

ANNUAL REPORT



DREAM project

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EDUCATION AND MENTORING

2014-2015

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear **DREAM Family**,

Since day one, the DREAM Project has always strived to join forces with like-minded organizations and individuals to build a unified alliance of change.

I am proud to announce several exciting collaborations for the 2014-15 school year. My Very Own Library, Anne Feeley Foundation and Scholastic have teamed up to offer 27,500 books for the North Coast of the Dominican Republic. Through a series of Book Fairs throughout the school year, 2,000 local students will be choosing 10 books each to develop libraries in their homes. The remaining 7,500 books will be used in new DREAM libraries that are sprouting up with the support of five Peace Corps Education Volunteers working in the communities of Monte Llano, Villa Liberación, Sabaneta de Cangrejo and Caraballo. In addition, we are very pleased to have received the Brugal Cree en su Gente Award in recognition of our work in high quality education. The prize money will be used to build two additional school libraries. Also, pursuant to our vision established many years ago, an increasing number of individuals and organizations are asking us to replicate DREAM Programs. This year, DREAM's Montessori Pre-school Program is expanding to La Romana and San Pedro.



These exciting new initiatives correspond perfectly with DREAM's goal of developing a culture of reading throughout the Dominican Republic. Research shows that good reading habits lead to increased educational attainment, better personal decision-making and more successful careers. We start this process with 2 year olds and offer innovative programs up to age 24. We are constantly tweaking and

improving our teaching methods to develop high quality Montessori pre-schools, reading and library programs that capture children's imaginations, hands-on extracurricular programs and camps, and sports-based programs to develop job and life skills.

As you can see from this report, 2014 is proving to be a great year! We are serving 4,500 children and youth in 15 communities generating over 487,000 hours of very high quality teaching in small groups.

We thank everyone whose contributions sustain our work and welcome you to get directly involved. And we invite all of you to visit us on the North Coast of the Dominican Republic to see the true magic of our programs up close.

Sincerely,

Catherine DeLaura
Executive Director
The DREAM Project



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.

OUR VALUES...

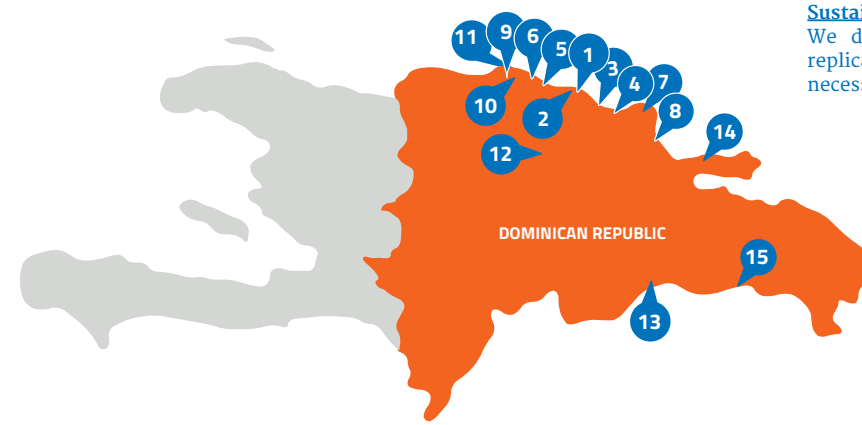
Integrity
We act with respect, responsibility, honesty, and authenticity, supporting our words with our actions.

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

Inclusion
We respect diversity and fight to overcome prejudices, promoting the integration and coexistence of different groups regardless of race, skin color, sex, physical condition, religion or economic status.

Quality
We strive to continuously improve our programs, providing a service of excellence and a steadfast commitment to always producing the best results.

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



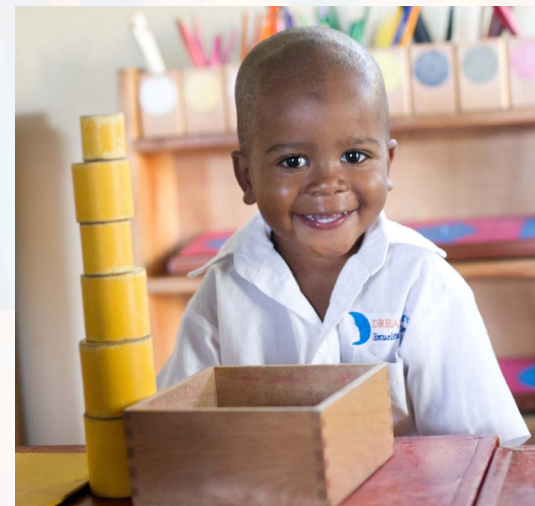
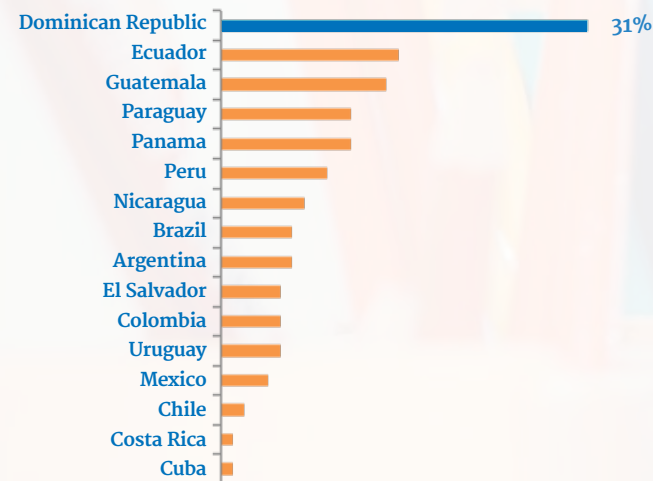
OUR REACH...

DREAM LOCATION	Early Childhood Education	High Quality Primary Education	Holistic Youth Development	Arts, Culture and Community Enrichment
1. Cabarete, Colonia Nueva	●	●	●	●
2. La Ciénaga		●	●	●
3. Barrio Blanco	●	●	●	●
4. Islabón		●	●	●
5. Sosúa		●	●	●
6. La Unión		●		
7. Sabaneta de Yásica	●	●	●	●
8. Abreu	●	●	●	●
9. Batey Caraballo	●	●	●	●
10. Montellano			●	
11. Puerto Plata		●	●	
12. Santiago			●	
13. Santo Domingo			●	●
14. Las Terrenas			●	
15. San Pedro de Macorís				●

WHY EDUCATION?

Low levels of education limit the ability of citizens to lead healthy, productive and dignified lives. Students in the Dominican Republic have the lowest academic achievement levels across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Percent of Third Graders Performing Below Lowest Level on Regional Reading Exam (UNESCO 2008)



We know that higher levels of education are tied to positive outcomes in health, economic prosperity, standard of living, and participation in society. Yet nearly half of all students in the Dominican Republic do not move past eighth grade.¹ Among the poorest segment of the population, only 33.6% of students graduate high school.²

DREAM fills the gap by providing more than 487,000 hours of quality education for more than 4,500 children annually through 15 different programs across 15 communities, affecting the lives of more than 8,000 community members.

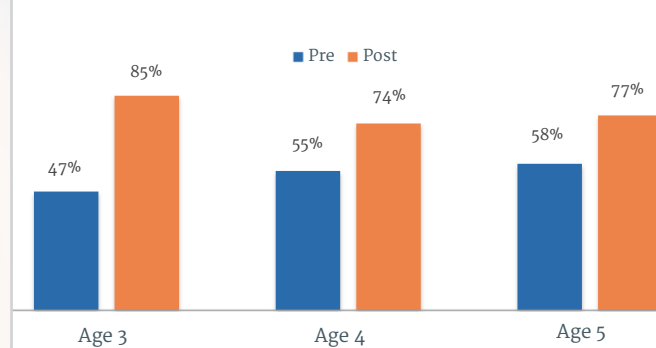
DREAM ensures that 100% of your donations go directly toward our education programs. The DREAM Executive Board funds our operating expenses, so your contribution goes straight to those who need it most.

Sources:
 1. UNICEF 2012
 2. Inter-American Development Bank 2014, Graduate XXI, High school graduation rates in Latin America infographic

OUR IMPACT

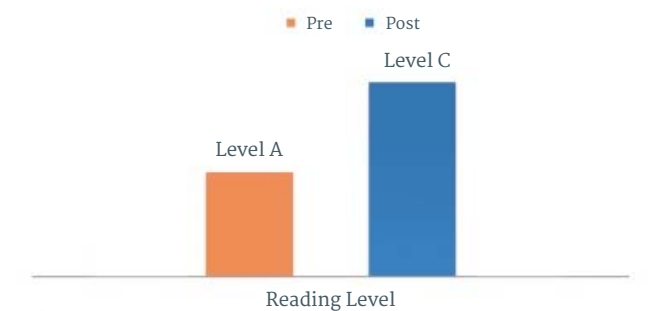
The DREAM Project is a results-driven organization. We believe that every dollar spent on programs should have the highest possible impact. Our staff members and volunteers carefully define their goals and measure their work in order to deliver programs that are effective at addressing some of the toughest challenges in our communities. Check out some of the highlights below from 2013 - 2014.

Average Growth and Development of 3 to 5 Year Olds in Montessori Program



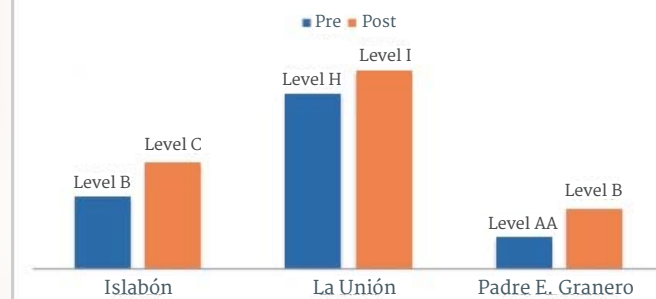
Data shows student growth on evaluations that assess age-appropriate milestones in kinesthetic, socio-emotional, language, and cognitive development.

The most struggling readers (those who began pre-literate or have the lowest literacy levels at the start of the year) grow an average of two reading levels in one year.

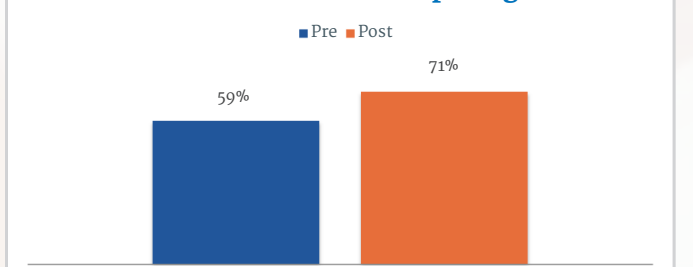


Data shows change in student reading levels based on Reading A-Z system. Average growth is approximately one reading level, although average scores do not show the even greater growth demonstrated by individual readers. Moving up one reading level requires fluency and answering 80% of comprehension questions correctly.

Weekly or bi-weekly reading interventions in Mobile Library program allow students to grow an average of one reading level during the academic year.

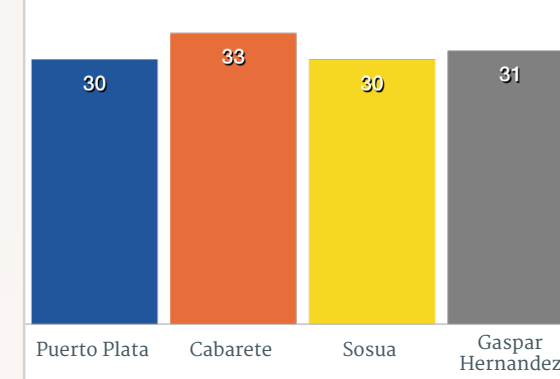


Average Growth in Math for Children and Youth in Summer Camp Program

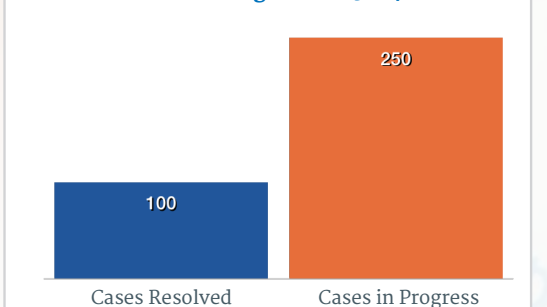


Data shows student performance on mathematics assessments developed by DREAM.

Number of A Ganar Graduates in 2013-14



Number of Birth Certificate Cases Resolved and in Progress 2013-14



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

DREAM believes that early childhood education is key to providing children with a head start. Our programs allow children to grow and develop at their own pace while encouraging play and exploration in a safe learning environment. With the support of family and caregivers, developmental progress is reinforced in the home, ensuring that all children arrive at school ready to learn. This is how we lay a foundation for high-quality education.



More than 500 children, across 5 schools, each receive more than 500 hours annually of high-quality Montessori instruction by local certified teachers

MONTESSORI EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Early interventions can lead to significant benefits for children over their lifetimes, including higher levels of school achievement, lower levels of grade repetition, lower levels of crime, and increased earnings. Early childhood education is critical to combat the effects of poverty. DREAM's early childhood education program is based on the Montessori method, a child-centered educational approach developed by Dr. Maria Montessori that enables children to take charge of their own learning.



PARENT EDUCATION

Even the most dedicated and well-resourced parent needs support in the difficult task of raising a child. Parents in low-income communities have limited access to information about child development that could help them provide their child with early stimulation and learning opportunities that make a big difference. In addition, parents with low education levels often believe that they should play only a limited role in their child's formal education, thus missing out on critical opportunities to reinforce learning in the home and to encourage academic success. We support parents in getting started at home right away.



HIGH-QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION

DREAM believes that high-quality primary education is key to student learning and development. Student-centered classrooms, trained teachers, engaging learning materials, high-interest books, and a culture of reading are at the core of our primary education programs. Innovative education and learning opportunities allow students to develop strong academic skills that set them up for current and future success. Our goal is to address problems that, if left unsolved, could dramatically affect the life outcomes of a child.



DREAM has 2 mobile libraries, 3 public libraries, 7 summer schools & camps, and 4 Young Stars Programs, serving more than 1,500 participants

PUBLIC AND MOBILE LIBRARIES

Most public schools in the Dominican Republic lack libraries or have limited libraries with books that are not age appropriate or of high-interest to young readers. In addition, public libraries are rare and most families in high poverty communities do not have books at home. As a result, student reading levels in the Dominican Republic are the lowest in the region. Our solution? Open access to books and mobile libraries that deliver the joy of reading to schools most in need.



YOUNG STARS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS & CAMPS

Young Stars and DREAM Summer Schools and Camps are extracurricular programs that support the academic growth and personal development of primary grade students from local public schools. Both programs place a strong emphasis on literacy and developing a culture of reading using age appropriate books that are adapted to different reading levels, guided reading, and balanced literacy methodology to increase reading fluency and comprehension. In addition, students have extensive opportunities to develop their personal interests through special projects, educational workshops, field trips, cultural events, and community service. Our Summer Schools and Camps are one month, intensive summer programs while Young Stars continues throughout the academic year.



TEACHER TRAINING

One of the most important factors for student learning is a qualified teacher. Many public school teachers in the Dominican Republic need support to manage the significant teaching challenges that arise in under-resourced and overcrowded schools. As a result, student learning and engagement suffers. We believe in inspiring, educating and empowering local teachers to overcome these challenges. Our teacher training programs allow current and future teachers to learn and practice new teaching strategies in order to produce the best learning outcomes for their students.

HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

DREAM believes that holistic youth development is key to ensuring that youth have the opportunity to learn how to live safe, healthy, and productive lives. Youth development programs protect the basic rights of vulnerable youth, encourage personal growth, prevent engagement in risky behaviors, and develop future leaders. Our programs foster healthy decision-making at critical moments so that youth do not just survive—they thrive.



A GANAR

In the Dominican Republic, nearly one third of youth between the ages of 15-24 are unemployed. As a result, many youth are unable to provide for themselves and their families and are drawn to illegal activities, such as prostitution, drug trafficking, and crime (World Bank, 2013). A Ganar is composed of four phases that focus on employability skills, market-driven technical and vocational skills, supervised professional internships, and follow-up coaching related to job preparation, search, and placement. We believe the best solution is to assist these youth in unlocking their potential, enabling them to provide for themselves over the long-term.



A Ganar has graduated more than 190 youth and 74% are either employed, in school or both

DEPORTES PARA LA VIDA (SPORTS FOR LIFE)

In the Dominican Republic, HIV/AIDS is one of the leading causes of death among women of reproductive age (World Bank, 2013). Thanks to education and awareness programs such as Deportes Para La Vida, HIV prevalence is decreasing. The fun of sports and games is leveraged to teach students about HIV transmission and its effects on the body, while also teaching them how to avoid risky partners and situations, reduce stigma and discrimination, and eliminate gender-based violence. Prevention is key!



LUCEROS DOCUMENTATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

Undocumented children and youth are unable to access basic services including education, healthcare, and social assistance, and are significantly more susceptible to abuse and exploitation. In the Dominican Republic, nearly 20 percent of children under age 5 do not have a birth certificate, and more than one-third of youth do not have their mandatory cedula (identity card) by the time they reach age 18. This lack of documentation thus contributes to the intergenerational transmission of poverty and denies basic human rights to thousands of children, youth, and adults. Our dedicated staff works with families to collect necessary paperwork, providing step-by-step guidance through the process of declaring their child.

ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

DREAM believes that personal enrichment, creative expression, and community engagement are key to help students and community members become lifelong learners. High-interest programs develop individual talents, make learning fun, and encourage the cultivation of skills and hobbies that lead to satisfying and enriching lives.

MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

The DREAM Music Education Program is based on the simple belief that music can change lives, providing a solid foundation for at-risk children and youth to develop their creative talents, strengthen their cognitive abilities, and improve their educational experience.

Our music program provides 60 students with 240 hours each of music education



COMMUNITY ENGLISH PROGRAMS

Community English Programs are essential for employment in tourism and the global marketplace. Quality English language programs, however, are often scarce or too expensive for residents of poor communities, further exacerbating poverty inequalities. English fluency opens the door to new education and employment opportunities and enables social mobility. DREAM attracts experienced English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and volunteers to lead language classes that emphasize conversation and authentic communication.



DREAM provides 40 adults with 20 hours each of English class

COMPUTER LITERACY

Computer literacy is critical in a world driven by information technology. A technology gap – or digital divide – between the rich and the poor prevents many individuals in low-income communities from having access to computers. At DREAM, we bridge this divide by providing computers and instruction that enable community members to use new technology effectively to seek information or produce their own content.



DREAM provides 250 students/community members more than 85 hours of computer literacy each year



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

At the heart of DREAM, you will find a volunteer. DREAM believes in the power of matching committed volunteers with knowledgeable community members to create sustainable change. We provide structured volunteer experiences that address community-identified needs while respecting local culture. International and local volunteers make meaningful contributions to our communities on a daily basis, and DREAM provides the follow-up to ensure that these contributions last over the long-term.

LETTER FROM A STUDENT

“I was accepted into A Ganar 2014, where I met wonderful and talented people, who were fully interested in learning how to develop personal and professional life skills. I learned to work as a team, lose the fear of public speaking, and how to give a speech. I did the nurse course in public health in Puerto Plata, where I learned how to perform injections and how to clean wounds. Dr. Muse taught us how to treat and care for babies and how to rehabilitate the elderly or disabled. I then did my internship at a daycare called Wonderland, working with incredibly talented, imaginative and energetic children. I’m very proud to have achieved my goals of completing the course and graduating. Because of A Ganar, I now have more knowledge and skills, and most importantly reached my goals through hard work, faith and self-confidence. After I graduated, within five days I had a job in the Nursery where I did my 3-month internship. Thank you, DREAM, for giving me the opportunity to work there.”

–Johanna María Camacho Paulina, age 18, A Ganar Graduate



FINANCIALS

Because of DREAM's focus on efficiency and the unique vision of our Executive Board, DREAM is able to direct all contributions to programs. We are committed to transparency and invite all supporters to learn how our finances are allocated for greatest impact.



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

DONOR LIST 2013-14

OVER \$100K

IREO Management
Thomas Rosato Foundation
Zaleski Family Foundation

\$75K TO \$25K

William S. Friedman
Kimball Family Foundation
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\$25K TO \$10K

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STUDENT TRIP PARTNERS

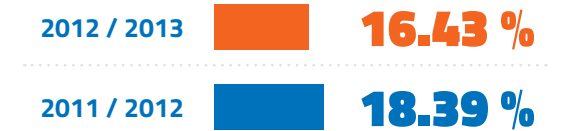
Adventures Cross Country
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Washtenaw International High School
Wilderness Ventures

Sueños 2013 Special Thanks: Amalia Gomez, The Cecilia Cruz Foundation, Skyline Concepts, Daniel Ross and Karla Farach de Athanasopoulos.

SCHEDULE OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Year ended June 30, 2013 with Comparative Totals for June 30, 2012. Includes in-kind and pro bono values. All amounts are in US dollars.

ADMINISTRATIVE & FUNDRAISING PERCENTAGE



TOTAL EXPENSES



2012-13 FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	MONTESSORI PRESCHOOLS	YOUTH PROGRAMS	COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	SERVICE LEARNING TRIPS	TOTAL PROGRAMS	MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	FUND RAISING	
Bank Fees	/	\$ 272	/	/	\$ 272	\$ 1,908	/	
Brochures & Marketing	/	/	/	/	/	\$ 105	\$ 6,246	
Community Support	/	\$ 3,995	\$ 33,228	/	\$ 37,223	/	/	
Events and Trips	\$ 858	\$ 2,479	\$ 110	/	\$ 3,447	\$ 125	/	
In-kind Goods	\$ 3,035	\$ 8,036	\$ 5,321	/	\$ 16,392	\$ 746	\$ 9,132	
Insurance	\$ 162	\$ 705	/	/	\$ 867	\$ 844	/	
Meals	\$ 12,608	\$ 20,894	\$ 586	/	\$ 34,088	\$ 220	\$ 244	
Occupancy	\$ 5,098	\$ 25,247	\$ 5,044	/	\$ 35,389	\$ 5,355	/	
Office	\$ 166	\$ 203	\$ 4	/	\$ 373	\$ 1,274	\$ 50	
Payroll & Related	\$ 101,473	\$ 56,966	\$ 36,724	\$ 39,488	\$ 234,651	\$ 42,927	\$ 56,192	
Phone & Internet	/	\$ 332	/	/	\$ 332	\$ 2,142	\$ 1,491	
Postage & Shipping	/	/	\$ 849	/	\$ 849	\$ 343	\$ 202	
Printing & Copying	\$ 101	\$ 343	\$ 253	/	\$ 697	\$ 176	\$ 212	
Professional Fees	/	\$ 61	/	/	\$ 61	\$ 7,865	/	
Program Development	/	\$ 1,943	/	/	\$ 1,943	/	/	
School Supplies	\$ 6,196	\$ 10,140	\$ 2,736	/	\$ 19,072	/	/	
Staff Development	\$ 14,794	\$ 1,524	/	/	\$ 16,318	\$ 663	/	
Travel & Transportation	\$ 8,150	\$ 10,855	\$ 3,116	/	\$ 22,151	\$ 676	\$ 8,623	
Volunteer Stipends	\$ 3,490	\$ 19,906	\$ 6,275	/	\$ 29,671	/	/	
Pro Bono Services	\$ 31,995	\$ 198,180	\$ 40,060	\$ 48,250	\$ 318,485	\$ 240	\$ 500	
Overhead Allocation	\$ 37,888	\$ 81,066	\$ 32,812	/	\$ 151,766	/	\$ 35,102	
Depreciation	\$ 5,698	\$ 12,572	\$ 13,354	/	\$ 31,624	\$ 1,933	\$ 2,357	
TOTAL								
	2013	\$ 231,712	\$ 455,749	\$ 180,472	\$ 87,738	\$ 955,671	\$ 67,542	\$ 120,351
	2012	\$ 198,673	\$ 420,687	\$ 136,200	\$ 66,193	\$ 821,753	\$ 73,230	\$ 111,933

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