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### **Narrative Description of Activities for a Ministry**

#### **Overview**

It is the mission, duty and purpose of Levanta Ministries to encourage Christ-filled relationships that will equip others with lasting solutions for their physical, spiritual, and educational needs in order to empower families in the Dominican Republic or other developing countries to rise above their current situation. Levanta Ministries will attempt to accomplish this by developing solutions in the areas of education and employment while sharing and living out the gospel of Christ. Our desire is to see lives transformed and create hope for the future.

Our vision statement is as follows: Levanta Ministries exists to encourage Christ-filled relationships that will equip others with lasting solutions for their physical, spiritual, & educational needs in order to empower families in developing countries to rise above their current situation.

Levanta Ministries is a non-profit corporation and shall operate exclusively for religious, educational and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.

Having lived and served as missionaries in the Dominican Republic for more than seven years, we, the founders (Douglas R. and Margaret D. Beck) of Levanta Ministries have seen first-hand the needs of those living in material poverty. During these seven years, we have been approached by Dominicans who have asked us for help. Many of those seeking assistance ask for opportunities and not just a simple hand-out. Our goal is to seek out the gifts and talents of individuals in local communities and help develop opportunities for them to utilize these gifts in ways that provide long-term solutions. We also plan to minister to people living in poverty by assisting to increase education levels that would equip them to face the everyday challenges of

life and increase opportunities for them in the future. Levanta Ministries will provide spiritual assistance as well, as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

This mission will be carried out primarily on the north coast of the Dominican Republic in and around the town of Montellano, although the concepts are transferrable to other parts of the country or other countries. As of this writing, Levanta Ministries operates only in the Dominican Republic.

We hope to accomplish this mission through our various programs which are detailed below:

### **Education Program**

Levanta Ministries will seek to increase education levels for Dominicans of all ages: young children, adolescents and adults. The Education Program will further our exempt purpose by providing opportunities for individuals with limited opportunities to learn and expand their knowledge which could lead to a brighter future. The Education Program will be funded by donations given to the corporation from individuals, churches or other entities for purposes such as this. The Education Program will also be partially funded by sales from the Trade Program (detailed below), depending on the amount of sales. Ways we hope to accomplish the goals of our Education Program are, but not limited to, offering scholarships, providing facilities for university courses, conducting a Reading Program, providing assistance in English acquisition, offering life-skills classes and tutoring.

- We will use funds of the corporation to offer scholarships for further educational opportunities for participants in our program as well as others in the community. This might include grade school, middle school, high school, foreign language school, trade school or higher education opportunities. Participants will attend the aforementioned schools on a daily or weekly basis in keeping with the particular schedule of each school. Those who receive scholarships will be required to participate in our Ministry Program, although they need not share the same faith in Christ as Levanta Ministries. They will also be given opportunities and encouragement to serve and give back to their communities in various ways.
- In our ministry house, we will host courses taught by experienced instructors from local universities that will enable many local residents to attend. They will be conducted on a daily or weekly basis in keeping with the particular schedule of each course. Once participants complete the course, they will be given a certificate from the university which can dramatically increase their chances of finding employment. These courses will be offered free of charge to the participants or at a heavily discounted rate. Participants will be invited to be a part of our Ministry Program but will not be required to do so.
- We will undertake a Reading Program for younger children in our community hosted at our ministry house by employees of Levanta Ministries. We will maintain a library of books that will be available to children in our community. We will have dedicated times, on a weekly basis, where children can come and read and/or be read to, thereby

increasing their reading capabilities. This program will be co-led and assisted by volunteer adolescents in our community.

- We will offer an “English Activities” Program hosted by employees of Levanta Ministries at our ministry house that will help younger children learn the basics of English. This will be carried out on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Our hope is to create interest and a desire to learn more as they grow which could provide more opportunities for them in the future.
- Douglas R. and Margaret D. Beck, as well as potentially other volunteers, will teach English Conversation classes at a local school to students in middle school and/or high school. These classes are intended to increase English-speaking abilities of students who can use this knowledge to improve their chances of employment in the future. Our assistance will be given without compensation from the local school.
- Educational seminars may be given in our ministry house to provide life skills to participants, covering topics relevant to our listeners. Some examples of these might include “managing your money”, “how to have a healthy marriage”, “tips on raising children” etc. These trainings may be given by officers or board members of the corporation, local pastors, laypeople or community members, or volunteers from the U.S or other countries. These educational opportunities would be given free of charge to our participants and would be conducted at various times throughout the year.
- Tutoring services may be offered in various subjects for students and adults in our area, ranging from assistance in English acquisition to helping students with school subjects in which they are struggling. These services will be offered free of charge to any participants, would be offered at our ministry house and would be conducted on an as-needed basis throughout the year by staff of Levanta Ministries.

The percentage of time allocated to our Education Program will be substantial, as activities in this program may take place daily, or certainly weekly, and it includes several staff members or volunteers ministering to several persons or groups of people on a regular basis.

## **Ministry Program**

As Bible-believing Christians, we believe God has called us to share His truth with the world, to give others the opportunity to hear the gospel, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. As such, Levanta Ministries will create a Ministry program based on Christian values and Biblical principles so that we can have a deeper impact within the lives of our participants as well as those in the surrounding communities. The Ministry Program furthers our exempt purpose by providing spiritual guidance and inviting people to be followers of Christ. The Ministry Program will be funded by donations given to the corporation from individuals, churches or other entities for purposes such as this. The Ministry Program will also be partially funded by sales from the Trade Program (detailed below), depending on the amount of sales. Some of the ways that we hope to accomplish the mission of this Ministry program are listed below:

- Bible studies led by Levanta Ministries employees will focus on giving people the opportunity to learn about Jesus, to grow in their relationship with God, to better understand the Bible, to share His love with others and to impact their families and communities in positive ways. Participants in our Bible Studies will include those receiving educational scholarships, volunteers in our Reading Program (both detailed below under Education Program), participants in our Trade Program or Temporary Employment Program (detailed below under Employment Program) and other members of our community that are interested in spiritual growth. These Bible studies will be conducted on a weekly basis.
- One-on-one mentoring will be provided by Dominicans that are employed by Levanta Ministries. Those mentoring will be people of known Godly character who have a desire to help others. Participants in our mentoring program will include those receiving educational scholarships, volunteers in our Reading Program (both detailed below under Education Program), participants in our Trade Program or Temporary Employment Program (detailed below under Employment Program) and other members of our community that are interested in spiritual growth. Mentoring will be conducted on an ongoing weekly or bi-weekly basis.
- Community involvement will consist of building relationships with those in our vicinity and learning of and responding to needs as they arise. This could involve assisting with the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of community members if it is deemed necessary and beneficial on a case-by-case basis throughout the year.

The percentage of time allocated to our Ministry Program will be substantial, as activities in this program may take place among several different groups of people at various times throughout the week on a weekly basis.

## **Employment Program**

One of the goals of Levanta Ministries is to help Dominicans find employment, or develop employment opportunities, so that they can provide for themselves and their families. The Employment Program will further our exempt purpose by providing, developing, or assisting to find opportunities for individuals living in material poverty to work and earn a fair wage. The Employment Program will be funded by donations given to the corporation from individuals, churches or other entities for purposes such as this. Depending on the amount of sales, the Employment Program will also be partially funded by sales from the Trade Program (detailed below).

- We will seek to operate a Trade Program. Our goal is to provide the opportunity, skills, education and training for those in our program to make various goods that can be sold around the world. These goods will be created and made by local residents in our ministry house or at a place that we provide. After production, the goods will be sold anywhere in which there is a market for them, be it online, in brick-and-mortar

establishments, at trunk shows or pop-up shops, at church events or flea markets, or to other like-minded non-profits or for-profits. All of the proceeds from these sales would go directly towards investing back into all of our programs.

Participants in the Trade Program will be required to participate in our Ministry program, although they need not share the same faith in Christ as we profess. We will provide a place of work for our participants and seek to create a work environment that is encouraging and uplifting to those in our program. Participants will be paid a fair wage, and receive benefits if possible, in keeping with standards of the Dominican Republic or in the country in which they live.

All appropriate sales taxes on goods sold, whether in the United States, Dominican Republic or any other country will be paid in keeping with the rules and regulations of that governing body in which they are sold.

The funds received through the production and sale of goods and the entirety of the corporation's activities will be used exclusively for the charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and will not be used for personal gains of any sort.

- We will also attempt to aid in increasing employment opportunities by responding to or seeking out needs in our community and temporarily employing people to meet those needs. There are many gifts and talents found within the people in our area, but many of them lack the opportunities to work for various reasons. In addition, many have needs but lack the funds to be able to sufficiently meet those needs. As opportunities arise around us, we hope to bring people who need work to those that have a need through our Temporary Employment Program. This would be carried out in our surrounding community on a case-by-case basis throughout the year.

The percentage of time allocated to our Trade Program will be minimal at first as we develop potential products, identify people who can be trained to make those products and seek out the proper marketplace for those products. Once in full operation, the allocation of time could be quite substantial as workers are trained and a market for products is secured. Participants in this program may work a few days a week on a regular basis depending on success. Time dedicated to our Temporary Employment Program will be sporadic as opportunities present themselves or as we learn of opportunities and how best we can assist.

## **Volunteer Program**

At times, per the discretion of the board of directors, we may provide internships or volunteer opportunities which will offer the chance for others to be involved in our programs in order to have a greater impact for change.

- Levanta Ministries will host individuals or groups from the U.S. or other countries who are invited to take part in our programs. These are volunteer trips to the Dominican

Republic (or in any country in which Levanta Ministries is operating) and will serve to provide hands-on help for our programs. An example of this would be a small group of seamstresses from the United States coming to help us train women to sew in our Trade Program. Volunteers will pay for all expenses incurred during their trip and will be hosted at our ministry house or any other place that we provide. If it is deemed necessary, per the discretion of the board of directors, Levanta Ministries may offer to pay partial or full compensation to individuals or groups coming on volunteer trips to cover expenditures such as airfare, room and board, transportation or other in-country expenses.

- Levanta Ministries may offer opportunities for internships for individuals who are invited to participate in this way. These are voluntary internships, hosted in the Dominican Republic (or in any country in which Levanta Ministries is operating) and conducted in a time frame agreed upon by both parties. Volunteer interns will pay for all expenses incurred during their stay and will be hosted at our ministry house or any other place that we provide. If it is deemed necessary, per the discretion of the board of directors, Levanta Ministries may offer to pay partial or full compensation to individuals or groups coming on internships to cover expenditures such as airfare, room and board, transportation or other in-country expenses.
- Any funds received through these volunteer opportunities and the entirety of the corporation's activities will be used exclusively for the charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and will not be used for personal gains of any sort.

The percentage of time allocated to our Volunteer Program will most likely be minimal. We do not anticipate specifically seeking out many volunteers outside of the Dominican Republic, as we will hire local staff to do the bulk of the work.

### **A Final Word on Our Programs**

We at Levanta Ministries sincerely believe that our programs will serve people well in the Dominican Republic, and other countries as well, and will provide opportunities that did not exist before, therefore changing lives in the process. We have many examples of Dominican friends we have met that once were in difficult circumstances and suffering in material poverty. But given opportunity, many of them have risen above those situations, are integral parts of their communities, workplaces, families and churches, and are now serving and giving back to their own people who are experiencing similar situations that they experienced. It is the hope of Levanta Ministries that participants in our programs can and will do the same.

### **Distribution to Other Organizations and Individuals**

We do not fundraise for any specific organization and Levanta Ministries is not organized solely to contribute or fundraise for any specific entity. However, at the discretion of the board of

directors we may, at times, choose to contribute to other organizations or individuals who share a similar mission and only if the contributions further our exempt status, with the objective to spread the gospel of Christ and/or contribute towards poverty alleviation and helping those in need in the developing world.

One example of an organization which we may contribute to is “Makarios”. “Makarios” (EIN 73-1699005) is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that works to see communities serve Jesus Christ while working to end generational poverty.

Levanta Ministries may exercise its right under law to contribute to non 501 (c)(3) organizations only on the condition that Levanta Ministries retains control over the use of the funds and maintains records showing that the funds are used for exclusively charitable purposes in accordance to our mission.