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Kalamazoo Rotary Club Partners with Dominican Republic-based Nonprofit

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo recently partnered with Project las Americas (PLA), a Dominican Republic (DR)-based nonprofit headed by Rotarian Robert Hildreth, to build a home for an impoverished family.

PLA has constructed over 60 such homes in the DR province of Puerto Plata. The first Rotary-backed project was completed in April 2022. A second housing project was completed in October 2022.

Two other Rotary Clubs, Delta Waverly and Evanston Lighthouse, have joined with the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo in this effort by designating funds for the project and participating in an application for a District 6360 Sandelin grant application seeking to match funds. Grant funds in the amount of \$2,500 contributed to the homes' \$10,900.98 total cost.

The majority of the labor on the homes was completed by the local Rotary Community Corps (RCC), a group of non-Rotarians who share the same commitment as Rotary Clubs to changing the world through service projects.

RCC members plan and carry out projects in their communities and support local Rotary Club projects. Sponsored at the club level, RCC leverages Rotary's network, brand, and mentorship. It also increases Rotary's impact and expands its reach by bringing the knowledge and talents of local people to strengthen their community through sustainable projects.

The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo was honored to be a partner in this project and bring shelter and stability to two families in need.

The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo is a part of the global Rotary network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in communities, and in one another. It encourages those in the community to join a local Rotary club and take part in service projects that make a positive impact on the local community and the world.

To apply to join the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo or learn more about its recent service work, visit kalamazoorotary.org.

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Editor's note: 3 images from the project with Project las Americas are attached for your use including:

- *A photo of the home's concrete foundation being assembled.*
- *A photo of a Rotarian and the Hogar family, who was the recipient of the home.*
- *A photo of the finished home in Puerta Plata.*