

The DREAM PROJECT

Dominican Republic Education And Mentoring Project
www.dominicandream.org

June Newsletter

Spotlight of the month:

US Coast Guard Visit June 13, 2010

On Sunday, June 13th, 25 sailors from the ship USCG Thetis volunteered in the communities of La Cienaga and Colonia Nueva, where they helped the DREAM Project prepare two schools for the 2010 Guzmán Ariza Summer School and Camp. The popular camp kicks off July 5th with over 70 volunteers and 300 children, but after a long school year, La Cienaga Public School and the new Doña Flora and Benjamin Rabinovitch Learning Center in Cabarete needed a lot of help.



La Cienega Public School, which has over 950 children attending, had no working bathrooms, no running water, little usable furniture or working doors. The crew of the Thetis and DREAM Project spent all day repairing bathrooms, chairs, tables, desks, doors, installing water tanks, plumbing and painting. They also put the finishing touches on the new Learning Center in Cabarete, building gardens and planting flowers. Because of the various skill sets of the sailors, they were able to make these two schools as good as new. As the project officer, ENS Urdley Smith said, "It's an honor to be here with DREAM supporting the people of the Dominican Republic. You can't spend a Sunday better than this."

During the 2009-10 School Year, DREAM hosted 8 service projects with over 100 volunteers and 1,500 hours of pro bono volunteer work within our communities. These projects included building community centers, repairing infrastructure, community workshops, health initiatives, sports camps and program support. If your school/class/club/church is interested in participating in a service learning trip with the DREAM Project, please contact jon@dominicandream.org and visit <http://www.domicandream.org/studenttrips.htm> for more information. We look forward to working with you!

Montessori Program End of Year Celebrations

The Montessori Program at DREAM just concluded the school year with parties in all four of its sites. The program is educating more than 400 students from ages 3-8 in high-quality, Montessori Methodology that develops children as individuals with the social and academic problem-solving skills required to be successful in the world. We are very proud of our local Dominican teachers, who have united to provide a superior education, with five of the DREAM Dominican Teachers traveling to Santo Domingo weekly to receive AMS-certified Montessori Training.



**Executive Director Catherine DeLaura with
Montessori professor Dora Verdier**

Local Volunteer Spotlight: Robert Otts

We would like to recognize Robert Otts for his hard work and dedication over the past two years. After Robert first joined The DREAM Project, he immediately got to work creating what is now a very successful music program. Although it began with only himself and two students, the program now includes two piano teachers, a violin teacher and a flute teacher (Elena, Dave and Calin) and close to 12 music students! This year, the music program ended with a music concert for our Montessori classes, which gave our music students the chance to showcase their talents. Thank you Robert and a big thank you to all of our music program local volunteers!



Robert (far right) teaches music class

The Butterfly Effect, Cabarete

August 7, 2010

On August 7th, the Butterfly Effect will be arriving in Cabarete for the second year, and will once again be working with The DREAM Project. The Butterfly Effect helps bring women together for noncompetitive ocean sport gatherings in coastal cities all over the world, while instilling self-confidence and a love for the ocean in women of all skill levels. The Butterfly Effect also works with the local community and offers free lessons/clinics for women and children. They plan to work with the DREAM Summer Camp again this year, in addition to hosting a raffle to help raise money for the event and for DREAM. Any support or donation of raffle items would be much appreciated. Please contact [Michelle Bourdeau](mailto:Michelle.Bourdeau) if you are interested in being a sponsor for the Butterfly effect. For more information on the event, please visit www.betheeffect.com.



End of Construction

DREAM has completed the construction of our new Doña Flora and Benjamin Rabinovitch Education Center, creating 2 more Montessori classrooms, a music room and an expanded Public Library for the community of Cabarete. We are still searching for visionaries to step up and help complete the funding of this incredible resource. We encourage you to come to the Center on July 2nd, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. to celebrate with the Rabinovitch family and DREAM. **[Donate today!](#)**

Haiti Update

To date, DREAM has supported Helping Hand Haiti with over \$25,000 in cash donations, and \$12,000 worth of supplies. Since the earthquake, Helping Hand Haiti has made numerous trips to Haiti with more than 60 volunteers (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists), conducting a total of 7,679 medical and 2,341 psychological consultations, and hosting several lectures, workshops and conferences. What they have found is alarming. In addition to combating the spread of pulmonary TB, pneumonia, measles, and acute diarrheal disease, the need for psychological support, especially for children, is overwhelming. They found the earthquake victims to be suffering from psychological trauma, feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, anxiety toward the future, headaches, loss of sleep, and fear of new earthquakes.



The Helping Hand Haiti Medical Center

Helping Hand Haiti currently has a base clinic in Delmas 33 and from there, they conduct medical operations 1-3 days a week to Carefour and Croix-des-Bouquets. While they continue to search for food and water, clothes and shoes, and new opportunities for the Haitian people, they have also opted to do a more stable job, focusing much more on people's mental health, offering consultations, outpatient management, and community health education. To learn more, read their March and April reports (in Spanish): [CROIX DES BOURQUETS](#) and [PORT-AU-PRINCE](#).

Fútbol para la Vida

Thirteen participants from Cabarete took part in the DREAM Project's first official Fútbol para la Vida TOT (Training of Trainers) from June 14th to June 18th. Fútbol para la Vida is an HIV/AIDS prevention education and youth leadership program that uses sports and peer mentoring to promote the practice of healthy decision-making. Participants spanned in age from 13 to 30 years old and all showed great HIV/AIDS knowledge and enthusiasm by the end of the week. Congratulations to these 13 new trainers who have become part of the growing network of Fútbol para la Vida trainers and will help teach in summer camps!



Fútbol para la Vida Graduation

Volunteering with DREAM

We are still looking for year-long and 1/2 year volunteers. To apply, please fill out an [application](#) and send to The DREAM Project, PO Box 4136, Ithaca, NY 14852. We have extended the deadline to August 1, 2010.

Cabarete Classic

July 14-18

Come watch our students participate in this year's Cabarete Classic (July 14th-18th). A windsurfing competition started by Cabarete native, Pablito Guzman, the Cabarete Classic provides Colonia Nueva youth the opportunity to participate in an international competition. The DREAM Project is proud to sponsor our students in the competition and we wish them luck! For further information please go to www.cabarete-classic.com.



Donate now and get involved!

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