

DOULOS DISCOVERY SCHOOL

CASE STATEMENT

JARABACOA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Equipping and educating servant leaders through Christian discipleship and expeditionary learning to impact the Dominican Republic

THE NEED

In the Dominican Republic, half of current elementary students will finish the 4th grade, roughly a third will complete the eighth grade, and **10%** graduate high school (*savethechildren.org*). In addition, there is a drastic shortage of teachers, school buildings and financial support to provide the quality education necessary to adequately prepare young people for the future. The need to reverse this trend is imperative for the country's future as well as for the well being of the children.

In the community of Jarabacoa, where Doulos Discovery School is located, there was a **25% failure rate** and a **10% dropout rate** in 2003-2004. Because of the low quality of education being offered by the public school system, more and more parents are choosing private schools for their children. In 2003-2004, 10% of the students attended private schools and in 2004-2005, that number increased by **50%**. A public school day lasts 3 – 4 hours and classrooms are often crowded with as many as 50 students per instructor. Private school education varies widely: from standards similar to the public school environment to excellent bilingual programs with small classes and high standards such as Doulos Discovery School.

According to UNESCO's SERCE, **the Dominican Republic has the lowest student scores in Latin America** for reading comprehension, mathematics, and science, while neighboring Cuba has the highest student scores.

There is widespread unemployment in Jarabacoa. Half of its residents depend on family members living in the U.S., mainly from New York City, to send \$200-\$300 per month for subsistence living. **One in three teenagers in Jarabacoa do not attend school.** Fifty percent of these teens left school to work because they didn't have the funds to continue going to school. Most of these teenage dropouts are not encouraged by their society to stay in school. The single largest threat to teens in Jarabacoa is the escalation of alcohol and drug use, affecting 46% of the teenage population. When teens were surveyed on ways they could make a brighter future, 58% said to become a professional and 18% thought leaving the country is the best way.

MAP OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



THE SOLUTION: DOULOS DISCOVERY SCHOOL

Doulos Discovery is a 501c3 non-profit Pre-K through 12th grade Expeditionary Learning school located in the mountains of the Dominican Republic

OUR MISSION

Equip and educate servant leaders through Christian discipleship and expeditionary learning to impact the Dominican Republic.

OUR VISION

To positively impact the Dominican Republic by being a resource for change in the community we serve and developing and equipping servant leaders.

Our Responsibilities

- Our first responsibility is to God. We will use the gifts and talents he has given us to their fullest for his glory.
- We are responsible to the students. To them we will deliver a quality educational experience. They will be given an opportunity and pathway to success. It is up to each student to act on that opportunity.
- We are responsible to our teachers and staff. We provide the resources, support, and training to excel at their vocation.
- We are responsible to parents of our students. We will engage and inform parents so that they will deliver children that are ready to learn. In return for their support we will individually care for each and every child in our school.
- We are responsible to the community to develop servant leaders that have the skills to positively impact their community.
- We are responsible to our sponsors and contributors to use their resources as effectively as possible and stay true to our mission.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- TO BE THE BEST BILINGUAL EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING CHRISTIAN PK-12 SCHOOL
 - Revisit curriculum standards annually to make sure they meet or exceed AdvancED and ACSI standards
 - Provide training for staff that empowers them to disciple students and teach well through learning expeditions
- DEVELOP LEADERS WHO CAN IMPACT THEIR COUNTRY FOR CHRIST
 - Meet with universities in the U.S. and Spanish speaking countries to find scholarship opportunities for students
- DEVELOP LEADERS WHO COMPASSIONATELY RESPOND TO THE REAL NEEDS IN THEIR COMMUNITY
 - Involve students in hands-on projects that directly serve the community
- BLEND ECONOMIC CLASSES WITH 50% SPONSORED STUDENTS PER GRADE LEVEL

EDUCATIONAL SOLUTIONS

Dominican children need more than just an education, they need preparation for their future. They need to be equipped and trained as future leaders through an excellent education, preparing them academically, socially and spiritually. That is what Doulos is doing.

Academic Preparation

At Doulos we are offering an excellent curriculum based on the most rigorous academic standards from US schools (ACSI/AdvancED). Within the classroom, their worldview is amplified through a rich, varied and integrated curriculum. Outside the classroom, students have many opportunities to put their learning into practice.

Bi-Literate Learning

We aim for our students to become bi-literate, not just bilingual, mastering reading and writing in both English and Spanish. Our math program stretches their logical thinking and problem-solving skills. All of our subjects of study, including World Geography, are set up to expand students' thinking and challenge them to see beyond what is around them.

Social Preparation

At Doulos, we intentionally mix socio economic classes so that students learn to see each other as equals, challenging the paradigm in developing countries that leaders only come from the elite class. Half of our student body come from the lower socio economic status (SES) and receive almost full scholarships. The other half come from the upper middle SES. Likewise, an excellent education is within reach for students from all economic levels, not just the "elite." Friendships form across the classes and students are challenged to serve the community through regular service projects.

Spiritual Preparation

We desire for the students at Doulos to grow into a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. Our staff model this daily to our students and they can see Jesus fleshed out in a multitude of ways. Through daily devotions and weekly Bible studies, students learn to cultivate a love and passion for Christ as well as a habit for keeping Him first daily.

EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

"I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand."

Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound (www.elob.org) began in the 1990's as a way to make learning more relevant. Expeditions are inquiry-based science or social studies investigations that last from three months to a full year. Language arts, math, art and music are all woven into the expedition as well. Experts are invited as guest teachers, students take field study trips to get a closer look and a product for the community is presented at the end.

One of our best learning expeditions is with 6th grade: the Coral Reef study. Students begin learning about how coral reefs are formed in science class. For their field study, they spend a week on a remote beach snorkeling with Reef Check International marine biologists, studying the reef and how they are currently threatened. Students return to school and write persuasive papers in Spanish and English language arts explaining how students can do

their part to care for the reef. Student writing and their detailed drawings from art class are compiled to make a book that is then presented to Reef Check. Reef Check uses this book to teach students all over the island and to raise funds for their organization.

This is the purpose of expeditionary learning: giving students real projects to work on while incorporating core curriculum. Learning that comes to life.

Besides our learning expeditions, our students also participate in an annual Outdoor Education week. Held each fall, all students spend a week in the great outdoors exploring plants, water systems, and indigenous peoples. Students in grades 4 through 7 spend a week camping. Eighth grade students hike to the top of a 10,000 foot mountain. This week is key for both students and teachers for hands on learning, team building and building relationships. More is accomplished in just a few days on an ODED expedition than could be accomplished in many weeks in a traditional classroom setting. This approach to learning is one of the cornerstones that make Doulos unique.

PROGRAMS AT DOULOS DISCOVERY SCHOOL

Sponsorship Program

50% of the students in each class at Doulos are in the scholarship program. The sponsorship program is set up to train future leaders who come from poor yet solid Christian families. In addition to paying a small monthly tuition, the students' parents must be employed, be actively involved in a local church community, be willing to work at Doulos five hours per month as part of the monthly tuition and be actively involved in our parent training program. To be selected, students must have outstanding grades and behavior. Once selected, scholarship students must maintain a "B" or above average and exhibit excellent behavior.

Lunch Sponsorship Program

Some of our sponsorship students qualify for the lunch sponsorship program. This is to provide adequate nutrition for our exceptionally poor students. Preschool students receive breakfast and elementary students receive a hearty lunch everyday. Once students are in the lunch scholarship program, they will receive a meal every school day for the entire school year.

Parent Training Program

One of our most important programs is the Parent Training Program, a monthly series of talks for our parents to encourage them in the daunting task of training healthy children. Guest speakers lead seminars on topics such as study skills, discipline, family finances and parental involvement.

Co-curricular Activities and Intramurals

During the week and on Saturday mornings, a variety of extracurricular activities are offered. Soccer is the main sport at Doulos and practices are held three afternoons a week and Saturday mornings. Seasonal sports are offered during the school year and are open to the community to watch. After school tutoring is offered twice weekly. Physical Education, Art and Music are all included in the regular weekly curriculum.

OUR PAST

Doulos Discovery School began as a dream in the hearts of Krista and Chad Wallace in the spring of 2002. They had been working with children and youth in the Dominican Republic since 1995 and knew firsthand the benefits of a good education and had witnessed the misfortune for those who are not properly educated. Krista had been directing a startup Christian school for the wealthy when she recognized the vast need of the other children in the community. There were several sponsorship students at the school who were doing very well and it occurred to her to start a similar program for students that came from poor Christian families. As they began to dream, the Lord brought to them the idea of beginning a bilingual Christian school that teaches experientially where half of the school would be full-paying students and the other half would be sponsorship students. This mix would be necessary to break the prejudice that exists here between the social classes. These scholarship students would be selected for their grades and behavior, their parents' involvement in a local church, and their parents' willingness to be involved monthly in their child's education.

In August of 2002, they left the DR for six months to begin laying the foundation for this new ministry. They incorporated Doulos Discovery Ministries as a non-profit 501(c) 3 in Texas and formed a board of directors. In January 2003, they began remodeling the rented facilities with work teams from Prince of Peace Lutheran church in Burnsville, MN. Teachers were recruited and they raised funds to come teach for a year. School began the beginning of September with 79 students, 35 of which were on scholarship.

Our scholarship program is one of the cornerstones of Doulos and it is already impacting families. Over 40 families have children in our sponsorship program that has 65 students. It gives opportunities to families that would never be able to offer this level of education to their children otherwise.

Doulos is a platform for ministry in the community. It is a non-threatening environment where students and families are ministered to, no matter their faith. Students are teaching their families how to read the Bible and how to pray and parents are coming to know the Lord through their relationships with staff at Doulos.

Doulos had excellent student retention from the first year to the second and student population grew to 135 students the second year. Parents are excited about what their children are receiving and are involved on multiple levels.

In the spring of 2004, Doulos became involved with a local public school that was badly in need of more classroom space. Monies were raised and work teams have been working on building four additional classrooms for the 2005-06 school year so 200+ more students can attend there. Doulos is deeply committed to serve in the community.

OUR PRESENT

For the 2010-11 school year, we have 225 students enrolled in grades preschool through twelfth. There are currently 56 part-time and full-time staff, 22 of whom are volunteers from the United States, and 2 student teachers from Texas A&M University.

Of these students, 140 of them qualify for our sponsorship program. Our sponsorship program has grown 400% since 2003. Our free lunch program provides a healthy, well-balanced meal for 44 students.

Doulos is in its sixth year implementing Expeditionary Learning with Outward Bound, a revolutionary way of teaching! Each grade is involved in science or social studies based investigations that will last up to three months. (*see Learning Expeditions 2010-11 chart*) Each expedition ends with a product for the community. Last school year, fifth grade designed a built an outdoor arbor in our school garden. Doulos gives real challenges to our students! This school year, Doulos will continue its partnership with Reef Check International to protect the coral reefs of the Dominican Republic. Several of our students participated in a joint investigation with Reef Check and the Discovery Channel.

For the second year in a row, Doulos was awarded the prestigious Exemplary School award for academic achievement by Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Of over 5,500 member schools worldwide, only 29 were selected. In May 2011, we will finish a joint accreditation with ACSI and AdvancED.

Our biggest celebration this last year was our first graduating class. All seven graduates went on to the United States for a post secondary educational opportunity during the fall of 2010. One received a full scholarship to St. Olaf College, while four are in community colleges in Texas, Ohio, and Chicago. Two will return and begin university in the Dominican Republic for spring 2011.

OUR FUTURE

As we look to the future we are able to catch a glimpse of the dream Chad and Krista had seven years ago and realize it is within reach. The success of the school has created the student demand that was anticipated. Going forward we must address these major issues:

1. How much student demand can we satisfy while staying true to our mission?
2. What level of quality education will we deliver to our students?
3. Once we have prepared these new leaders, what obligation do we have to them once they graduate? The Board has agreed that a single section, 20 students per section enrollment is optimal to achieving our mission. The Board has chosen to pursue the highest level of education possible for our students. The Board also believes that developing business opportunities within the community will create opportunities for students to not only learn experientially but can provide opportunity to them once they graduate.

In order to continue our mission the Doulos Discovery School will need to transform in the following ways.

- 1) The current campus must change to accommodate the projected number of kids, the activities in which they participate and to support the mission of the school.
- 2) New classrooms must be added to support our growing classrooms and grade levels.
- 3) Athletic fields need to be constructed to accommodate the growing number of kids, the activities they are involved in and be of the quality befitting the school.
- 4) School infrastructure must be upgraded to meet growth needs and provide a safe learning environment
- 5) Opportunities for graduating students to continue to grow as leaders and impact their community must be developed. This will be both post secondary education and work opportunities.
- 6) Doulos Ministries must transform its organizational structure so that it can go forward in perpetuity.

FUNDING GOALS FOR 2010-11

- Secure sponsors for all sponsored students
- \$18,000 for teacher's salaries
- \$17,000 for sponsorship program
- \$9,000 for technology / computer lab
- \$1,000 for library books
- \$12,000 for learning expeditions and professional development
- \$1,500 for service learning
- \$2,500 for staff care
- \$8,000 for accreditation visit – May 2011

GOVERNANCE OF DOULOS DISCOVERY MINISTRIES

Doulos Discovery Ministries is a non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 status and is based out of Burnsville, MN. It has a board of directors that meets twice annually and holds quarterly teleconferences. Board members are selected for their expertise in a particular area and their commitment to the ministry of Doulos. Terms are for a minimum of two years. The DDM board's main objectives are to maintain mission and vision, raise funds and keep financial accountability for monies spent.

Current DDM Board members:

John Hanson, retired MN school superintendent (chair)
Eric Elton, outreach pastor (treasurer)
Karsten Nelson, pastor
Mike McDevitt, builder
Joe Baer, sales executive
Mary Lee Underberg, career consultant
Pam Hallberg, travel agent and retired school librarian
Grace Schroeder Scott, development director
Deb Bergstrand, associate pastor
Krista Wallace, founder and current executive director

DDM address:

PO Box 3080
Burnsville, MN 55337

Doulos Discovery School is a Dominican school recognized by the Dominican Secretary of Education. DDS receives donations monthly through monies raised for the sponsorship program, lunch sponsorship program and individual staff support. DDS has a local advisory board that meets regularly and is comprised of parents and business leaders in the community. There are no established term limits for the advisory board. The DDS board's main objective is to provide counsel for local issues relating to the school.

Current DDS Board members:

Benjamin Peña, civil engineer (chair)
Chad Wallace, director of development
Gloricel Batista, parent and travel agent
Krista Wallace, executive director of DDS
Daniela Piña, Parent & owner Farmacia San Miguel
Jaqueline Tavarez, civic leader
Asbeth Ramos, academic director

2010-11 LEARNING EXPEDITIONS

Grade	Fall	Spring
<i>PK3</i>	<p>Five Senses What are my five senses and how do they help me? <u>Final product:</u> Perform songs in sign language to students in local deaf school</p>	<p>Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies What makes me healthy? <u>Final product:</u> medical guide to Jarabacoa</p>
<i>PK4</i>	<p>Five Senses What are my five senses and how do they help me? <u>Final product:</u> Perform songs in sign language to students in local deaf school</p>	<p>Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies What makes me healthy? <u>Final product:</u> medical guide to Jarabacoa</p>
<i>Kindergarten</i>	<p>Inventions Why do inventions happen and how do they improve our world? <u>Final product:</u> invent something new for the DDS campus</p>	<p>Insects and their Homes What insects live in the DR and where do they live? <u>Final product:</u> guide book to endemic insects of the DR</p>
<i>1st</i>	<p>Keeping Fit and Healthy What does my body need? <u>Final product:</u> Food pyramid poster for the Café Taino</p>	<p>It Takes a Village Who are the community helpers in my town? <u>Final product:</u> Calendar that highlights the different community helpers of Jarabacoa.</p>
<i>2nd</i>	<p>Fact or Fiction: What makes me sick? What are germs and how are they spread? <u>Final product:</u> news cast on germs for local television</p>	<p>Australian Animals What animals live in Australia and what kind of home do they have? <u>Final product:</u> an Australian animal zoo with field guide</p>
<i>3rd</i>	<p>Simple Machines How do simple machines improve our world? <u>Final product:</u> build a simple machine for the DDS playground</p>	<p>Ancient Egypt What did the Ancient Egyptians leave us? <u>Final product:</u> clay mummy and sarcophogus</p>

4 th	So much trash! What happens to our trash and how does it affect our world? <u>Final product:</u> design and build a compost area for DDS	Incans What were the distinguishing characteristics of Incan culture that have helped it survive so long? <u>Final product:</u> detailed drawing or model of an Incan city or temple
5 th	Birds of Hispaniola: What birds are indigenous to the DR and which ones are migratory? <u>Product:</u> greeting cards with pictures of hand-drawn birds with their scientific information	Immigration in North America Why do people migrate and how does it change a country? <u>Final product:</u> Collection of biographies of important immigrants in our community
6 th	Healthy Coral Reef Why are the coral reefs around the world in danger? <u>Final product:</u> collection of short stories describing the dangers for the coral reef	Mayans What were the distinguishing characteristics of Mayan culture that have helped it survive so long? <u>Final product:</u> detailed drawing or model of a Mayan city or temple
7 th	Dictators vs. Democracy: What impact have dictators and democracy had on the DR? <u>Product:</u> dramatic presentation of past presidents and their contributions	Rock and Caves How are caves formed and how are they important in the DR? <u>Final product:</u> create blog for caving in the DR
8 th	Roman Civilization: How did Rome become so powerful and why did it fall? <u>Final product:</u> write a series of biographical short stories on fictional Roman characters (American Girl style series)	Freshwater Ecosystems What is an ecosystem and what makes one healthy? <u>Final product:</u> design and build pond for a school in Jarabacoa
9 th	Industrial Revolution: How did the Industrial Revolution affect the DR? <u>Product:</u> dramatic presentation on the sugar industry and how it has affected the DR	Creating Power: How is energy generated and how can we implement a method for generating electricity? <u>Final product:</u> create an energy producing model for real use (solar, hydro, wind)
10 th	Lobster Habitats How can the local lobster fishing be improved with stationary lobster habitats? <u>Final product:</u> build lobster habitats for local fishermen (with Reef Check DR)	Revolutionary Leaders What makes a leader revolutionary and who are key leaders in history? <u>Final product:</u> collection of biographical sketches of revolutionary leaders; mural on side of school of revolutionary leaders
11 th	Driving Us Crazy: What are the rules of the road and how can we make our streets safer? <u>Final product:</u> powerpoint presentation to local high school students on driving safety	Yaque River Study: What is the water quality of the Yaque River and what are sources of contamination? <u>Final product:</u> documentary on the contamination of the largest river in the DR