



DREAM project

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EDUCATION AND MENTORING



Annual Report **2022-2023**

www.dominicandream.org



A Message from Our Executive Director:

As I reflect on my 13 years with DREAM, I see our **will to grow** and tackle as many issues as we can in our communities. When I joined DREAM in 2009, we had eight Montessori preschool teachers and a handful of support staff, and we were active in only two communities. Today, we have over 115 employees, and DREAM is working in 15 communities. **The budget has grown six-fold** to support additional initiatives that include youth leadership programming, securing documentation for at-risk children and families, facilitating access to age-appropriate reading materials both in community libraries and at home and the acclaimed Bachata Academy. In total, we run 18 programs ranging from preschools, after-school academic reinforcement classes and parent education to youth empowerment and vocational and teacher training. Most important is **the quality, cohesiveness, professionalism and commitment of the DREAM staff**, who work diligently every day serving our communities.

We have emerged from the pandemic stronger than ever. We have sharpened our skills and implemented new, highly impactful initiatives, like creating a content-rich YouTube channel and online resource library for families, developing a STEAM classroom and merging with Charlie's Foundation to incorporate their strong English program with our Spanish literacy programs and expand our reach. One of my happiest moments during our virtual instruction was seeing a mother of a seven-year-old coaching her son on a science experiment as she filmed him at home. She encouraged him to explain the "why" behind the experiment. That connection by the parent to her child's learning felt tangible and a game changer for her as an education provider at home. That moment inspired our Tutor en Casa program, which teaches innovative ways to capture parents' strengths and turn them into confident educational leaders in the home. These are the "ah ha" moments that your support facilitates and allows us to constantly improve our approaches to challenging problems.

I made the difficult decision to step down as Executive Director in July 2023. I would like to provide space for new leadership and fresh ideas to inspire DREAM's future. The Board will be conducting a comprehensive search this year, and we will find the right team to support our communities in the best way possible. I plan to stay connected to DREAM as a resource to continue this great work that was started more than 20 years ago.

I thank all of you for your unconditional support. Without you, we could never have come this far nor be this strong.

Catherine DeLaura
Executive Director

Our DREAMers



I like being with Teacher Rosmerys, because she taught me in a fun way. She was always ready when she told me she will help me. She is very loving, and you learn a lot with the teacher. I like her classroom, because it's nice and it's different from my regular class. Thank you.

Diance, Literacy Student

I like the Book Fair, because it has amazing books that make me feel like a character in the book. I started reading the book that I chose called Iris's Diary, and I read it completely. It was very, very great. I hope that the next one will arrive very soon.

Corienne, MVOL Book Fair Participant

The program helped me in a big way. I had problems communicating with people, moderating my speech and expressing my emotions in a healthy way. I was able to develop and create skills. It helped me to be more disciplined and respect others' opinions more, since I had problems working in a team and thinking that only I should do things for them to go well.

Escarlin Gonzales Espinal, A Ganar #34 Participant

Escarlin received a position at Lax Ojo restaurant/club as a waitress and bartender, where she was accepted and is recognized by her colleagues as a very efficient employee.



Our DREAM

MISSION

Providing high-quality educational opportunities to children, youth and families in the Dominican Republic.

VISION

Our transformative education programs respond to gaps in the national education system and empower at-risk children and youth to create a better future for themselves and their families. Through innovative approaches to literacy, early childhood education, youth leadership, music instruction and community support, DREAM promotes critical thinking and independence to enrich lives and strengthen sustainable communities.

VALUES

Inclusive, innovative and community-based education for all. At DREAM, learning never stops and opportunity is our great equalizer.



Equity

We respect diversity and fight to overcome prejudices, promoting the integration and inclusion of all regardless of race, sex, physical condition, religion or economic status.



Opportunity

We believe that everyone deserves the same opportunity to learn and develop, and we create the right conditions for them to thrive.



Integrity

We act with respect, responsibility, honesty and authenticity, supporting our words with our actions.



Sustainability

We develop programs that can be successfully implemented and replicated in other communities in the country, leaving behind the necessary tools for future generations to continue their development.




Quality

We strive to continuously improve our programs, providing the best educators and a steadfast commitment to always producing the best results.



Transparency

We aim to track every achievement and dollar spent on our programs and provide detailed reports on all our activities.


+23,000
books distributed
through MVOL

85%
of MVOL participants
consistently read at home
with their parents

93%
of Young Stars students
increased their reading level

Increase from 14% to
78%
of STEAM students reading
at grade level

71%
of A Ganar graduates work-
ing or studying six months
after participation

17%
increase in knowledge and skills
of DPV participants



LITERACY

Reading & Library Programs, My Very Own Library (MVOL), Teacher Training, DREAM Publications

DREAM's greatest strength and focus is the development of a culture of reading in the Dominican Republic. DREAM's approach to literacy is rooted in research-based best practices. Throughout its history, DREAM has developed long-standing relationships with local communities, building awareness of the challenges they face and establishing sustainable, strengths-based programs that meet their needs. We are proud to share that DREAM was recognized as a **Best Practices Honoree** by the United States Library of Congress for our Mi Mundo student-published community magazine and creating a culture of reading in the Dominican Republic.

MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Montessori Preschools, Escuelita de Padres, STEAM Classroom

DREAM's Montessori Program aims to provide high-quality education for children ages three to eight years old. In DREAM's Montessori classrooms throughout the country, Montessori teachers, known as guides, promote children's independence, love for learning, emotional intelligence, leadership and critical thinking. The Montessori curriculum focuses on nine key areas: practical life skills, sensory development, math, language, science and culture, art, gross motor skills, character development and family integration. In addition to promoting classroom development, DREAM's Montessori Program engages parents through Escuelita de Padres and parent meetings, creating a link between education in school and in the home. DREAM hosted its first cohort of full-day elementary-level students in the STEAM classroom.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Deportes para la Vida, Única, Luchadores por el Cambio, A Ganar, Scholarships, Youth Networks


DREAM believes that holistic youth development is key to ensuring that youth have the opportunity to live safe, healthy and productive lives, which ultimately strengthens the communities in which they live. As a result of winning first place in the Alerta Joven Challenge 2022, our Alerta Joven Puerto Plata Youth Network (Red Alerta Joven Puerto Plata) are implementing its first independent project, called Jóvenes de Plata, created and executed by the members of the network, impacting 150 young people in prevention of harmful and illicit substance abuse.



BACHATA ACADEMY

The Bachata Academy is the only music program in the world that focuses on teaching bachata and merengue. A music education focused on local traditions motivates children, empowers communities and preserves diversity. The Academy adjuncts the DREAM Project's flagship campus in Cabarete's Callejón de la Loma and offers free intensive music classes to children of surrounding communities. The Academy's highly skilled, world-renowned professors endeavor to transmit their knowledge of bachata to future generations, while encouraging children to develop their own musical expression. The Academy launched six new bachata ensembles and a program for Haitian Kompa with the aim to cultivate cultural appreciation and musical exchange between Dominicans and Haitians.




+28,000
hours of music instruction
per year

+300 
music students

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Luceros, Department of Psychology, Summer Camp, Eco-DREAM

DREAM believes in holistic community development that begins with access to high-quality education, from early childhood to primary school and beyond. We realize that education is just one piece of the puzzle to end extreme poverty in the Dominican Republic. Through our community programs, we provide additional services, including birth registrations and documentation, psychological intervention and training, summer enrichment and crisis response. In 2022, DREAM's Luceros Human Rights and Documentation Project was selected as the Latin American international winner of the IV edition of the **Óscar Arnulfo Romero Ibero-American Award** for Human Rights Education by the SM Foundation and the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science



+90 
psychological
counseling sessions

98%
summer camp
student attendance rate

DREAM EN CHARLIE & TECH CLASSROOM

In March 2022, Charlie's Foundation and DREAM merged to better serve communities in and around Cabarete. At DREAM en Charlie, DREAM will continue Charlie's Foundation's English as a Second Language, Physical Literacy, Career Readiness and Summer Camp programs and will add its Literacy, Montessori Academy and Youth Leadership programs at the site. DREAM is also honored to share that the Wings Foundation (Phoenix Tower International) and Fundación Altice graciously donated funding for an updated technology classroom at DREAM.



+10,191
Luceros
late declaration
materials distributed

193
Luceros
cases resolved

Thank You

The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being humane. -Mahatma Gandhi

\$100,000 and above

Beachwold Partners
Benjamin de Menil
Camp Mountain Chai
GeoMar Foundation
Phoenix Tower International
Zaleski Family Foundation

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Charlie's Tennis Foundation
ENTRENA, SRL Alerta Joven Grant DOP
Georgetown University
Jennifer Tuvell
Michel Zaleski
NHCSB
RC22 Foundation
University of Chicago

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Ace Bailey
CharityBuzz
Education First
Kimball Family Foundation
Therapy Abroad LLC
Thomas Rosato Foundation DOP
Together Women Rise
Tribeca Pediatrics
William Friedman

\$15,000 to \$24,999

American Jewish World Service
Beth and Ravenel Curry Foundation
Boykin Curry
Brugal
CEPM DOP
Fondation de France
JetBlue
Norman Lerchen
Playa Grande Holdings
SeaLand

\$10,000 to \$14,999

Karla Farach
Mirtha Cabral
THE BRETEAU FOUNDATION
United Synagogue Youth

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Aerodom
Casa de Campo Villa
Gage Spolansky
Glenn Keller
Goya Foods, Inc.
Kansas State University
MTW Agency
US Embassy, Santo Domingo

Victoria de Menil
Why Hunger

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Aerodom
Casa de Campo Villa
Gage Spolansky
Glenn Keller
Goya Foods, Inc.
Kansas State University
MTW Agency

\$1,000 to 4,999

Carey Pope
4T Youth Leadership Program
Ana Galan Foundation
Beyond the Beach
Bradley A Funk
Cable del Norte
Carol Zimmerman
Chelsea Figaro
David Weiss Family Fund
Dawn Techow
Elianis Usera
Erik Cima
Fundación Cultura Viva
George de Menil
Georges & Lois de Menil Charitable Fund

Jack Cumming
Javier Hernandez
Juan Perdomo DOP
Kate Deegan
Kerry Murphy
Linn Baumgardt
Luis & Elizabeth Martinez
Machenry Realtor DR.
Melanie Hawkins
Millenium
Millwoods Christian School
O'Hara Foundation
Olivier Chantecaille
Pass it On Store
Punta Gorda
Robert Friedman
Samantha Ramos
Scarlin Hernandez
Sophie Frushell
Steve Wallace
Tendayi Kapfudz
The Lisa Sasevich Family Giving Fund
The Warburg Pincus Foundation
Ultravioleta
US Bank Foundation
Ysanet Batista

Brand Ambassadors

Aerodom
Altice
Banco Popular
CEPM
CICOM
Cigar Country
Fast Enterprises
Guzmán Ariza and Associates
JetBlue
Kimball Family Foundation
My Very Own Library
Partners of the Americas
Phoenix Tower International
Playa Grande Foundation

Shared Responsibility Partners

321 Takeoff
4TW
ADSSosua
Andari Spa
Beyond the Beach Children's Foundation
Bliss Restaurant
Blossom Retreat
Blue Moon Retreat
Brugal
Cabarete Spinning Studio
Cable del Norte
Carib Wind Center
Casa 21
Casa Colonial
Casa de Campo
Casa Dorado Bed & Breakfast
Casita de Papi
Ceiba Café Pizzería
Cigar Aficionado
Claro Café
Coco Beads
Colonial Gate 4D Cinema
CPS
Cultura Viva
Ecoserve
Fresh Fresh Sosúa
Gordito's
Greg's Garage
Hostal Nicolas de Ovando
Hotel Magnífico
Iguana Mama
International Tennis School
Johan Design
Juan Perdomo Century 21
L'Agence Real Estate
Lulú Tasting Bar

Millennium Resort & Spa
Mojito Bar
Natura Cabana
Playero Supermarket
Pierre Michel Salon
Rancho Luisa & Tommy
RC22 Foundation and ROC Nation
SeaLand
The Butterfly Effect
The Honey Company
The Los Angeles Dodgers
The University of Chicago
Translators Without Borders
Tribeca Pediatrics
Ultravioleta
USAID
US Embassy
Velero Beach Resort
Villa Taina Resort & Spa
Yamazato Sushi

Student Group Partners

USY
4Ts
7 Elements
Camp Mountain Chai
Education First
Farmington High School
Friends School of Wilmington
Middle College High School
Millwoods Christian School
New Charter High School
Washtenaw International School
Wilmington Friends School
Youth Ambassadors



Our Team



Honorary Chairman

Junot Díaz

Honorary Chairwoman

Leslie Grace

Founder and President of the Board

Michel Zaleski

Executive Board of Directors

Lucy N. Friedman, Vice Chair
Mirtha Cabral McQuilling, Vice Chair
William S. Friedman, Secretary & Treasurer
Marie Josee Barshi
Adriano Espaillat
Ana Galán
Ana Karen Peralta-Morales
Benjamin de Menil
Darlene Cordero
Karla Farach de Athanasopoulos
Katharine Zaleski
Kathy Romero
Letty Gutierrez
Spencer Kimball
Keving P. Manning

Executive Director

Catherine DeLaura

Director of Development

Jonathan Wunderlich

Director of Programs

Anis Altagracia Carrasco López

Director of Montessori

Pura M. Barruos Medina

Coordinators

Ana P. Barrido
Badui Eduardo Abi Harb
Belisa L. Howard Martínez
Cristian Elizabeth Demorizi
Fray David Peralta
Jhan Carlos Toribio Martínez

Karla De Marchena Ulerio
Miguel Angel Smera
Reynalhy Batista Javier
Roselyn Cabrera
Vittoria D' Achille
Yakelim Yazbek Harb
Wendy Jiménez

Admin & Support Staff

Adarlenis Rojas
Ariangel Cuevas
Carmen Vargas
Clara Elena Martínez
Cruz M. Lantigua
Diomara Díaz Martínez
Elizabeth Rodríguez
Emily MacDowell
Gloria Núñez
Hailen García Silvestre
Jean R. Oscar
Jose Antonio Díaz
Juanita Bonilla
Luis M. Murray Peralta
Maria L. Gómez Álvarez
Melanie Goldring
Patricio Antonio Capellán
Rancell Flete Rojas
Raulin Matías
Rita Rebeca Peña Martínez
Sol A. Ortega Nuñez
Vicente Martínez
Wilton Pérez Vásquez
Wagner J. Pérez Ozoria
Yaniris Torres Silverio
Yaritza Marine Sánchez

Program Staff

Albelisa Vázquez
Ana Silvia Parra
Anngy Reyes
Angela Yudelky Martínez Gómez
Carla Sarita
Carlina Rodríguez
Ciara Yulendi Peralta Peralta

Cristofer J. Ortíz García
Daniel Stiven Cuervo Jiménez
Dayamaris Capellán Perdomo
Dayana Maria Martínez Almonte
Deyanira Torres
Dilenia Álvarez
Dilenia Peña Rojas
Eliese
Elsa M. Mercedes Quiñonez
Elizabeth Suriel
Emiliana Bravo (Morena)
Fernadillo
Fiorely Germania Duran
Frandy Jill
Irianna Ironedy Mercado
Isaías Sánchez Bencosme
Jennifer A. Sosa Martínez
Jennifer M. Cueva Marte
Joanna K. Rodríguez
Jon Marcos Robles
Julianny Ventura
Juan Abel Martínez Mendez
Juan Carlos Fenerlo
Juan Claus Previl
Juan Luis Martínez (Antoni)
Juan Rafael Castellanos
Katherine Sugeidy Rodríguez
Kedly Lamande
Kelvin De León Zorrilla
Kircy Del Rosario
Leonor M. Mercedes Martínez
Luisa Ana Díaz
Luis Alfredo Uribe

Madeline Sosa De Jesús
Magdalena Sánchez
Mairene Joseph Luis
Maria Elena Boitel
Maribel Arias Santos
Market Andrés Silvestre
Melani Montero
Miguel A. Berihuete Encarnación
Miguel E. Rivas Brito
Noni Vásquez Peralta



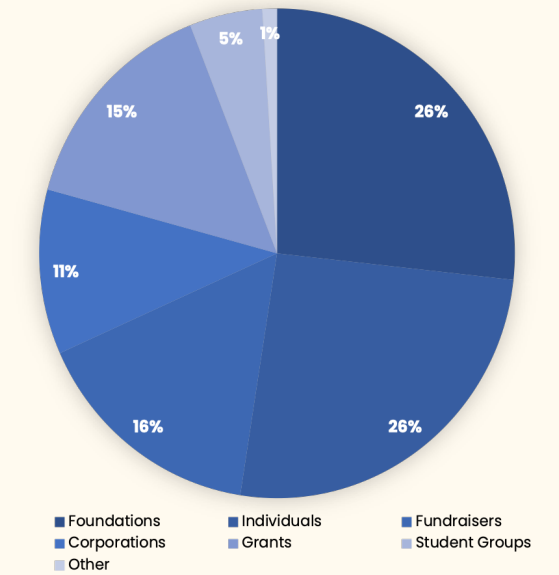
Audited Fiscal Year 2020-2021

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.

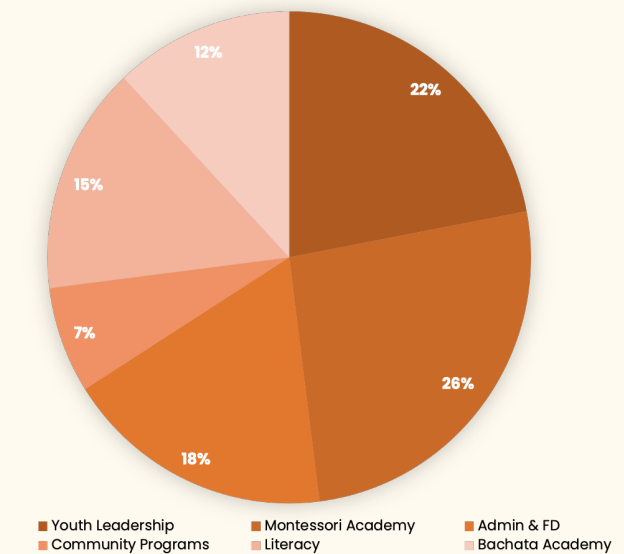
Functional Expenses	Montessori Preschools	Youth Programs	Community Programs	Literacy Programs	DREAM Center	Total Program	Management & General	Fundraising	2021 Total Expenses	2020 Total Expenses
Bank fees	-	-	\$142	-	-	\$142	\$12,230	-	\$12,372	\$9,657
Brochures and marketing	-	\$2,869	\$1,411	-	\$127	\$4,407	\$2,465	\$1,983	\$8,855	\$5,808
Community support	\$15,171	\$2,943	\$67,043	\$770	-	\$85,927	\$252	-	\$86,179	\$112,485
Events and trips	\$751	\$379	\$1,600	\$199	\$1,376	\$4,305	\$76	-	\$4,381	\$29,438
In-kind goods	\$762	\$2,205	-	\$1,724	\$3,412	\$8,103	-	-	\$8,103	\$17,775
Insurance	\$163	-	-	\$138	\$2,111	\$2,412	-	-	\$2,412	\$4,285
Meals	\$2,416	\$1,573	\$6,605	\$1,782	\$6,711	\$19,087	\$153	\$27	\$19,267	\$37,268
Medical	\$2,114	\$1,296	\$524	\$16	\$1,030	\$4,980	\$1,460	-	\$6,440	\$5,506
Miscellaneous	-	\$196	\$35	-	-	\$231	-	\$6,006	\$6,237	\$6,156
Occupancy	\$1,675	\$5,303	-	\$1,512	-	\$8,490	\$6,092	-	\$14,582	\$16,632
Office supplies	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,027	-	\$1,027	\$3,102
Payroll and related costs	\$156,145	\$116,784	\$26,544	\$41,881	\$37,864	\$379,218	\$77,221	\$122,966	\$579,405	\$738,581
Phone and internet	\$902	\$8,689	\$76	\$1,044	\$2,657	\$13,368	\$2,174	\$1,109	\$16,651	\$10,554
Postage and shipping	\$103	\$10	\$138	\$2,869	\$14	\$3,134	\$154	-	\$3,288	\$4,994
Printing and copying	\$794	\$57	\$65	\$3,993	-	\$4,909	\$23	-	\$4,932	\$14,339
Professional fees	-	-	-	\$514	-	\$514	\$20,387	\$170	\$21,071	\$24,435
Pro bono	\$9,600	\$16,000	-	\$200	-	\$25,800	-	-	\$25,800	\$120,915
Repairs and maintenance	\$3,379	\$2,086	\$3,564	\$1,633	\$6,607	\$17,269	\$1,021	-	\$18,290	\$22,696
School supplies	\$7,884	\$1,993	\$27	\$64,253	\$758	\$74,915	-	-	\$74,915	\$78,219
Staff development	\$859	\$151	\$69	-	\$114	\$1,193	\$2,313	\$1,176	\$4,682	\$12,206
Travel and transportation	\$3,314	\$6,229	\$5,744	\$3,124	\$7,479	\$25,890	\$415	\$1,529	\$27,834	\$63,896
Uniforms	\$1,630	\$699	-	\$813	\$921	\$4,063	-	-	\$4,063	\$16,257
Utilities	\$366	\$216	-	\$10	\$1,105	\$1,697	\$1,909	-	\$3,606	\$5,700
Volunteers	\$3,919	\$4,894	-	-	-	\$8,813	-	\$1,134	\$9,947	\$44,649
Overhead allocation	\$38,882	\$95,535	\$63,690	-	(\$72,286)	\$125,821	\$14,193	-	\$140,014	\$202,487
Depreciation	\$3,800	\$6,333	\$15,199	-	-	\$25,332	\$845	\$1,970	\$28,147	\$32,479
Total 2020-2021	\$254,629	\$276,440	\$192,476	\$126,475	-	\$850,020	\$144,410	\$138,070	\$1,132,500	1,640,519

Audited Financial Statements can be viewed on our website at www.dominicandream.org/financial-transparency

Total Income 2020-2021 \$1,160,260



Total Expenses 2020-2021 \$1,132,500





DREAM project

www.dominicandream.org

info@dominicandream.org

 [@thedreamprojectdr](https://www.instagram.com/thedreamprojectdr)

 [@thedreamprojectdr](https://www.facebook.com/thedreamprojectdr) | DREAMenCASA

US Contact:

13 Winter Lane, Milton, VT 05468
(607) 216-4697

DR Contact:

Calle 1, Residencia 3 Colonia Nueva
Callejón de la Loma
Cabarete, Puerto Plata, RD
(809) 571-0497