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## Hola from Hoyo Oscuro in the Dominican Republic!



Maddie and I just returned from a mission trip with our church to this most amazing village. We met so many wonderful people, and made such special friends, both from the community, and from Food for The Hungry, the organization which sponsored our mission. Part of the mission was spent building latrines, and yes, we sawed rebar, mixed concrete (by hand), and poured concrete-a lot different than our daily routines here in the United States. We also spent each day with the community's children, doing crafts, playing games, football, Frisbee, and of course, a giant game of baseball at the end of our visit. Some of the best baseball players in the world come from DR, and I can see why. I was so proud of my daughter (and my niece Anna too), and how they interacted with the children and gave so much of themselves. It was very hard to say goodbye to our new found friends. We came home feeling so grateful for all that we have, and a little embarrassed about all that we thought we needed to be happy. The people of Hoyo Oscoro have little, but you would

never know it.

As the summer comes to an end, and with the first day of school just around the corner, I know we will likely jump back on the crazy train. However, the tiny, almost forgotten, community of Hoya Oscoro has left an enduring impression on all of us. This trip has inspired me to take more time to help those who cannot help themselves, and to raise up those that just maybe just need a little push. I promised myself that I would spend more quality time with Maddie, before she goes off to college, because she is already a Sophomore. Most importantly, I will never forget how fortunate we

are to be Americans, despite all of our strife, and challenges.



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