University student participating in a New York State and SUNY affiliated service learning trip which helped with recovery and rebuilding in Puerto Rico. Non-profit organization, NECHAMA, hosted students for 2 weeks from June 16th - 29th in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The program required long hours of physically demanding work in a hot, humid climate. Communication was another challenge for those who only spoke English, since the language and culture was different.

**Suggestions**

- Students should research the destination and previous experiences and speak to previous volunteers beforehand.
- An interviewing process should be included to learn more about the volunteers beforehand.
- More group activities apart from working to promote bonding.

**Take-Aways**

Some of the benefits included creating bonds and meeting new people, being immersed in a vibrant culture, and having personal, as well as professional growth from the learning being done, while also making a positive impact.