

# My Adventures in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

by Michelle Smetana

From June 15 to June 29, 2019, I traveled with All Hands and Hearts - Smart Response to help with debris removal, mold sanitation and roof repairs in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.



Even when my shower was a garden hose, I still felt lucky because so many houses didn't have water. There were days I couldn't distinguish my sweat from my tears. It was definitely hard.



This trip drastically changed my outlook on the world. Now, I understand how well off we have it. All Hands and Hearts is an outstanding program that more students and colleges should look into supporting.



I am an undergraduate student in my sophomore year at SUNY Broome in Binghamton, NY in the Liberal Arts program.



I don't speak Spanish, but I didn't need to. Gratitude, thankfulness and love know no language. The experience of being able to help this ravaged area was life-changing for me as well as for the people I could help.

