

The DREAM PROJECT

Dominican Republic Education And Mentoring Project
www.dominicandream.org

April Newsletter

Spotlight of the month:

New Community Center in Caraballo

The community of Caraballo had a very special visit the week of April 12. That Monday, a team of US Coast Guard sailors from the Boston-based USS Seneca began construction on a new community center. The next day, ten students from Fenway High School in Boston arrived to continue the project. The group, which consisted of many Spanish-speaking students, spent the previous two months fundraising for their service-learning trip to the Dominican Republic. Through rain and very demanding construction work, the Fenway students labored for four days alongside another large group of local volunteers to complete the center and hand the building over to the community.

The new Community Center is named Central Moun Yo Tou, which means "Center of the people" in Creole. The DREAM Project already has a [Montessori Preschool](#), a library and an [At Risk Youth program \(Young Stars\)](#) in Caraballo, but this center will be used for meetings, entertainment and as just a clean, dry place where the community can gather. Learn more in an article published in the [Dominican Today](#).



The US Coast Guard and Fenway High School students work on construction of the community center

The Butterfly Effect Cabarete 2010

For the second year, Cabarete will play host to The Butterfly Effect, a worldwide waterwomen movement. The Butterfly Effect (BE) brings women together for noncompetitive ocean sport gatherings in coastal cities all over the world. The aim is to instill self-confidence and a love for the ocean in women of all skill levels. The Butterfly Effect also aims to work with the local community and offer free lessons/clinics for women and children. The Cabarete event is proud to announce that they will once again work with The DREAM Project. Last year, the DREAM Summer Camp Girls Group participated with the BE in a beach cleanup of Cabarete Bay as part of their focus on caring for the environment. A similar project is planned for the 2010 Summer Camp, in addition to a raffle to help raise money for the event and for DREAM. Any support or donation of raffle items would be much appreciated. The Butterfly Effect is scheduled for Saturday, August 7th, 2010. For more information on the event, please visit www.betheeffect.com, or contact [Michelle Bourdeau](#).



The Butterfly Effect and DREAM's Summer Camp Girls Group 2009 beach cleanup event

Kite Beach DREAM

Kite Beach Hotel has come up with an innovative and successful way for their clients to have the ultimate Cabarete experience and give back to the local community. Owner Robin Raigorodsky and Manager Janina Keufner have donated one dollar from each guest they received this high season, which will make all the difference in our upcoming Summer Camp and School. They will also be hosting local apprentices in our Apprenticeship Program this summer, which gives local youth the opportunity to learn a new skill with practical experience.



Montessori teachers with their new netbooks

Montessori Teachers Receive New Computers

All of the DREAM Montessori teachers recently received new Asus Netbooks to support their Montessori training. Five Montessori teachers are currently enrolled in a year-long Montessori course in Santo Domingo, and the computers are allowing them to complete their training and share what they have learned with the rest of the DREAM teachers in our four preschool sites. The training for our core teachers will allow us to create sustainability in the Montessori Program as we add additional preschool programs.



Kite Beach in Cabarete

2010 Guzman Ariza Summer School and Camp

The DREAM Project is excitedly preparing for the 2010 Guzman Ariza Summer School and Camp! We are opening a new Campsite at the Salome Urena school in the Cienega community. We have stellar applicants from around the world applying to be counselors, instructors, and teacher trainers. We consistently strive for sustainability in all of our programs, and this year's camp will focus on providing a more intensive professional development program for our local public school. We thank all those who are interested and committed in helping us make our dreams possible!

Volunteering with DREAM

We are still looking for year-long volunteers. To apply, please fill out an [application](#) and send to The DREAM Project, PO Box 4136, Ithaca, NY 14852 by [May 1, 2010](#).

Caraballo Library

We are pleased to welcome Jessinia Garcia, Librarian and Literacy Specialist, to the DREAM staff! With the addition of Jessinia to the DREAM team, 100% of the Caraballo site staff are residents of the small town. Her role as a manager of the library and lead instructor of literacy programs allows DREAM to take a significant step towards building a self-sustaining literacy program in Caraballo. We look forward to the growth of student literacy under Jessinia's guidance!

Soccer Tournament

Congratulations to our DREAM Soccer Team for winning this weekend's soccer tournament. Thanks to the Nuevo Horizonte Foundation for organizing the tournament. See more pictures on our [Facebook Page](#).



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