

August 2013

International School of Minnesota (ISM) Students: Student Leaders in Service Learning and Social Innovation

ISM has been a long-time partner with ImpactLives. In June 2013, 20 students, teachers and adults traveled with ImpactLives to the Dominican Republic (DR) on an ImpactQuest trip with CEO-President Dr. Ramon Pastrano and CLO Cathy Bergland. The program, a combination of strengths-based leadership and global/cross-cultural competencies, was new to only six of the students. 13 of them had been on an ImpactQuest trip in the past, and for several students, this was their *fourth* experience in the DR. In addition to learning about and experiencing how to use their unique strengths and talents, the students dove deep into developing and integrating cross-cultural and global competencies, and explored the more common dynamics of culture: gender, time, context, individualism, power and uncertainty – both within their own culture and around the world, including the DR.

This ImpactQuest trip was five very full days of activity! The students built a house in Kilo 16, visited land for the ImpactClinic, talked with Dr. Angela Bello (who will lead the clinic), met the clinic neighbors, visited other land owned by ImpactLives, and participated in a visioning session for the land. There was a teaching session for the people of Kilo 16 on oral hygiene where the student distributed dental supplies, and they visited a local public hospital to see how donations through ImpactLives are being used.



Toward the end of the trip, the six graduating seniors participated in a “seniors panel” where they reviewed how they have used their strengths to lead. They discussed how their involvement with ImpactLives and learning about social innovation helped them with college decisions, applications and scholarships. They shared the legacy they hope to have, and gave advice to the younger students who will continue their high school years. These are amazing students – creating plans to bring service learning and social innovation concepts to their college campuses.

Thank you to ISM for being such a fantastic long-standing partner to ImpactLives. Through your service, you have helped us to live our mission of transforming communities one life at a time.

