at Angeles de CONANI. Equipment is modified to allow children with disabilities to better interact with their environment and each other. Children at Batey Libertad are provided deparasite medication to allow for better nutrition and quality of life.



For & with...Dominican PTs

Students work along side Dominican physical therapists in the Patronato rehabilitation system. While caring for adult and pediatric patients, Dominican therapists share insights into the challenges of their health care system. Creighton students share treatment strategies and techniques. Together physical therapy practice and services to patients are improved. In addition, Creighton professionals and students provide interactive continuing education at the local University's PT program (Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre Maestra (PUCMM)).



For & with...communities

The group provides an interactive education session with the health promoters in the *campo*, rural DR. Basic physical therapy information regarding injury prevention and exercise are presented to these community leaders. A pro bono clinic is open to all members of the community. Donated equipment - walkers, canes, braces, wheelchairs – are distributed to those in need. PT service is provided to increase mobility, minimize pain, and improve function and quality of life. Exercise programs are provided in Spanish.



For & with...current Creighton students

The experience in the DR promotes personal and professional growth for all participants. In small and large groups, individuals reflect upon the challenges and opportunities of each day. *Magis* - finding God in all things – can be difficult or easy depending upon the days events. Students explore the Ignatian values instilled in them throughout the month in the DR.



For & with...alumni and professionals

Each year former students return to the DR with the program to serve as clinical instructors. As professionals, the Creighton alumni continue to serve the Creighton students, the people of the Dominican Republic and each other. The program allows them to remain connected to Creighton, the Dominican rehabilitation team, and the hospitable people of the DR.

