



## **5-Day Trip Itinerary - Puerto Rico**

### **Sample for 2020**

#### **Saturday**

12:30 PM – The group will be met at baggage claim at the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (SJU) in San Juan. Crossing Threshold staff will transport the group to the community center in Mariana. Sandwiches, drinks and snacks will be available for lunch during the ride. It is approximately a one hour drive. Optional stop at a local supermarket for personal supplies and/or forgotten items.

3:00 - 4:00 PM - Group arrives at the Center for Transformation in Mariana, a former school named Juan de Dios Lopez, unpacks and gets settled into their respective dorm rooms.

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Group meets Francisco Nieves, the Director of the “Center for Transformation” who works for ARECMA (Recreational, Educational and Communal Association of Mariana) our partner organization on the ground in Puerto Rico. The group will get a tour of the Community Center, meet the cook and staff who they will see/meet and or be working with during the week. They will also receive an overview of all the activities that are currently occurring at the Center and receive presentation of an updated itinerary for the week, including an explanation of the morning work project options and meeting schedules.

5:00 - 6:00 PM – Group meeting time.

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM – Dinner at the Center

7:00 - 8:30 PM - Formal welcome by Francisco Nieves and a member of the Board of Directors for ARECMA. Presentation will include who ARECMA is, the goals of the organization, how Crossing Thresholds and ARECMA began and are currently working together.

8:30 - 9:30 PM - General socializing followed by volunteers retiring back to the dorm rooms.



## Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

7:00 AM - Coffee available

7:30 AM – Breakfast at the Center

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM –AM work projects and activities for groups of volunteers:

1. Work at the homes of house bound seniors whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Maria. Trade professionals will work with the volunteers to install new windows, sliding glass doors, repair/replace flat roofs, as well as painting damaged rooms.
2. Visit and volunteer at a local elementary school, reading to children and/or building a new “courtyard” playground.

1:00 PM – Lunch at the Center

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Volunteers return to complete AM work projects or optional afternoon activities:

1. Visit to a local artisan market.
2. Trip to the beach.
3. Work at and around the Center on maintenance projects and/or volunteer in the kitchen to help prepare various Puerto Rican dishes for dinner.

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Shower and dinner prep

6:30 PM – Dinner at the Center

7:30 PM - Evening program: ARECMA staff will offer a summary of the day’s work along with the plan for the following day, followed by a discussion session.

Tentative program topics:

**Sunday PM:** Documentary film about Puerto Rico and Hurricane Maria created by students from PACE University in NYC. There will be a discussion about the history of Puerto Rico.

**Monday PM:** The principal and a classroom teacher from a local elementary school will be present to discuss the current state of public education on the island.

**Tuesday PM:** Community members and ARECMA Board Members leaders recall their experiences during the hurricane, how it has impacted their lives and community and how they are preparing for the next natural disaster.

**Wednesday PM:** Final dinner and trip celebration event.

9:00 PM – Retire to dorm rooms.



## Wednesday

7:00 AM - Coffee available

8:00 AM – Breakfast at the Center

9:00 AM - Final meeting and good byes. ARECMA staff will be present to say good bye, thank volunteers for coming and encouraging them to continue to their support of the projects that are occurring at the Center for Transformation and in the community.

9:30 AM - Pack, load into van and depart for the airport.

11:00 AM - Arrive SJU airport & check-in

1:00 PM Depart to home airport or continue your stay in Puerto Rico.