

DREAM PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



DREAM project

Dominican Republic Education And Mentoring

WHY WE DREAM BIG

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

The Challenge

Many youth in the Dominican Republic are unable to reach their full potential due to low levels of education and high levels of poverty: Dominican students have the lowest educational outcomes in Latin America and more than 50% of children in the country live in families that survive on less than \$2 per day per family member.

Our Approach

DREAM provides Dominican children and youth living in poverty with access to high quality education and development opportunities, enabling them to enjoy productive, healthy and educated lives.

Our DREAM

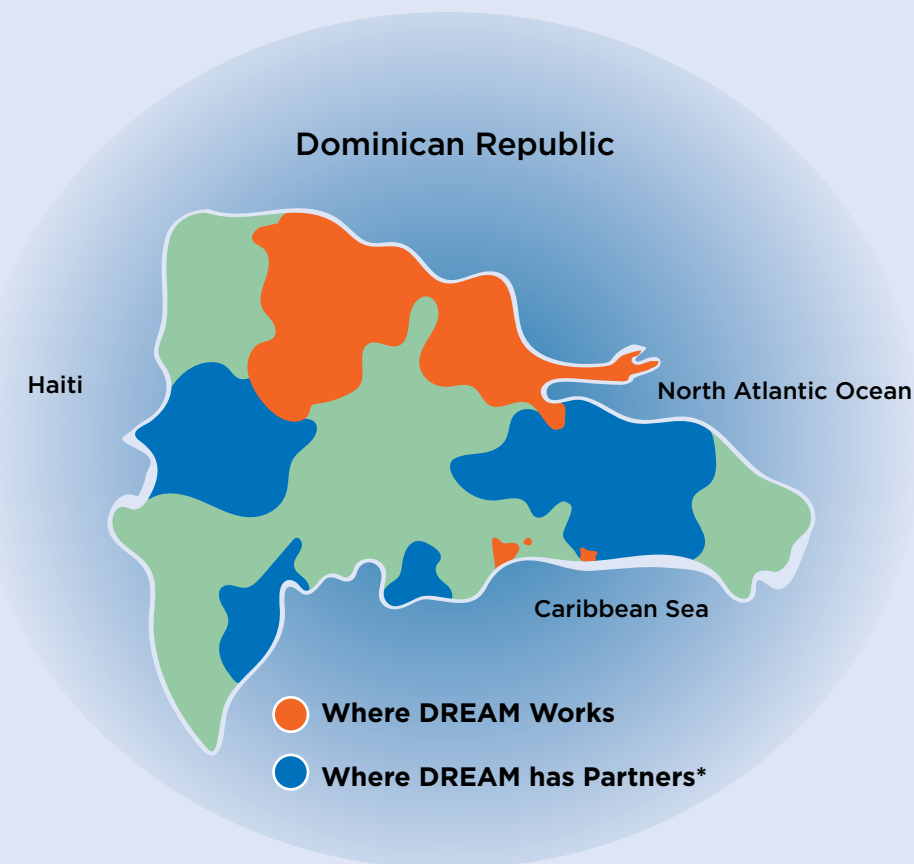
All children and youth in the Dominican Republic have equal opportunities to learn and realize their full potential through transformative education programs that combat the effects of poverty.

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.

OUR REACH

The DREAM Project provides more than 732,000 hours of quality education to more than 8,200 children through 14 different programs across 27 communities in the Dominican Republic.



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



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Birth Registration

Parent Education

Montessori Classrooms

Early Literacy and Music Education



QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION

Academic Enrichment and Support

Summer School/ Camps

Libraries and Literacy Programs

Teacher Training



HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Job Training, Life Skills & Entrepreneurship

Music Education

University Scholarships



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



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.

Luceros Documentation Program



200+
community members reached through workshops to date

18
cases resolved in the 2016-17 school year

School for Parents

177
families learned new strategies to use with their children at home

5
communities received parent education programming



Montessori Early Childhood Education



674
students enrolled in Montessori classrooms

8
communities reached by Montessori Education

Early Literacy and Music Education

254
Montessori students received music education

85%
demonstrated improved communication skills



Birth Registration

How can you learn if you don't legally exist? In the Dominican Republic, nearly one in five children under age five do not have a birth certificate. The **LUCEROS Documentation Program** helps families ensure that a lack of legal documentation does not deprive their children of the education and services so important to breaking the cycle of poverty.

School for Parents

Between birth and five years of age, more than 90% of brain development occurs, yet many children enter school without key skills essential to nurture this critical period. 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.

Montessori Classrooms

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.

Early Literacy and Music Education

When does "too early" end and "ready" begin? **Music Education and Literacy** are highly effective in engaging young learners and stimulating brain development. DREAM begins teaching these innovative programs early, so our young learners have access to new, fun, programs.



QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION



In a system where half the students drop out by high school, the status quo is not enough. DREAM's primary education programs generate a love for learning among students, specifically those struggling to learn, motivating them to stay in school and achieve better academic results.



Academic Enrichment and Support

483
students enrolled in Young Stars at six sites

72%
Young Stars students improved critical thinking skills

Summer School/Camps

1,154
students enrolled in Summer School/Camp in eight communities

51%
increased at least one reading level



Academic Enrichment and Support

What if 40% of all students in your school did not move past eighth grade? This is our challenge in the Dominican Republic. The **Young Stars Program** supports students within the public schools, providing intensive reading instruction to students who are behind grade-level standards during the school day.

Summer School/Camps

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

Libraries and Literacy Programs

A literacy revolution means access to books for all. Most 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 such as our **LitClubs**, which engage adolescents in book clubs encouraging them not only to read but to build strong community with their peers.

Teacher Training

There are so many factors that revolve around a failing system, but none more important than a qualified, inspired teacher. 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.



Libraries and Literacy Programs

21
students participated in LitClub

25,000
books distributed through My Very Own Library® book fairs

Teacher Training

10
FUTUROS graduates in 2016-17

20
public school teachers certified DREAM's English Teacher Training



HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Adolescence is a critical stage in the Dominican Republic, where support and mentoring can be the difference between a life of poverty or a bright future. Life skills, healthy decision-making, job training, and cultural enrichment are proven to help youth grow and succeed.



Sexual and Reproductive Health



60

young community leaders certified as peer facilitators



129

HIV tests administered to DREAM program participants

Job Training, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship



187

youth enrolled in A Ganar across five communities



29

local businesses collaborated on internships



Music Education



94

students enrolled in music programs



77.5

hours of private lessons each week

University Scholarships



28

students received University scholarships



13

skill-building workshops offered to scholarship recipients



Sexual and Reproductive Health

Let's talk about it. Unplanned pregnancy and risky sexual behavior are a direct result of a lack of knowledge about sexual health and relationships. The **Deportes para la Vida, Unica and Luchadores por el Cambio** programs work with groups of youth and adolescent males and females using sports, games, and peer leaders to encourage healthy decision-making.

Job Training, Life Skills and Entrepreneurship

Nearly 1/3 of Dominican youth are unemployed and this alarming statistic is a result of high drop-out rates and a lack of key skills. The **A Ganar program** equips youth with job training, life skills, and the entrepreneurial abilities necessary to secure a job or return to school. The DREAM network of partners and supporting businesses offers both internships and opportunities that can keep youth off the streets and actively participating in a future of responsible employment.

Music Education

Dominican culture and music go hand in hand, but 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.

University Scholarships

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 more than 30 full and partial **university scholarships** as well as a variety of skill-building workshops to help them succeed in their degree programs.



YEAR IN REVIEW

8,286

participants reached 2016-17

74

local and international staff

421

volunteers through
Global Connection Groups

7,570

children projected to reach
2017-18

230

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

\$530,851

value of in-kind donations

732,790

total hours of instruction

8

yearlong international
volunteers

16,321

pro bono volunteer hours

WHAT IS NEXT

DREAM Saturdays

After campaigning for over a decade, we are happy to report that the majority of our communities are receiving a full day of school. With this transition, DREAM is excited to transition into Saturday courses for our Quality Primary Education programs in 2017- 2018. The first step to a quality education is a full day of school and DREAM applauds our partners in the Ministry of Education for taking this important step!



IN THE NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

La Boca Tech Center

Technology is the great equalizer. Thanks to DREAM Ambassador Fabrice Grinda and IntelliSys, our first robotics and tech lab will offer a unique resource to youth in the North Coast. This progressive resource will offer interested learners access to creating things in a different way, from robots to code, they will have a welcoming space, overseen by the country's most progressive tech instructors.



Dascha Polanco Theatre Program

"To me, the DREAM Project and I can relate because I had a dream. I remember coming here as an immigrant and the stars aligning: I have to do something for my country, the Dominican Republic. And the fact that this organization helps kids, no matter their circumstance, I admire that." The Dascha Polanco Theatre Program will bring some of the DR's best theatre and acting instructors, along with special guests, to work with more than 75 youth in producing two annual productions.



Global Connections Groups

Our bridge to global volunteerism, Global Connections, has hosted more than 20 groups this season, with more than 300 volunteers working in 10 communities to support more than 1,000 youth. Our groups are creating change, connecting cultures, teaching, contributing more than US\$250,000 to local economies and supporting underfunded schools, teachers and organizations.



RC22

Sustainability is key to DREAM's growth and our vision of all Dominican youth having access to high quality education. Our model partnership with MLB All Star Robinson Cano and his RC22 DREAM School has continued to flourish, educating more than 80 youth in San Pedro de Macoris.



Alerta Joven

We will be continuing our intensive DREAM A Ganar Workforce Development Program and Young Stars school retention programs, which involve working with local schools and communities to motivate youth to return to school and give them the skills and support necessary to succeed. DREAM's activities will reach 525 children and youth in the provinces of Puerto Plata, María Trinidad Sánchez, and Samaná.



My Very Own Library®

The My Very Own Library® DREAM Book Fairs offer more than 2,000 students in the Dominican Republic the opportunity to select ten new books in Spanish over the course of the school year. The book fairs include motivational literacy activities and inspiring author visits that generate excitement for reading and help parents better support reading in the home. Participating students are selected from public schools as well as DREAM's various programs.



DREAM Scholarships

Our theory of change begins with two year olds just getting started, but what about those that excel and are ready for higher education? Thanks to Thomas Rosato and Banco Popular Dominicano, DREAM's University Scholarship Program offers 28 university scholarships to exceptional students. All of our more than 8,000 participants have access to this program, allowing all of our youth to truly DREAM Big.



Mi Mundo

Our young journalists have been getting real hands-on experience that will help them in their future job search: using a laptop, learning how to ask questions, analyze and summarize information, improving their writing skills, and of course, having fun! Full of photographs and interesting articles, from music, sports, local plants, to interviews of community members, and editorials about the issues that affect our youth.

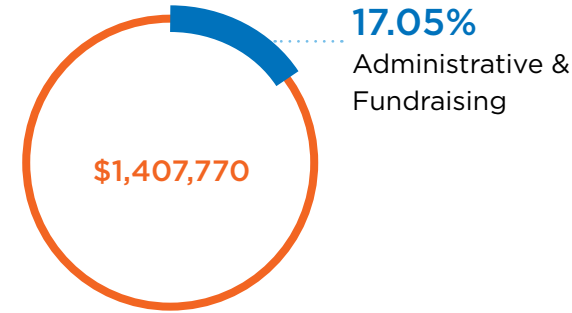


Financials

Audited Fiscal Year 2015-16

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	DREAM Center	Total Programs	Management & General	Fundraising	2016 Total Expenses	2015 Total Expenses
Bank Fees	/	/	\$7	/	/	\$7	\$6,106	\$3	\$6,116	\$3,740
Brochures & Marketing	/	\$297	\$5,270	/	\$671	\$6,238	\$1,350	\$4,860	\$12,448	\$6,490
Community Support	\$22	\$9,565	\$83,969	/	/	\$93,556	\$110	/	\$93,666	\$87,428
Events & Trips	\$1,354	\$10,716	\$342	/	\$309	\$12,721	\$731	/	\$13,452	\$12,430
In-kind Goods	\$3,164	\$16,596	\$3,637	/	/	\$23,397	\$950	\$5,400	\$29,747	\$43,006
Insurance	\$611	\$269	/	/	\$1,876	\$2,756	/	/	\$2,756	\$1,945
Meals	\$12,642	\$28,690	\$2,313	/	\$5,646	\$49,291	\$1,024	\$3	\$50,318	\$34,529
Medical	\$54	\$295	\$463	/	\$134	\$946	/	/	\$946	**
Occupancy	/	\$1,990	/	/	/	\$1,990	\$7,128	/	\$9,118	\$36,696
Office Supplies	\$80	\$94	/	/	\$669	\$843	\$3,905	/	\$4,748	\$1,336
Payroll & Related	\$121,095	\$152,396	\$25,476	/	\$11,130	\$310,097	\$75,810	\$68,141	\$454,048	\$395,139
Phone & Internet	\$7	\$1,250	\$469	/	\$1,898	\$3,624	\$4,543	\$1,233	\$9,400	\$4,123
Postage & Shipping	\$7	\$367	\$5,137	/	\$6	\$5,517	\$312	\$15	\$5,844	\$7,512
Printing & Copying	\$121	\$4,775	\$239	/	\$17	\$5,152	\$1,802	\$110	\$7,064	\$8,062
Professional Fees	/	\$66	\$6,164	/	\$2,267	\$8,497	\$17,720	/	\$26,217	\$13,321
Pro Bono Services	\$545	\$164,610	\$3,530	\$14,250	/	\$182,935	\$12,663	\$16,695	\$212,293	\$214,394
Repairs & Maintenance	\$5,104	\$3,031	\$958	/	\$6,807	\$15,900	\$1,001	/	\$16,901	**
School Supplies	\$5,188	\$14,862	\$106,699	/	\$2,725	\$129,474	/	/	\$129,414	\$148,200
Staff Development	\$773	\$895	\$60	/	/	\$1,728	\$170	/	\$1,898	\$2,067
Travel & Transportation	\$5,912	\$36,171	\$8,425	/	\$2,212	\$52,720	\$2,027	\$6,200	\$60,947	\$39,698
Uniforms	\$2,496	\$10,571	/	/	\$1,304	\$14,371	/	/	\$14,371	**
Utilities	\$321	\$29	/	/	\$579	\$929	\$1,740	/	\$2,669	**
Volunteer Expenses	\$90	\$38,715	\$8,279	/	\$286	\$47,370	2,055	\$2,597	\$52,022	\$17,197
Overhead Allocation	\$51,002	\$98,758	\$50,394	/	(\$38,536)	\$161,618	\$(40,776)	\$30,389	\$151,231	\$227,409
Depreciation	\$6,322	\$8,436	\$20,697	\$614	/	\$36,069	\$1,202	\$2,805	\$40,076	\$37,997
Total	2015-16	\$216,910	\$603,444	\$332,528	\$14,864	*	\$1,167,746	\$101,573	\$138,451	\$1,407,770
	2014-15	\$191,314	\$521,254	\$366,380	\$70,188	**	\$1,149,136	\$83,398	\$110,185	\$1,342,719

*These expenses have been allocated throughout the other programs

**In 2014-15 these expenses were allocated in other related expenses.

Donor List 2016-17

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

\$100K AND UP

Alerta Joven, Entrena SRL
Jennifer Tuvell, Ace Bailey & Coco
Zaleski Family Foundation

\$75,000 to \$99,999

My Very Own Library
Foundation to Promote Open Society
The Thomas Rosato Foundation
William S. Friedman

\$25,000 to \$74,999

Camp Scatico
Benjamin de Menil
Education First
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JetBlue Airways
Kimball Family Foundation
Millwoods Christian School
The RC22 Foundation
Tribeca Pediatrics
U.S. Embassy, Santo Domingo
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Dominican Joe Foundation
Farmington Public Schools
Friends of Wilmington
Isla Dominicana
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North Shore Land Holdings, Inc.
Phoenix Tower International
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UBS Financial Services Inc.
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CONTACT US

Dominican Republic Office

Plaza Novus Mare
Local 11 Segundo Piso,
Cabarete, POP República Dominicana
Phone: 809-571-0497
Fax: 809-571-9551

US Office

13 Winter Lane
Milton, VT 05468 USA
Phone: 607-216-4697
Fax: 815-550-1727

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info@dominicandream.org
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