

DREAM PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



DREAM project

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EDUCATION AND MENTORING



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



OUR DREAM

All children and youth in the Dominican Republic have equal opportunities to learn and realize their full potential through transformative education programs that combat the effects of poverty.

We believe that learning changes lives. Our programs extend from early childhood through young adulthood, empowering at-risk children and youth to create a better future for themselves and their families through high quality education, youth development, and community enrichment.

We ensure successful results through careful analysis, a commitment to learning, and continuous improvement. Our innovative approach effectively addresses local needs and can be replicated throughout high poverty global communities.

**DREAM partners include but are not limited to RC22 Foundation, Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, Hogar del Niño, Peace Corps Dominican Republic and JetBlue.*



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Research shows that the first years of life are the ideal time to invest in a child's education and development, leading to greater achievement in primary school and beyond. We believe that starting early provides the best educational foundation for a lifetime of learning.

QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION

Effective primary education programs generate a love for learning among students, motivating them to stay in school and achieve better academic results. We work with children and youth who need additional classroom support, using innovative techniques to help them gain new knowledge and excitement for learning.

HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Adolescence is a critical developmental stage where support and mentoring make a difference in determining one's life path. Programs focused on life skills, healthy decision-making, job training, and cultural enrichment are proven to help youth grow and succeed in their personal and professional life.



IMPACT!

The DREAM Project

The DREAM Project provides more than 670,000 hours of quality education to more than 7,000 children through 14 different programs across 27 communities in the Dominican Republic.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Birth Registration

Parent Education

Montessori Classrooms

In the Dominican Republic, nearly 1 in 5 children under age 5 do not have a birth certificate. The **LUCEROS documentation program** helps families ensure that a lack of legal documentation does not close the doors to a better future for their children.

The first few years of a child's life provide incredible potential for brain development, yet many children enter school without key skills. The **School for Parents** teaches parents evidence-based child development strategies, fostering active parent involvement and ensuring children are ready to learn from day one.

Only 32% of Dominican children attend preschool, and only 16% are from low-income families. The **Montessori Early Childhood Education program** uses proven Montessori methods to foster classroom learning, independence, and age-appropriate development through active discovery.



IMPACT!

Impact of Early Childhood Education Programs

Children develop the kinesthetic, cognitive, social-emotional and language skills necessary to become independent learners and build the foundation for success in primary school.



2015-2016 RESULTS



550

students enrolled in Montessori classrooms



7

communities reached by Montessori and Parent Education



250

documentation cases resolved to date



60

parents of toddlers learn new strategies to use with their children at home



315

house visits each year



65%

of Montessori parents attend monthly meetings



QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION

Academic Enrichment and Support

Summer Camps

Libraries and Literacy Programs

Teacher Training

Nearly half of all students in the Dominican Republic do not move past eighth grade. The **Young Stars program** complements and strengthens the education received in public schools, providing extra hours and individualized attention to students in reading, math, and other subjects.

Research shows that low-income students lose more than two months of reading gains over the summer. The **summer schools and camps** target students who are most at-risk of dropping out, increasing their potential to graduate from primary school and become lifelong learners.

Many Dominican communities do not have access to the books or libraries necessary for children to learn to read. Our **community libraries** host literacy programs in public schools and community centers, and our **Mobile Libraries** bring books and teachers directly to communities most in need.

One of the most important factors for student learning is a qualified teacher, however many teachers do not meet basic standards to enter the profession. Our **teacher training program, Futuros**, equips current teachers and education students with the tools and strategies necessary to provide quality education in the public schools.



IMPACT!

Impact of High Quality Primary Education Programs

Children and youth develop math, literacy, and critical thinking skills through interactive, student-centered activities that facilitate a lifelong interest in learning and community engagement.



2015-2016 RESULTS



310

students enrolled in Young Stars at 6 sites



800+

students enrolled in summer camp annually



2,000

children reached through My Very Own Library Book Fairs each year



20,000

children's books distributed annually to build home libraries



25

future teachers equipped with new teaching strategies

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Job Training, Life Skills and Entrepreneurship

University Scholarships

Music Education

Many youth lack knowledge about sexual health and relationships, resulting in higher rates of unplanned pregnancy and risky sexual behavior. The **Deportes para la Vida** and **Unica** programs work with groups of youth and adolescent females using sports, games, and peer leaders to encourage healthy decision-making.

High drop-out rates and lack of key skills among youth makes access to formal employment difficult. Nearly 1/3 of Dominican youth are unemployed. The **A Ganar program** equips youth with job training, life skills, and the entrepreneurial abilities necessary to secure a job or return to school.

Less than half of college-age students enroll in university, and cost of attendance is a primary factor. In collaboration with key donors, qualified students receive full and partial **university scholarships** as well as a variety of skill-building workshops to help them succeed in their degree programs.

Although music is prominent in Dominican culture, few programs exist for students to study music and develop their creative talents. The **Music Education program** trains students in contemporary music and hosts the **iASO Bachata Academy**, supporting the development of future musicians and local talent.



IMPACT!

Impact of Holistic Youth Development Programs

Youth develop leadership and professional skills, are encouraged to make healthy decisions and be creative, and are inspired to improve their own lives and the communities in which they live.



2015-2016 RESULTS


625+

youth participated in A Ganar job training program to date


75%

A Ganar students find jobs or enroll in school after graduating from the program


1,700
participants in DPV and Unica sexual health programs in the past year


400
HIV tests given to DREAM youth, DPV coaches, and community members


19
university scholarships

YEAR IN REVIEW

6,644

children reached 2015-2016

7,415

children projected to reach
2016-2017

670,000

total hours of instruction

68

local and international staff

120

volunteers, local teachers and
part-time staff during summer
camp

15

yearlong international
volunteers

120

volunteers through
Global Connection Groups

\$272,768

value of in-kind donations

16,920

pro bono volunteer hours

Global Connections, Local Impact

DREAM believes in the power of matching committed volunteers with knowledgeable community members to create sustainable change. International and local volunteers dedicate anywhere from a few hours to a full year of service, making meaningful contributions to our communities on a daily basis. At the heart and soul of DREAM, you will find a volunteer!

Each year, DREAM opens its doors to hundreds of volunteers in a variety of programs. Long-term volunteers serve for 10-12 months or 5 weeks in our yearlong volunteer or summer camp programs. High school and university students participate in 1-2 week service-learning projects as part of our Global Connections Groups. Since 2000, these groups have worked in more than 20 public schools throughout the country, reaching more than 2,000 youth and investing thousands of dollars into the local community.

Learn more or apply online at dominicandream.org/volunteer



IN THE NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



1. Thanks to financial support from the Robinson Cano Foundation, the RC22 DREAM School in San Pedro de Macoris opened its doors for the first time. This year we welcomed 100 Montessori students to participate in a full-day program.

2. DREAM completed its second year as part of the Alerta Joven project with funding from USAID, which expanded the A Ganar, Young Stars and Deportes para la Vida programs to several new communities and has reached a total of 950 youth to date.

3. The U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo funded a creative arts for social justice and community change project with Young Stars and summer camp students. DREAM worked with New York City-based arts organizations People's Theatre Project and Groundswell to implement collaborative theater classes and a community mural.

4. In collaboration with My Very Own Library, friends and family of Anne Feeley, and Scholastic, more than 2,000 DREAM and public school students on the North Coast participated in a series of three book fairs. Each child received 10 children's books to build their own home library, resulting in 20,000 books distributed to local homes.

5. Banco Popular Dominicano entered into its second year helping finance the A Ganar program, providing financial literacy workshops to youth and DREAM staff. For the first time, Banco Popular Dominicano has also sponsored university scholarships for program graduates and helped them open savings accounts with seed money.

6. Scholastic author Ana Galán worked with DREAM students to develop a children's book unique to the Cabarete community and the Dominican Republic. With funds from the International Women's Club, thousands of books will be printed and distributed to children across the country. It is also available for purchase on DREAM's website with funds supporting our literacy programs.

7. The DREAM Montessori program in Cabarete was recognized as 1 of 4 Finalists in the "Best Center" Category for the Inter-American Development Bank and ALAS Foundation's Early Childhood Awards. DREAM was selected from among 1,200 applicants across Latin America, and was recognized at the awards ceremony in Washington DC.

8. After being honored with the Brugal Cree en su Gente Education Award, DREAM and the Brugal Foundation inaugurated a children's library inside the public school in Sabaneta de Cangrejos in Sosúa.



YO LEER
Biblioteca Fundación Brugal DREAM

Financials

Audited Fiscal Year 2014-15

Through contributions from our Executive Board and select private donors, DREAM is able to cover 100% of overhead costs, allowing all other direct contributions to go straight to programs. We are committed to transparency and invite all supporters to learn how our finances are allocated for greatest impact.

Total Expenses



Functional Expenses	Montessori Preschools	Youth Programs	Community Programs	Global Connection Groups	Total Programs	Management & General	Fundraising	2015 Total Expenses	2014 Total Expenses
Bank Fees	/	/	\$262	/	\$262	\$ 3,478	/	\$3,740	\$2,970
Brochures & Marketing	/	\$24	\$4,650	\$454	\$5,128	/	\$1,362	\$6,490	\$6,628
Community Support	/	\$248	\$87,180	/	\$87,428	/	/	\$87,428	\$85,337
Events and Trips	\$913	\$8,101	\$2,985	\$41	\$12,040	\$268	\$122	\$12,430	\$9,089
In-kind Goods	\$3,246	\$28,882	\$5,328	\$1,050	\$38,506	\$1,350	\$3,150	\$43,006	\$27,267
Insurance	\$588	\$923	\$154	/	\$1,665	\$280	/	\$1,945	\$1,351
Meals	\$10,855	\$20,160	\$2,805	51	\$33,871	\$504	\$154	\$34,529	\$29,825
Occupancy	\$1,566	\$25,039	\$4,709	/	\$31,314	\$5,382	/	\$36,696	\$40,707
Office	23	\$52	/	\$28	\$103	\$1,148	\$85	\$1,336	\$1,814
Payroll & Related	\$106,770	\$127,413	\$42,516	\$17,813	\$294,512	\$47,188	\$53,439	\$395,139	\$334,435
Phone & Internet	\$25	\$660	\$35	\$291	\$1,011	\$2,239	\$873	\$4,123	\$3,067
Postage & Shipping	/	\$36	\$6,657	\$106	\$6,799	\$396	\$317	\$7,512	\$521
Printing & Copying	\$105	\$1,333	\$5,008	\$28	\$6,474	\$1,502	\$86	\$8,062	\$1,752
Professional Fees	/	\$163	\$4,123	/	\$4,286	\$9,035	/	\$13,321	\$19,336
School Supplies	\$9,186	\$23,087	\$115,647	/	\$147,920	\$280	/	\$148,200	\$22,165
Staff Development	\$523	\$385	\$174	/	\$1,082	\$985	/	\$2,067	\$4,823
Travel & Transportation	\$4,858	\$17,843	\$10,998	\$974	\$34,673	\$2,101	\$2,924	\$39,698	\$29,781
Volunteer Stipends	/	\$12,926	\$3,796	\$107	\$16,829	\$47	\$321	\$17,197	\$42,815
Volunteer Services	\$630	\$152,410	\$6,590	\$37,273	\$196,903	\$6,054	\$11,437	\$214,394	\$294,243
Overhead Allocation	\$45,884	\$93,372	\$42,653	\$11,375	\$193,284	/	\$34,125	\$227,409	\$206,785
Depreciation	\$6,142	\$8,197	\$20,110	\$597	\$35,046	\$1,161	\$1,790	\$37,997	\$36,123
Total									
	2014-15	\$ 191,314	\$ 521,254	\$ 366,380	\$ 70,188	\$ 1,149,136	\$ 83,398	\$ 110,185	\$1,342,719
	2013-14	\$ 223,286	\$ 491,115	\$ 219,440	\$ 77,967	\$ 1,011,808	\$ 83,625	\$ 105,401	\$1,200,834

Donor List 2015-16

Our DREAMers — the hundreds of donors who give every day, ensuring we continue to educate more and more children.

\$100K AND UP

Friends & Family of Ann Feeley (My Very Own Library)
IREO Management Subsidiary LLC
The RC22 Foundation
Zaleski Family Foundation

\$75,000 to \$99,999

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Tribeca Pediatrics
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\$10,000 to \$24,999

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George de Menil
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Norman Lerchen
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UBS Financial Services Inc.

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Kimball Family Foundation
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Menzies Aviation
Andari Spa
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Iguana Mama
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Bliss Restaurant
Chocolate Bar
LEK - Laurel Eastman Kiteboard- ing
Sea Horse Villa
Blossom Retreat
Hotel Mercure
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Blue Jack Tar
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Millennium Resort & Spa
Vaca Bar @ Agualina
Carib Wind Center
Colonial Gate 4D Cinema

Natura Cabana
Velero Beach Resort
Casa 21
Ecoserve
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Villa Taina Resort & Spa
Casa Colonial
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