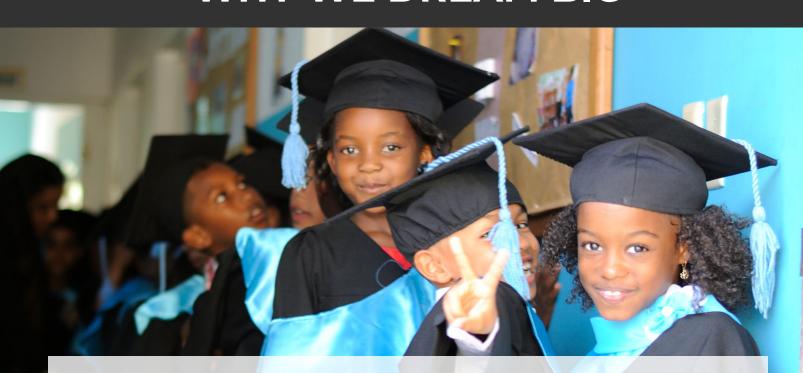


### WHY WE DREAM BIG

### **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 one-third of children in the country live in families that survive on less than \$5 per day per family member.

### Our Approach

DREAM provides Dominican children and youth living in poverty with access to high quality education and development opportunites, 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.

### A

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Birth Registration

Parent Education Montessori Classrooms Early Literacy and Music Education

### **HIGH QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION**

Academic Enrichment and Support Summer School & Camps Libraries & Literacy Programs

Teacher Training



### **HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Sexual and Reproductive Health Job Training, Life Skills & Entrepreneurship

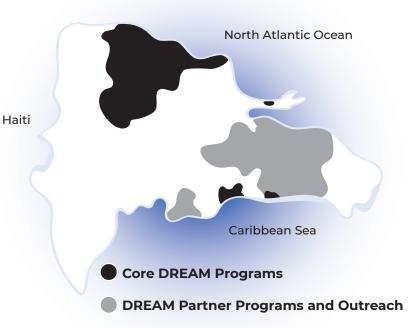
Music Education

**University Scholarships** 

### OUR IMPACT

The DREAM Project provides more than 800,000 hours of quality education to more than 7,500 children through 14 different programs across 27 communities in the Dominican Republic.

#### Dominican Republic





### **B** EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



**Birth Registration** 

**School for Parents** 

Montessori Classrooms

**Early Literacy and Music Education** 

Legal identity documents are taken for granted by many of us, but if you live in poverty, they can make all the difference. In the Dominican Republic, nearly one in five children under five years of age do not have a birth certificate. The LUCEROS Documentation Program has already helped over 300 individuals and 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.

New parents always need help, but especially when it comes to developing key skills essential to nurture their 0 to 3 year olds. 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, before they step into the classroom.

If traditional methodology has ranked the Dominican Republic last in academic performance in Latin America, shouldn't we try something more effective? The Montessori Early Childhood Education Program uses proven Montessori methods to foster classroom learning, independence, and age-appropriate development through active discovery.

Let's get their attention. 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.

Did you know that over 85% of our brains develop before 5 years of age, but just a fraction of education spending is put into these formative years? We believe that starting early provides the best educational foundation for a lifetime, and love, of learning.



### **Luceros Documentation Program**

reached through

workshops to date

cases resolved in the 2017-18 school year

### **School for Parents**









### **Montessori Early Childhood Education**

in Montessori classrooms



# **Early Literacy and Music Education**

hours of group

communication skills



## **HIGH QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION**



Academic Enrichment and Support

Summer Schools and Camps

Libraries and Literacy Programs

**Teacher Training** 

When less than 11% of students are on grade level in reading and math according to UNESCO, innovative change is needed. 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.

As DREAM continues to grow, along with our research, we have discovered that the long summer break has a profoundly negative impact on already low literacy rates and academic achievement. Our **Summer Schools and Camps** target students who are most at-risk of dropping out, increasing their potential to graduate from primary school and finding new, innovative ways to learn.

Reading is the cornerstone of education and low literacy rates are a reflection of poorly performing education systems. The vast majority of Dominican communities do not have access to the books or libraries necessary to create a culture of reading. 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 positive relationships with their peers and community.

What role does the teacher have in all this? All research shows that an inspired teacher is key to changing educational outcomes. Our **Teacher Training Program**, **Futuros**, and our **Summer Camp Teacher Training** equips current teachers and education students with the tools and strategies necessary to provide quality education in the public schools.

The most vulnerable years for Dominican youth are earlier than you might think. Early pregnancy, crime, dropping out - these are all issues we have to confront before the teenage years. DREAM's primary education programs generate a love for learning among students, specifically those struggling to learn, motivating them to stay in school, make responsible decisions and achieve better academic results.



# Academic Enrichment and Support

697
students enrolled in
Young Stars
at eight sites

90% students increased their reading skills by

### **Summer Schools and Camps**









### Libraries and Literacy Programs

144
students
participated in

21,500
books distributed
through My Very Own
Library® book fairs

## **Teacher Training**







### HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Sexual and Reproductive Health

Job Training, Life Skills and Entrepreneurship

**Music Education** 

**University Scholarships** 

Why does the Dominican Republic have the highest teen pregnancy rate in Latin America? 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 to peer youth leadership to encourage healthy decision-making.

High drop-out rates and a lack of key skills have led to a disproportionate number of out of school and unemployed youth. 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.

Academic based programs work best when complimented by more creative pursuits. The **Music Education program** trains students in contemporary music and hosts the iASO Bachata Academy, the only of its kind.

Once a DREAMer works his or her way through the myriad of programs, then what? In collaboration with key donors, qualified students receive 24 full and partial **university scholarships** as well as a variety of skill-building workshops to help them succeed in their degree programs.

Early pregnancy, criminal activity, dropping out, poor decision making...adolescence in the Dominican Republic and the decisions made at this vital stage can impact a young life forever. Life skills, academic support, healthy decision-making, job training, and cultural enrichment are proven to help youth overcome this complicated step towards adulthood.



# Sexual and Reproductive Health

57
youth community leaders certified as peer facilitators

99
HIV tests administered to DREAM program participants





152

youth enrolled in A Ganar across three communities



24
local businesses collaborated on internships





## Music Education

iASO RECORDS

students enrolled in music programs 77.5
hours of rivate lessons

# **University Scholarships**



24

students receiving
University



skill-building worksho offered to scholarshi recipients



## YEAR IN REVIEW

7,500
participants reached 2017-18











#### Fabrice Grinda Tech Center

One of the most effective ways to catch up to the first world is through technology. Our tech based courses introduce youth to everything from basic computer knowledge to robotics and coding, opening whole new worlds from within their own community.



#### **Global Connections Groups**

The connection our visiting volunteers make do so much more than simple service. Unlike most organizations, we design meaningful, community-based experiences that have a focus on education. This past year, DREAM hosted more than 25 groups, with more than 400 volunteers working in 13 communities, adding more than US\$300,000 to those local economies, underfunded schools and partner non profits.



#### **Banco Popular DREAMs**

There is progressive corporate social responsibility and then there is Banco Popular Dominicano. In a country where most companies lack community outreach, BPD has revolutionized giving back. Our partnership through A Ganar has graduated more than 550 students, with a shocking 70% returning to school, finding employment or both.



#### Ace, Jennifer And Coco, My Very Own Library®

How do you create a culture of reading? First, you place a book in the hands of a child. Ace, Jennifer and Coco, partnering with My Very Own Library DREAM Book Fairs offer more than 2,000 students the opportunity to choose 10 books to take home and build their own libraries. Literacy activities, visiting authors and innovative workshops inspire these children to embrace books and start on the path of being lifelong readers.



#### **DREAM in Santo Domingo**

Our DREAM keeps growing, now offering opportunities in 27 communities, including the capitol. Thanks to the visionary work of Executive Board Member Ruben Gonzalez, we have partnered with Escuela Virgen de Carmen and Fundacion Alianza de Corazon, offering the country's most innovative early childhood education program.

#### RC22

Baseball is king in the Dominican Republic, but few of the country's major stars have an impactful way of giving back. Robinson Cano, of the Seattle Mariners and RC22 Foundation, has stepped up and created a model for future players in San Pedro de Macoris, offering Montessori Education to more than 80 young learners at the RC22 DREAM School.



### Mi Mundo

As our reading revolution continues, a collection of our all-star journalists have created a magazine written by and for Dominican readers. Mi Mundo covers topics that impact our local communities and youth, showcasing our editorial staff's critical thinking, writing skills, editing and love of their home.



#### LA Dodger DREAMs

The Dodgers were the first MLB team to allow an African American to play, the first to open an academy in the Dominican Republic and now the first to partner with DREAM, confronting the country's lack of quality education. Thanks to the Dodgers, history is being made once again with the creation of our new Dodger Children's Book, the Dodger DREAM Summer Camp and the Dodger DREAM After School Program.



DREAM Scholarships
Thanks to continues support by Thomas Rosato and Banco Popular Dominicano, DREAM offers 24 university scholarships. This incentive gives clear motivation to our more than 7,500 DREAMers.



#### DREAM Saturdays and Public School Partnerships

As the Ministry of Education continues to transition from half days of school to full, DREAM is strengthening our Saturday programs in technology, music and the arts. Our historic partnership with MINERD includes classwork working in the public schools, along with building libraries to empower our new culture of reading. Change will happen hand and hand with our government partners, not apart.



**8**yearlong international volunteers





17,299
pro bono volunteer hours



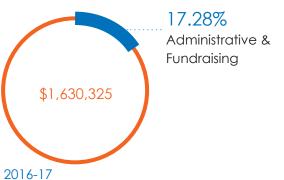
THE NUMBERS THE NUMBERS

## Financials

## Audited Fiscal Year 2016-17

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	2017 Total Expenses	2016 Total Expenses
Bank Fees	1	1	1	1	/	/	\$7,765	/	\$7,765	\$6,116
Brochures & Marketing	/	\$757	\$1,110	/	/	\$1,867	\$1,402	\$6,906	\$10,175	\$12,448
Community Support	\$1,742	\$9,121	\$95,590	1	\$115	\$106,568	/	\$68	\$106,636	\$93,666
Events & Trips	\$1,644	\$39,740	\$1,144	/	\$2,536	\$45,064	/	\$278	\$45,342	\$13,452
In-kind Goods	\$1,001	\$13,852	\$4,394	/	\$153	\$19,400	\$4,950	\$126,510	\$150,860	\$29,747
Insurance	\$237	\$2,559	/	/	/	\$2,796	\$1,083	/	\$3,879	\$2,756
Meals	\$16,170	\$28,694	\$755	/	\$4,277	\$49,896	\$2,075	\$1,543	\$53,514	\$50,318
Medical	\$443	\$209	\$119	1	\$164	\$935	\$9	/	\$944	\$946
Occupancy	1	\$1,080	1	1	/	\$1,080	\$6,805	/	\$7,885	\$9,118
Office Supplies	\$80	\$10	\$19	/	\$143	\$252	\$3,162	/	\$3,414	\$4,748
Payroll & Related	\$149,931	\$186,550	\$32,283	1	\$15,900	\$384,664	\$78,088	\$74,786	\$537,538	\$454,048
Phone & Internet	\$123	\$1,930	\$101	/	\$4,296	\$6,450	\$2,049	\$1,219	\$9,718	\$9,400
Postage & Shipping	\$133	\$19	\$4,446	1	\$16	\$4,614	\$393	\$96	\$5,103	\$5,844
Printing & Copying	\$232	\$1,863	\$284	/	\$342	\$2,721	\$95	\$316	\$3,132	\$7,064
Professional Fees	/	\$308	\$4,010	/	/	\$4,318	\$10,433	/	\$14,751	\$26,217
Pro Bono Services	/	\$106,398	\$36,435	\$11,655	\$3,650	\$158,138	\$3,023	\$17,390	\$178,551	\$212,293
Repairs & Maintenance	\$7,860	\$3,527	\$10,721	/	\$8,861	\$30,969	\$1,157	/	\$32,126	\$16,901
School Supplies	\$9,381	\$11,959	\$76,207	/	\$1,568	\$99,115	\$76	\$3,638	\$102,829	\$129,474
Staff Development	\$8,838	1	\$28,015	1	\$404	\$37,257	\$50	/	\$37,307	\$1,898
Travel & Transportation	\$11,457	\$30,690	\$10,198	/	\$2,562	\$54,907	\$2,755	\$6,452	\$64,114	\$60,947
Uniforms	\$4,455	\$17,612	\$249	/	\$225	\$22,541	\$918	\$479	\$23,938	\$14,371
Utilities	\$234	\$361	/	/	\$650	\$1,245	\$2,246	/	\$3,491	\$2,669
Volunteer Expenses	\$143	\$25,628	\$3,695	/	\$1,359	\$30,825	\$336	\$3,591	\$34,752	\$52,022
Overhead Allocation	\$50,365	\$95,259	\$54,240	\$96,406	(\$47,221)	\$249,049	(\$42,002)	(\$52,246)	\$154,801	\$151,231
Depreciation	\$5,098	\$8,496	\$20,390	1	/	\$33,984	\$1,133	\$2,643	\$37,760	\$40,076
Total 2016-17	\$269,567	\$586,622	\$384,405	\$108,061	*	\$1,348,655	\$88,001	\$193,669	\$1,630,325	
2015-16	\$216,910	\$603,444	\$332,528	\$14,864	*	\$1,167,746	\$101,573	\$138,451		\$1,407,770

<sup>\*</sup>These expenses have been allocated throughout the other programs

#### **OUR DREAMERS**

### **Donor List 2017-18**

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

#### **\$100K AND UP**

William Friedman & Beachwold The RC22 Foundation Jennifer Tuvell, Ace Bailev & Coco Zaleski Family Foundation

#### \$50.000 to \$99.999

Alerta Joven Friends & Family of Anne Feeley, My Very Own Library ® US Embassy, Santo Domingo

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**BBYO** Passport Camp Scatico **Education First** Fabrice Grinda Harrison High School Nationa Honor Society Kimball Family Foundation Millwoods Christian School Nat Sherman Orica USA, Inc. Pan American Academy Charter School Tribeca Pediatrics United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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The Thomas Rosato Foundation UPS Dominicana S.A. Washtenaw International High

#### \$10.000 to \$14.999

School

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321 Takeoff

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Johan Design

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JW Marriott

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Moiito Bar

Natura Cabana

Ocean World

Onno's

Outback Adventures O'Sweet & Orchid Bowcutt Pat'e Palo

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Pernod Ricard

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