

The DREAMPROJECT

Dominican Republic Education And Mentoring Project

March 27, 2009

The winter of 2008/2009 will always be remembered as a period of transition and growth for The DREAM Project. A period in which, like many other organizations around the world, the base of the foundation is being strengthened while at the same time adjusting to the slowing economic situation.

DREAM is very pleased to announce that we have new, very qualified leadership: Catherine DeLaura, our new Executive Director joined DREAM on March 16, 2009. Catherine, who has been living in Las Galeras for the last two years, comes from the New York City School system where she was a highly lauded principal of The School of the Future for five years. Catherine started her career in education as a Peace Corps volunteer in Micronesia, before coming back to NY to teach English as a second language and co-founded the Academy of the Arts at Taft High School in the South Bronx. Next, she moved to the Heritage School in East Harlem and held various administrative and teaching positions before being tapped by the School of the Future in 2002. Catherine holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania, a Masters Degree from Columbia University Teacher's College, an MBA from the Columbia School of Business and an Educational Leadership/ Principal's Certificate. We are very excited about her joining DREAM and the expertise she brings to our cause.

The children and community members that depend on The DREAM Project remind us every day of the importance of our work and the DREAM spirit. All it takes is one visit to any of our projects or a chat with our dedicated staff to become part of it. In Caraballo, Principal Dora Verdier can explain how the pre-school went from an empty field to a fully functional Montessori program in less than 5 years. In the DREAM Education Center, Director Julie De Smet can show you the unbelievable progress she and the DREAM volunteers have made in the "Estrellas Juveniles" program for at risk youth, in the medical clinics, after school academic classes and art programs. If you sit down with a child in the DREAM Public Library and read a book with him, if you see a child using a computer for the first time and the excitement in her eyes, if you watch a four year old child learning in one of our Montessori pre-schools, you will see the next generation embracing an opportunity and making their lives better.

Now more than ever, these children need your support as we focus on The DREAM Project's mission. True visionaries embrace these moments. These enlightened community members are pro-active and choose to be participants in a greater good, something that transcends ourselves and our daily lives. Please join us in this challenge and help us fulfill DREAM's vision of quality education for thousands of children looking to change their lives for the better. To donate, please visit <http://www.dominicandream.org/donate-and-join/monetarydonations.html>

