



CRWRC

Living Justice, Loving Mercy

Special Points of Interest:

- 2% of the population in the DR is HIV positive or has AIDS.
- Those most at risk fall in the 15-24 year old age group.
- Training to promote abstinence.

Our family:

- The women's retreat Patti co-led in January had 108 participants.
- Elisabeth is in Honduras organizing her research for her masters thesis.
- Sarah found a job in her area in Madison, WI.
- David is lining up jobs for the summer and next school year.



March 2009

Embrace AIDS - Dominican Style

Community transformation takes many sizes and shapes here in the Dominican Republic and around the world. One of these shapes is community level HIV and AIDS prevention.

About two percent of the population of the country is HIV positive or has AIDS. 80% of those with HIV and AIDS are between 15 and 24 years old, clearly an at-risk population.

While government programs have had some impact in urban areas, most rural towns and villages have had little exposure to AIDS prevention education. This is especially true for communities where Haitian immigrants

are the predominant population. Government services to this population group are few or nonexistent in most cases.

CRWRC partner Desarrollo Comunitario Inc. (Community Development Inc., or DesCo) is implementing a three year program that will reach fifteen communities where Haitians live and work. It wants to create a groundswell movement in

participating communities for sexual abstinence until marriage. Increased knowledge about HIV and AIDS, and consciousness-raising among young people, parents and church/community leaders, will help create an environment that will allow teens and young adults to make a commitment to abstinence.



How the Program Works...

Five communities that have never received HIV and AIDS orientation are participating in training sessions each year. These are communities where DesCo has had development programming for some time.

Three groups are involved: parents, church/community leaders and teens. Parents and leaders have already started their training, and the teens start attending sessions this month.

Pray for success for the Embrace AIDS program, for a commitment to abstinence, and for a reduced incidence of HIV and AIDS.

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