



## **FAQ SHEET : Santiago, Dominican Republic October 11-17, 2017**

### **1. What are the dates of the Returning Hearts Celebration that will be in the Dominican Republic?**

October 11-17, 2017

### **2. The name of the prison that Returning Hearts will be held**

Rafey Men's Prison  
Santiago, Dominican Republic

### **3. What is the cost of this mission trip?**

\$900 (includes \$100 non-refundable deposit, lodging, land transportation, and meals) plus travel expenses to the Dominican Republic. The estimated cost of the trip is \$2,000.00 which includes your airfare.

### **4. Do I book my own travel?**

You will need to book your own travel to Santiago Dominican Republic (STI)

Note: Please allow at least a three-hour window between your arrival flight to Miami and the departure flight to Santiago, Dominican Republic. Please arrive in Santiago, Dominican Republic before 10:00 pm

You will be sent specific travel instructions after your registration is processed.

We will be staying at the Hotel Century Plaza (<http://www.hotelcenturyplaza.com>). Reservations will be made for you.

### **5. How many volunteers will be coming from the States?**

We have space for 20 volunteers from the States. There will also be Dominican volunteers.

### **6. Do I need to speak Spanish?**

No, Spanish is not a requirement. The Project Mañana staff is fluent in English and Spanish and will translate as needed.

### **7. Do I need a passport?**

Yes, passports are required to travel to the Dominican Republic.

If you do not have a passport, please apply for one as soon as possible. You can pick up an application at your local post office. Allow 6-8 weeks for your passport to arrive.

Be sure to check your passport expiration date.

## **8. Do I need a Visa?**

No Visa is required; HOWEVER you will also need to purchase a Tourist Card when entering the Dominican Republic. The cost of the card is \$10.00 (cash only). It is good for 30 days and is valid for entry and exit into the country.

## **9. What shots will I need to enter the Dominican Republic?**

It is recommended that your Tetanus/Diphtheria vaccination is up to date. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) also recommends the following: Hepatitis A&B, Typhoid, Malaria RX and Traveler's Diarrhea RX.

## **10. Can I bring my cell phone?**

Yes. Most U.S. phones will work in the Dominican Republic; however, international roaming charges will apply from your carrier.

You will not be allowed to bring your cell phone into the prison.

## **11. What will I be doing at the Returning Hearts Celebration?**

There are a variety of activities that volunteers will be assisting in to help make the event run smoothly and be fun for everyone.

You will be assigned an area to serve in at the event. Get ready to have some fun!

## **12. Why do I need a background screen?**

As part of the Awana Child Protection Policy background screens are required to be a volunteer with Awana Lifeline.

## **13. What will be doing while we are in the Dominican Republic?**

Check out the agenda at [awanalifeline.org](http://awanalifeline.org).

## **14. Will there be additional information provided?**

Upon registering for the Returning Hearts Celebration you will receive a short-term trip guide from Project Mañana and a Returning Heart Celebration Volunteer Guide. Both of these guides will have valuable information in them and you should read them several times prior to the trip.

If you have additional questions after you have read both guides please contact Jennifer Smith at [jennifers@awana.org](mailto:jennifers@awana.org) or 630-540-4668 or Dan Bostrom at [danielb@awana.org](mailto:danielb@awana.org) or 630-540-4678.

*NOTE: Not all information about the Dominican Republic Returning Hearts is addressed in the FAQs.*

