



RUTGERS BONNER LEADER ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

2018

Puerto Rico: San Juan, Barranquitas,
Aibonito

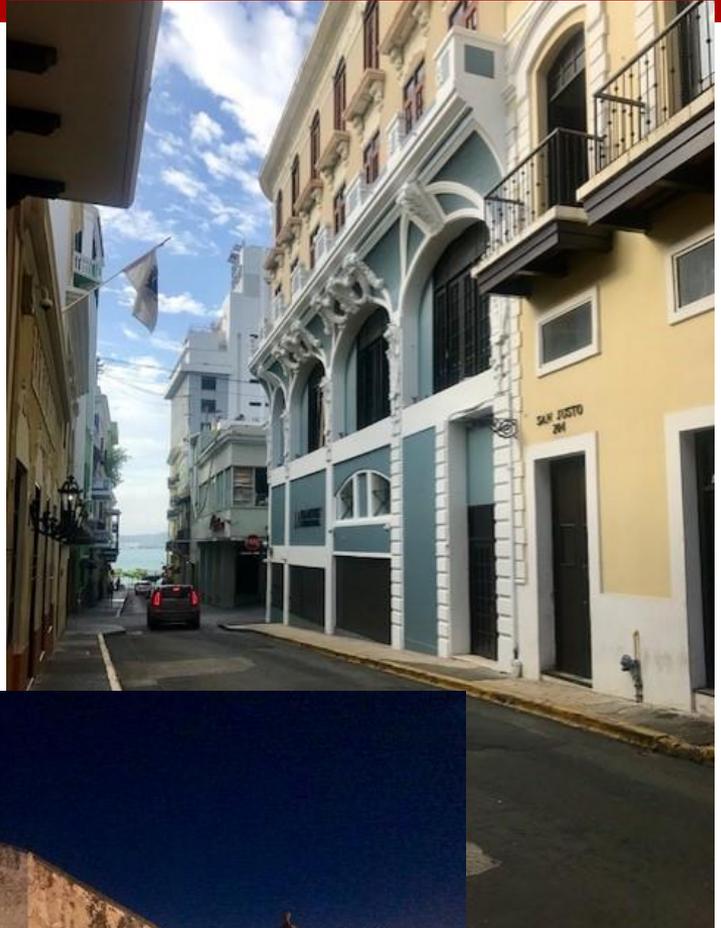
RUTGERS

Collaborative Center for
Community-Based Research
and Service

Alternative Spring Break Trip

- Two Staff Members– Claudio Mir, Amy Michael
- A group of 4 First-Year students from our Rutgers Bonner Leader Program
- AmeriCorps Food Security Team Leader, Ariel Marrero
- The group worked primarily in three towns-- creating new planting beds in a community garden in Rio Piedras, repairing a damaged Retreat Center in Barranquitas, and restoring homes of several families in the barrios of Aibonito.





Old San Juan– staying two days in San Juan helped us to understand the history and the disparities of the response. As a tourist area, it was quickly restored.

Agua Sol y Sereno taller El Árbol de las Palabras– Pinones, Loiza

Observing how communities heal through the arts



Huerto, Vivero y Bosque Urbano- Capetillo, Rio Piedras, San Juan



Key learnings/service

- How community garden is creating community
- Similarities to this effort to those in New Brunswick
- Creating new beds for children to plant.





La Universidad de Puerto Rico- Rio Piedras

After the Hurricane, faculty, staff and students worked together to clean up the destruction to be able to classes resume, yet many remnants are still painfully visible.



Playas Para El Pueblo, Isla Verde



Festival celebrating the work of people who are squatting on the public beach for fifteen years to protect it against development which would block access from the people.

Bonner Love with Chaunetta Jones



Discussion with Chaunetta Jones, a Bonner Alumna from Oberlin, who shared with our Bonners her work assessing needs on how to rebuild Puerto Rico's mental health system, including caring for mental health professionals who are overwhelmed.

Casa de Espiritualidad Sagrado Corazón – Barranquitas



Learning how the Sisters coped with the Hurricane and how we could repair some damage to lay the way for future service groups. This retreat center was where we stayed.







Visible signs of recovery on main roads, but still no electricity in neighborhoods



Centro PASO- Aibonito

Centro Paso has been the central agency of disaster relief in hard-hit Aibonito. Those who receive help also contribute by volunteering or donating some goods. They provide:

- Hot Lunches
- Thrift store for clothing/household items
- Afterschool tutoring programs
- Hygiene supplies

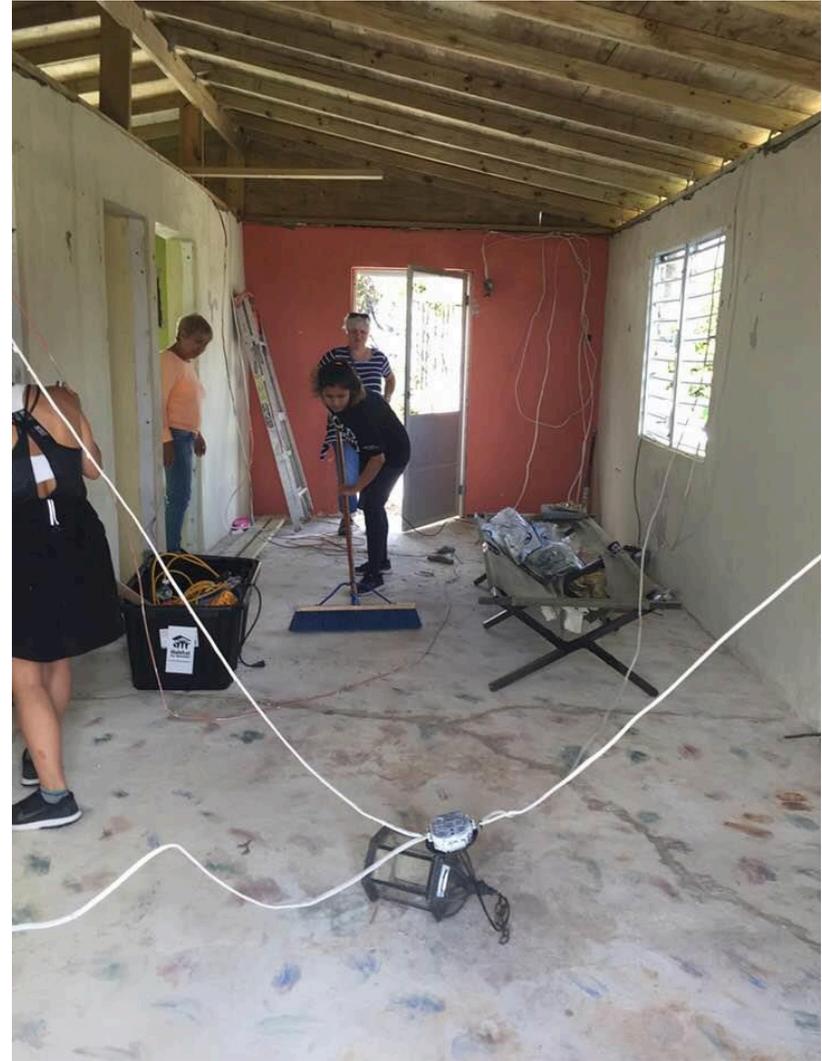






Helping individual families in the barrio of Algarrobo, Aibonito





This family is still without electricity. They were able to replace the roof of their house, but not much else.



We distributed hygiene products to families that we served. Sometimes serving meant just listening to stories of fear and survival.

Cleaning out a water damaged home in Barrio de Cuyon II





After cleaning out Onelia's badly damaged house for six hours including ripping up all of the floors, we reflected on the power of collective action, the spirit of renewal and transformation and our own interconnectedness.



Experiencing culture through food





Thank You

