Fog rests over lush green landscape early in the morning. This view lies right above the Blue Moon Retreat where Latino Alliance stayed.

Alexa Rubeinstein be-friends children from the hatian community of Caraballo.
Students and community volunteers helping in the construction of new classrooms for the school in the Caraballo community.

View of the government housing in the Hatian community of Caraballo.
One of the local kindergarten schools which another group worked on, this would be our goal.

DREAM Project sign for the Teacher Trainning Center, located next to the School of Colonia Nueva.
Bye!!!

Colonia Nueva School playground when we arrived.
School classrooms conditions when we arrived.

Preschool classroom with unstable chairs and tables.
First day at the Colonia Nueva School before we created a positive change.

Deteriorating conditions of the “Escuela de la Colonia Nueva.”
Local Cabarete boys playing a quick game of Beisbol.

Community homes near the school in Nueva Colonia.
Local women carrying her groceries while climbing a hill.

Typical homes that are found in the mountainous regions in the Dominican Republic.
Team work! Latino Alliance members work together to move all the desks and chairs before painting.

Latino Alliance conquers a mountain, hiking up hill for four hours. Final resting stop, a calais rock cave where community members and Latino Alliance pose for a picture.
Another beautiful morning at the Blue Moon Retreat.

Students from the school lend a hand alongside Latino Alliance in the cleaning.
“I didn’t cry. I refused. They shouldn’t know that we are aware of all their needs. They shouldn’t be reminded. Instead they should laugh, run and smile.” Student Dianna Rodriguez

“Being involved in this project has only made me more driven towards my goals to one day work in non for-profits.” Student Sandra Herrera
DREAM Project staff members, Fermin and Freddy, helped us in painting the school.

Chiche (community member), Kimberly Weatherly and Sandra Herrera painting the last patch of old wall from the “Escuela de la Colonia Nueva.”
Our usual lunch at Mercedes’s Restaurant, food was typical amazing criollo food.

This photo was shot by local student of La Mina as part of the evening workshop offered by Latino Alliance.
Luis Chavez and Abraham Velazquez instruct a photography workshop to the youth students of the community of La Mina. Workshops were held at the Blue Moon Retreat.

This photo was shot by local student of La Mina as part of the evening workshop conducted by Latino Alliance.
This photo was shot by a local student from La Mina as part of the evening workshop conducted by Latino Alliance.

This photo was shot by a local student from La Mina as part of the evening workshop conducted by Latino Alliance.
Local youth community members practice their camera skills at the evening workshop conducted by Latino Alliance.

Jolie Mejia is tracing calendars for the DREAM Project’s Teacher Training Center.
Youth brought their gifts of Merengue Ripeao music. National folkloric music from the Dominican Republic.

Elio Reyes looking to what was a typical rain day in the Dominican Republic.
Evening workshop with teenagers of La Mina, the small village where we stayed.

A family and their home located behind the school we helped repaint.
Abraham Velazquez and community volunteer painting clouds. The design of the clouds was painted in every single classroom.

“I didn’t think it would actually be like this, like in the movies and magazines pictures. I imagined it would be more modern, more built-up. But this is real.”     Student Alexa Rubenstein
Ana Maria Soto Director adds to one of the murals.

Mayra Rodriguez and Wendy (Dream Project volunteer) help paint a mural in the preschool.
Elio Reyes cutting seats to repair broken chairs.

Seniors Melissa Perez and Sandra Herrera resting in the “gua gua” from a long day of work.
Luis Chavez and Yessica Guerrero working together to create new chairs for the students.

The drivers of our mighty gua gua, also known as a van.
Some of our students with the Aguilas mascot.

Baseball Stadium of Santiago, Dominican Republic.
Enjoyed a baseball game our last night in Santiago, D.R. Go Aguilas! Victory game…

Local pastry shop located in downtown Santiago, Dominican Republic.
Typical street at Santiago, Dominican Republic.

Colonia Neuva School opens to new energy and newly painted rooms for the school children.
Our last dinner at Blue Moon Retreat, traditional Indian cuisine was served.

“I got to see a whole new part of the world and experience it in a way not most people do. By utilizing my creativity to help others, I got dirty, used my hands, all for helping those who need it.”
Student Sandra Herrera
Uur filming crew, (Melissa Perez, Elio Reyes and Jolie Mejia) working on two documentaries.

This educational decoration designed by Awilda Rodriguez.
Finished mural and students of the Colonia Nueva School.

Vice-Principal Paulina with her students.
Abrir un libro es un mundo nuevo (to open a book is a new world).

Final day, our participants are happy. MISSION ACOMPLISHED!!!