

# Annual Report **2022-2023**

[www.dominicandream.org](http://www.dominicandream.org)





# A Message from Our Executive Director:

As I reflect on my 13 years with DREAM, I see our **will to grow** and tackle as many issues as we can in our communities. When I joined DREAM in 2009, we had eight Montessori preschool teachers and a handful of support staff, and we were active in only two communities. Today, we have over 115 employees, and DREAM is working in 15 communities. **The budget has grown six-fold** to support additional initiatives that include youth leadership programming, securing documentation for at-risk children and families, facilitating access to age-appropriate reading materials both in community libraries and at home and the acclaimed Bachata Academy. In total, we run 18 programs ranging from preschools, after-school academic reinforcement classes and parent education to youth empowerment and vocational and teacher training. Most important is **the quality, cohesiveness, professionalism and commitment of the DREAM staff**, who work diligently every day serving our communities.

We have emerged from the pandemic stronger than ever. We have sharpened our skills and implemented new, highly impactful initiatives, like creating a content-rich YouTube channel and online resource library for families, developing a STEAM classroom and merging with Charlie's Foundation to incorporate their strong English program with our Spanish literacy programs and expand our reach. One of my happiest moments during our virtual instruction was seeing a mother of a seven-year-old coaching her son on a science experiment as she filmed him at home. She encouraged him to explain the "why" behind the experiment. That connection by the parent to her child's learning felt tangible and a game changer for her as an education provider at home. That moment inspired our Tutor en Casa program, which teaches innovative ways to capture parents' strengths and turn them into confident educational leaders in the home. These are the "ah ha" moments that your support facilitates and allows us to constantly improve our approaches to challenging problems.

**I made the difficult decision to step down as Executive Director in July 2023.** I would like to provide space for new leadership and fresh ideas to inspire DREAM's future. The Board will be conducting a comprehensive search this year, and we will find the right team to support our communities in the best way possible. I plan to stay connected to DREAM as a resource to continue this great work that was started more than 20 years ago.

**I thank all of you for your unconditional support.** Without you, we could never have come this far nor be this strong.

**Catherine DeLaura**  
Executive Director



Our DREAMers



*I like being with Teacher Rosmerys, because she taught me in a fun way. She was always ready when she told me she will help me. She is very loving, and you learn a lot with the teacher. I like her classroom, because it's nice and it's different from my regular class. Thank you.*

**Diance**, Literacy Student

*I like the Book Fair, because it has amazing books that make me feel like a character in the book. I started reading the book that I chose called Iris's Diary, and I read it completely. It was very, very great. I hope that the next one will arrive very soon.*

**Corienne**, MVOL Book Fair Participant

*The program helped me in a big way. I had problems communicating with people, moderating my speech and expressing my emotions in a healthy way. I was able to develop and create skills. It helped me to be more disciplined and respect others' opinions more, since I had problems working in a team and thinking that only I should do things for them to go well.*

**Escarlin Gonzales Espinal**, A Ganar #34 Participant

*Escarlin received a position at Lax Ojo restaurant/club as a waitress and bartender, where she was accepted and is recognized by her colleagues as a very efficient employee.*



Our DREAM

MISSION

Providing high-quality educational opportunities to children, youth and families in the Dominican Republic.

VISION

Our transformative education programs respond to gaps in the national education system and empower at-risk children and youth to create a better future for themselves and their families. Through innovative approaches to literacy, early childhood education, youth leadership, music instruction and community support, DREAM promotes critical thinking and independence to enrich lives and strengthen sustainable communities.

VALUES

Inclusive, innovative and community-based education for all. At DREAM, learning never stops and opportunity is our great equalizer.



Equity

We respect diversity and fight to overcome prejudices, promoting the integration and inclusion of all regardless of race, sex, physical condition, religion or economic status.



Opportunity

We believe that everyone deserves the same opportunity to learn and develop, and we create the right conditions for them to thrive.



Integrity

We act with respect, responsibility, honesty and authenticity, supporting our words with our actions.



Sustainability

We develop programs that can be successfully implemented and replicated in other communities in the country, leaving behind the necessary tools for future generations to continue their development.



Quality

We strive to continuously improve our programs, providing the best educators and a steadfast commitment to always producing the best results.



Transparency

We aim to track every achievement and dollar spent on our programs and provide detailed reports on all our activities.



+23,000  
books distributed  
through MVOL

85%  
of MVOL participants  
consistently read at home  
with their parents

93%  
of Young Stars students  
increased their reading level

Increase from 14% to  
78%  
of STEAM students reading  
at grade level

71%  
of A Ganar graduates work-  
ing or studying six months  
after participation

17%  
increase in knowledge and skills  
of DPV participants



LITERACY

Reading & Library Programs, My Very Own Library (MVOL), Teacher Training, DREAM Publications

DREAM's greatest strength and focus is the development of a culture of reading in the Dominican Republic. DREAM's approach to literacy is rooted in research-based best practices. Throughout its history, DREAM has developed long-standing relationships with local communities, building awareness of the challenges they face and establishing sustainable, strengths-based programs that meet their needs. We are proud to share that DREAM was recognized as a **Best Practices Honoree** by the United States Library of Congress for our Mi Mundo student-published community magazine and creating a culture of reading in the Dominican Republic.

MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Montessori Preschools, Escuelita de Padres, STEAM Classroom

DREAM's Montessori Program aims to provide high-quality education for children ages three to eight years old. In DREAM's Montessori classrooms throughout the country, Montessori teachers, known as guides, promote children's independence, love for learning, emotional intelligence, leadership and critical thinking. The Montessori curriculum focuses on nine key areas: practical life skills, sensory development, math, language, science and culture, art, gross motor skills, character development and family integration. In addition to promoting classroom development, DREAM's Montessori Program engages parents through Escuelita de Padres and parent meetings, creating a link between education in school and in the home. DREAM hosted its first cohort of full-day elementary-level students in the STEAM classroom.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Deportes para la Vida, Única, Luchadores por el Cambio, A Ganar, Scholarships, Youth Networks

DREAM believes that holistic youth development is key to ensuring that youth have the opportunity to live safe, healthy and productive lives, which ultimately strengthens the communities in which they live. As a result of winning first place in the Alerta Joven Challenge 2022, our Alerta Joven Puerto Plata Youth Network (Red Alerta Joven Puerto Plata) are implementing its first independent project, called Jóvenes de Plata, created and executed by the members of the network, impacting 150 young people in prevention of harmful and illicit substance abuse.

BACHATA ACADEMY

The Bachata Academy is the only music program in the world that focuses on teaching bachata and merengue. A music education focused on local traditions motivates children, empowers communities and preserves diversity. The Academy adjuncts the DREAM Project's flagship campus in Cabarete's Callejón de la Loma and offers free intensive music classes to children of surrounding communities. The Academy's highly skilled, world-renowned professors endeavor to transmit their knowledge of bachata to future generations, while encouraging children to develop their own musical expression. The Academy launched six new bachata ensembles and a program for Haitian Kompa with the aim to cultivate cultural appreciation and musical exchange between Dominicans and Haitians.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Luceros, Department of Psychology, Summer Camp, Eco-DREAM

DREAM believes in holistic community development that begins with access to high-quality education, from early childhood to primary school and beyond. We realize that education is just one piece of the puzzle to end extreme poverty in the Dominican Republic. Through our community programs, we provide additional services, including birth registrations and documentation, psychological intervention and training, summer enrichment and crisis response. In 2022, DREAM's Luceros Human Rights and Documentation Project was selected as the Latin American international winner of the IV edition of the **Óscar Arnulfo Romero Ibero-American Award** for Human Rights Education by the SM Foundation and the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science

DREAM EN CHARLIE & TECH CLASSROOM

In March 2022, Charlie's Foundation and DREAM merged to better serve communities in and around Cabarete. At DREAM en Charlie, DREAM will continue Charlie's Foundation's English as a Second Language, Physical Literacy, Career Readiness and Summer Camp programs and will add its Literacy, Montessori Academy and Youth Leadership programs at the site. DREAM is also honored to share that the Wings Foundation (Phoenix Tower International) and Fundación Altice graciously donated funding for an updated technology classroom at DREAM.



+28,000  
hours of music instruction  
per year

+300  
music students

+90  
psychological  
counseling sessions

98%  
summer camp  
student attendance rate

+10,191  
Luceros  
late declaration  
materials distributed

193  
Luceros  
cases resolved



Thank You

The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being humane. -Mahatma Gandhi

\$100,000 and above

Beachwold Partners  
Benjamin de Menil  
Camp Mountain Chai  
GeoMar Foundation  
Phoenix Tower International  
Zaleski Family Foundation

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Charlie’s Tennis Foundation  
ENTRENA, SRL Alerta Joven Grant DOP  
Georgetown University  
Jennifer Tuvell  
Michel Zaleski  
NHCSB  
RC22 Foundation  
University of Chicago

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Ace Bailey  
CharityBuzz  
Education First  
Kimball Family Foundation  
Therapy Abroad LLC  
Thomas Rosato Foundation DOP  
Together Women Rise  
Tribeca Pediatrics  
William Friedman

\$15,000 to \$24,999

American Jewish World Service  
Beth and Ravenel Curry Foun-  
-dation  
Boykin Curry  
Brugal  
CEPM DOP  
Fondation de France  
JetBlue  
Norman Lerchen  
Playa Grande Holdings  
SeaLand

\$10,000 to \$14,999

Karla Farach  
Mirtha Cabral  
THE BRETEAU FOUNDATION  
United Synagogue Youth

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Aerodom  
Casa de Campo Villa  
Gage Spolansky  
Glenn Keller  
Goya Foods, Inc.  
Kansas State University  
MTW Agency  
US Embassy, Santo Domingo

Victoria de Menil  
Why Hunger

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Aerodom  
Casa de Campo Villa  
Gage Spolansky  
Glenn Keller  
Goya Foods, Inc.  
Kansas State University  
MTW Agency

\$1,000 to 4,999

Carey Pope  
4T Youth Leadership Program  
Ana Galan Foundation  
Beyond the Beach  
Bradley A Funk  
Cable del Norte  
Carol Zimmerman  
Chelsea Figaro  
David Weiss Family Fund  
Dawn Techow  
Elianis Usera  
Erik Cima  
Fundación Cultura Viva  
George de Menil  
Georges & Lois de Menil Charita-  
-ble Fund

Jack Cumming  
Javier Hernandez  
Juan Perdomo DOP  
Kate Deegan  
Kerry Murphy  
Linn Baumgardt  
Luis & Elizabeth Martinez  
Machenry Realtor DR.  
Melanie Hawkins  
Millenium  
Millwoods Christian School  
O’Hara Foundation  
Olivier Chantecaille  
Pass it On Store  
Punta Gorda  
Robert Friedman  
Samantha Ramos  
Scarlin Hernandez  
Sophie Frushell  
Steve Wallace  
Tendayi Kapfidze  
The Lisa Sasevich Family Giving  
Fund  
The Warburg Pincus Foundation  
Ultravioleta  
US Bank Foundation  
Ysanet Batista

Brand Ambassadors

Aerodom  
Altice  
Banco Popular  
CEPM  
CICOM  
Cigar Country  
Fast Enterprises  
Guzmán Ariza and Associates  
JetBlue  
Kimball Family Foundation  
My Very Own Library  
Partners of the Americas  
Phoenix Tower International  
Playa Grande Foundation

Shared Responsibility Partners

321 Takeoff  
4TW  
ADSSosua  
Andari Spa  
Beyond the Beach Children’s  
Foundation  
Bliss Restaurant  
Blossom Retreat  
Blue Moon Retreat  
Brugal  
Cabarete Spinning Studio  
Cable del Norte  
Carib Wind Center  
Casa 21  
Casa Colonial  
Casa de Campo  
Casa Dorado Bed & Breakfast  
Casita de Papi  
Ceiba Café Pizzería  
Cigar Aficionado  
Claro Café  
Coco Beads  
Colonial Gate 4D Cinema  
CPS  
Cultura Viva  
Ecoserve  
Fresh Fresh Sosúa  
Gordito’s  
Greg’s Garage  
Hostal Nicolas de Ovando  
Hotel Magnífico  
Iguana Mama  
International Tennis School  
Johan Design  
Juan Perdomo Century 21  
L’Agence Real Estate  
Lulú Tasting Bar

Millennium Resort & Spa  
Mojito Bar  
Natura Cabana  
Playero Supermarket  
Pierre Michel Salon  
Rancho Luisa & Tommy  
RC22 Foundation and ROC Nation  
SeaLand  
The Butterfly Effect  
The Honey Company  
The Los Angeles Dodgers  
The University of Chicago  
Translators Without Borders  
Tribeca Pediatrics  
Ultravioleta  
USAID  
US Embassy  
Velero Beach Resort  
Villa Taina Resort & Spa  
Yamazato Sushi

Student Group Partners

USY  
4Ts  
7 Elements  
Camp Mountain Chai  
Education First  
Farmington High School  
Friends School of Wilmington  
Middle College High School  
Millwoods Christian School  
New Charter High School  
Washtenaw International School  
Wilmington Friends School  
Youth Ambassadors



Our Team



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Junot Díaz

Honorary Chairwoman

Leslie Grace

Founder and President of the Board

Michel Zaleski

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Mirtha Cabral McQuilling, Vice Chair  
William S. Friedman, Secretary & Treasurer  
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Adriano Espailat  
Ana Galán  
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Darlene Cordero  
Karla Farach de Athanasopoulos  
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Kathy Romero  
Letty Gutierrez  
Spencer Kimball  
Keving P. Manning

Executive Director

Catherine DeLaura

Director of Development

Jonathan Wunderlich

Director of Programs

Anis Altagracia Carrasco López

Director of Montessori

Pura M. Barruos Medina

Coordinators

Ana P. Barrido  
Badui Eduardo Abi Harb  
Belisa L. Howard Martínez  
Cristian Elizabeth Demorizi  
Fray David Peralta  
Jhan Carlos Toribio Martínez

Karla De Marchena Ulerio  
Miguel Angel Smera  
Reynalhy Batista Javier  
Roselyn Cabrera  
Vittoria D’ Achille  
Yakelim Yazbek Harb  
Wendy Jiménez

Admin & Support Staff

Adarlenis Rojas  
Ariangel Cuevas  
Carmen Vargas  
Clara Elena Martínez  
Cruz M. Lantigua  
Diomara Díaz Martínez  
Elizabeth Rodríguez  
Emily MacDowell  
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Hailen García Silvestre  
Jean R. Oscar  
Jose Antonio Díaz  
Juanita Bonilla  
Luis M. Murray Peralta  
Maria L. Gómez Álvarez  
Melanie Goldring  
Patricio Antonio Capellán  
Rancell Flete Rojas  
Raulin Matías  
Rita Rebeca Peña Martínez  
Sol A. Ortega Nuñez  
Vicente Martínez  
Wilton Pérez Vásquez  
Wagner J. Pérez Ozoria  
Yaniris Torres Silverio  
Yaritza Marine Sánchez

Program Staff

Albelisa Vázquez  
Ana Silvia Parra  
Anngy Reyes  
Angela Yudelky Martínez Gómez  
Carla Sarita  
Carlina Rodríguez  
Ciara Yulendi Peralta Peralta

Cristofer J. Ortíz García  
Daniel Stiven Cuervo Jiménez  
Dayamaris Capellán Perdomo  
Dayana Maria Martínez Almonte  
Deyanira Torres  
Dilenia Álvarez  
Dilenia Peña Rojas  
Eliese  
Elsa M. Mercedes Quiñonez  
Elizabeth Suriel  
Emiliana Bravo (Morena)  
Fernadillo  
Fiorely Germania Duran  
Frandy Jill  
Irianna Ironedy Mercado  
Isaías Sánchez Bencosme  
Jennifer A. Sosa Martínez  
Jennifer M. Cueva Marte  
Joanna K. Rodríguez  
Jon Marcos Robles  
Julianny Ventura  
Juan Abel Martínez Mendez  
Juan Carlos Fenerlo  
Juan Claus Previl  
Juan Luis Martínez (Antoni)  
Juan Rafael Castellanos  
Katherine Sugeidy Rodríguez  
Kedly Lamande  
Kelvin De León Zorrilla  
Kircy Del Rosario  
Lemonor M. Mercedes Martínez  
Luisa Ana Díaz  
Luis Alfredo Uribe

Madeline Sosa De Jesús  
Magdalena Sánchez  
Mairene Joseph Luis  
Maria Elena Boitel  
Maribel Arias Santos  
Market Andrés Silvestre  
Melani Montero  
Miguel A. Berihuete Encarnación  
Miguel E. Rivas Brito  
Noni Vásquez Peralta





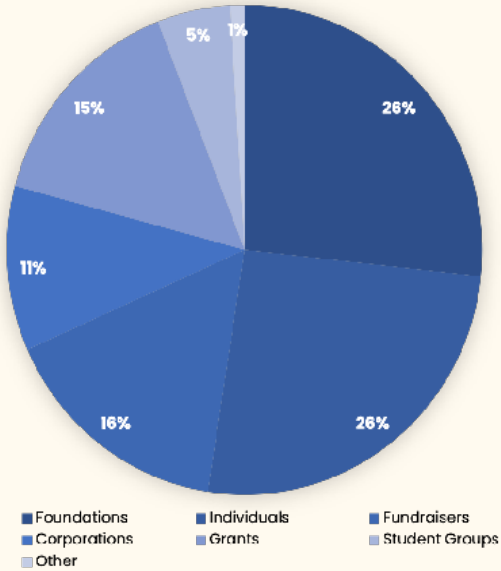
Audited Fiscal Year 2020-2021

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.

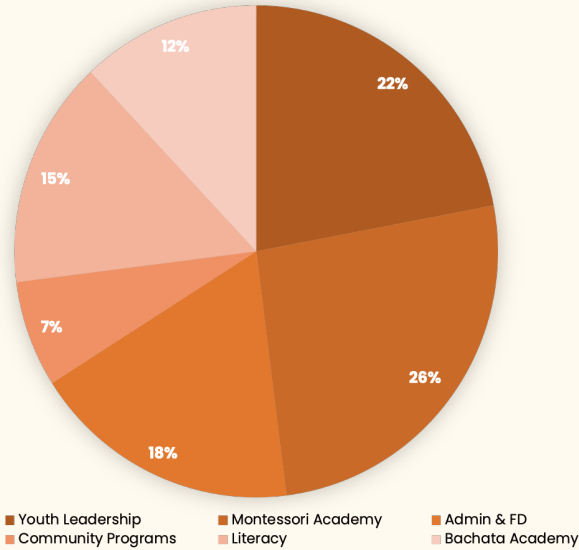
Functional Expenses	Montessori Preschools	Youth Programs	Community Programs	Literacy Programs	DREAM Center	Total Program	Management & General	Fundraising	2021 Total Expenses	2020 Total Expenses
Bank fees	-	-	\$142	-	-	\$142	\$12,230	-	\$12,372	\$9,657
Brochures and marketing	-	\$2,869	\$1,411	-	\$127	\$4,407	\$2,465	\$1,983	\$8,855	\$5,808
Community support	\$15,171	\$2,943	\$67,043	\$770	-	\$85,927	\$252	-	\$86,179	\$112,485
Events and trips	\$751	\$379	\$1,600	\$199	\$1,376	\$4,305	\$76	-	\$4,381	\$29,438
In-kind goods	\$762	\$2,205	-	\$1,724	\$3,412	\$8,103	-	-	\$8,103	\$17,775
Insurance	\$163	-	-	\$138	\$2,111	\$2,412	-	-	\$2,412	\$4,285
Meals	\$2,416	\$1,573	\$6,605	\$1,782	\$6,711	\$19,087	\$153	\$27	\$19,267	\$37,268
Medical	\$2,114	\$1,296	\$524	\$16	\$1,030	\$4,980	\$1,460	-	\$6,440	\$5,506
Miscellaneous	-	\$196	\$35	-	-	\$231	-	\$6,006	\$6,237	\$6,156
Occupancy	\$1,675	\$5,303	-	\$1,512	-	\$8,490	\$6,092	-	\$14,582	\$16,632
Office supplies	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,027	-	\$1,027	\$3,102
Payroll and related costs	\$156,145	\$116,784	\$26,544	\$41,881	\$37,864	\$379,218	\$77,221	\$122,966	\$579,405	\$738,581
Phone and internet	\$902	\$8,689	\$76	\$1,044	\$2,657	\$13,368	\$2,174	\$1,109	\$16,651	\$10,554
Postage and shipping	\$103	\$10	\$138	\$2,869	\$14	\$3,134	\$154	-	\$3,288	\$4,994
Printing and copying	\$794	\$57	\$65	\$3,993	-	\$4,909	\$23	-	\$4,932	\$14,339
Professional fees	-	-	-	\$514	-	\$514	\$20,387	\$170	\$21,071	\$24,435
Pro bono	\$9,600	\$16,000	-	\$200	-	\$25,800	-	-	\$25,800	\$120,915
Repairs and maintenance	\$3,379	\$2,086	\$3,564	\$1,633	\$6,607	\$17,269	\$1,021	-	\$18,290	\$22,696
School supplies	\$7,884	\$1,993	\$27	\$64,253	\$758	\$74,915	-	-	\$74,915	\$78,219
Staff development	\$859	\$151	\$69	-	\$114	\$1,193	\$2,313	\$1,176	\$4,682	\$12,206
Travel and transportation	\$3,314	\$6,229	\$5,744	\$3,124	\$7,479	\$25,890	\$415	\$1,529	\$27,834	\$63,896
Uniforms	\$1,630	\$699	-	\$813	\$921	\$4,063	-	-	\$4,063	\$16,257
Utilities	\$366	\$216	-	\$10	\$1,105	\$1,697	\$1,909	-	\$3,606	\$5,700
Volunteers	\$3,919	\$4,894	-	-	-	\$8,813	-	\$1,134	\$9,947	\$44,649
Overhead allocation	\$38,882	\$95,535	\$63,690	-	(\$72,286)	\$125,821	\$14,193	-	\$140,014	\$202,487
Depreciation	\$3,800	\$6,333	\$15,199	-	-	\$25,332	\$845	\$1,970	\$28,147	\$32,479
Total 2020-2021	\$254,629	\$276,440	\$192,476	\$126,475	-	\$850,020	\$144,410	\$138,070	\$1,132,500	1,640,519

Audited Financial Statements can be viewed on our website at [www.dominicandream.org/financial-transparency](http://www.dominicandream.org/financial-transparency)

Total Income 2020-2021  
\$1,160,260



Total Expenses 2020-2021  
\$1,132,500







# DREAM project

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