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Subject: **January Newsletter**
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The DREAMPROJECT

Dominican Republic Education And Mentoring Project
www.domicandream.org

January Newsletter

Spotlight of the month:

DREAM and the Haiti Relief Effort **Lessons Learned**

The day after the horrific earthquake in Haiti, the Young Stars students and teachers met at the DREAM Center to discuss what had happened. They all wanted to help. Out of these discussions came the ideas for a raffle, flea market and art show.

The students sold raffle tickets for 5 pesos in the Colonia Nueva community, and they labored over their art projects to make them perfect for the Art Show. Watching the students work on their art this week and learn new skills as they donated their time to create beautiful objects for the Art Show in Plaza el Patio made us realize that, in addition to the much needed help in Haiti, these activities were teaching the Young Stars, both of Haitian and Dominican descent, what it means to give to others and that they have the ability to improve the world. These important lessons will be life-changing and enduring.

It has been encouraging to see so many positive responses by various organizations supporting Haiti in the Cabarete area. At DREAM, over 60,000 pesos were brought in between the raffle, Community Pulga and Art Show. Added to the cash donations from the community, more than USD\$5,000 has been raised towards the Haitian relief efforts. The food and supplies collected will be sent via Dominican Crossroads to Haiti. After careful research, we have decided to support [Helping Hand Haiti](#), which delivers relief straight to those most in need. The remaining contributions will be earmarked for long-term, sustainable rebuilding efforts.

Please see our [Haiti Relief Guide](#) on how you can help. We have brought together information from various resources, from how to donate blood here in the Dominican Republic to which organizations are working directly in Haiti. We will continue long-term relief efforts with DREAM'S Valentine Dinner fundraiser on February 13th to support our Caraballo Batey Montessori and Young Stars Program.



Handmade items for sale at the art show



The design of the new expansion at the DREAM Education Center

In December, our Montessori preschool students attended a Christmas party at the DREAM Center.



Montessori Christmas Party 2009

Ground Breaking Ceremony at the DREAM Education Center with Honorary Chairperson Celines Toribio



The DREAM Project celebrated the ground breaking of the DREAM Education Center expansion on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 1:30 p.m. in the community of Colonia Nueva. The guest of honor was

Dominican actress and Honorary DREAM Chairperson Celines Toribio, who was joined by local officials, press and community members in unveiling the design of the new Education Center. This new expansion will almost double the size of the DREAM Public Library and add three more classrooms, greatly increasing the programs already offered by the organization. The DREAM Education Center serves as a critical community resource, providing the highest level of preschool Montessori Education, the most extensive public library in the North Coast and various after-school programs for youth of all ages at no cost to the families of Cabarete.

Summer Camp 2010

Teacher Training Multi-school Conference

The first Teacher Training multi-school conference was a success! On Saturday, January 9th, 16 teachers and school directors participated in workshops on student-centered classrooms and Pre-K through 4th grade literacy strategies.

Year-Long Volunteers Applications due March 1

We are looking for year-long volunteers. To apply, please fill out our year-long [application](#) and send to The DREAM Project, PO Box 4136, Ithaca, NY 14852 by March 1, 2010. The Year-long program runs from August 23, 2010 - May 27, 2011.

Initial Planning

Summer Camp 2010 is right around the corner! Initial planning talks with local school directors and teachers are set for this month. Current and prospective members of the Teacher Training Program will be included in these discussions in DREAM's efforts to reshape the camp to allow an even greater local professional community role.

Applications due February 1

We are still looking for Summer Camp volunteers. To apply, please fill out an [application](#) from our website and send to The DREAM Project, PO Box 4136, Ithaca, NY 14852 by February 1, 2010. The camp will run from June 27-July 31, 2010.



Check out our new website!
Same address, different look and layout.
www.dominicandream.org

Donate now and get involved!



The DREAM Project - www.dominicandream.org - info@dominicandream.org - (607) 257-1981



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