



kidsalive[®]
INTERNATIONAL

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ANIJA School

As the oldest Kids Alive program in Dominican Republic, ANIJA's mission of "helping the children of Jarabacoa" is spelled out in its Spanish acronym. It was originally started as a care center more than 25 years ago, and today the full campus includes a Pre-K through 8th grade school, playground, computer lab, and offices. Currently, 355 needy and vulnerable children have found a place to learn and grow at ANIJA.

Our students come from the poorest communities and would otherwise not have access to a solid education. Not only do we offer them a quality education including English, computers, and art, but our after-school program provides lunch, tutoring, and extracurricular activities. We are thankful that more than 80% of the students who enter our program graduate from high school, and each one hears daily about the hope found in Jesus.

This past year, we received several academic excellence awards from our local school district based on district-wide standardized testing. And our staff was proud that one of our girls' soccer teams finished second place in a national tournament, which included many of the wealthy private schools from the capital.

As we look to the future, we hope to expand the school by adding 9th grade and some additional classroom space. Another priority is to continue development of a sexual purity curriculum, helping each student see their God-given value. It's an amazing privilege to see the tangible effects of hope breaking through, as many of our ANIJA teachers are former at-risk kids in our program.

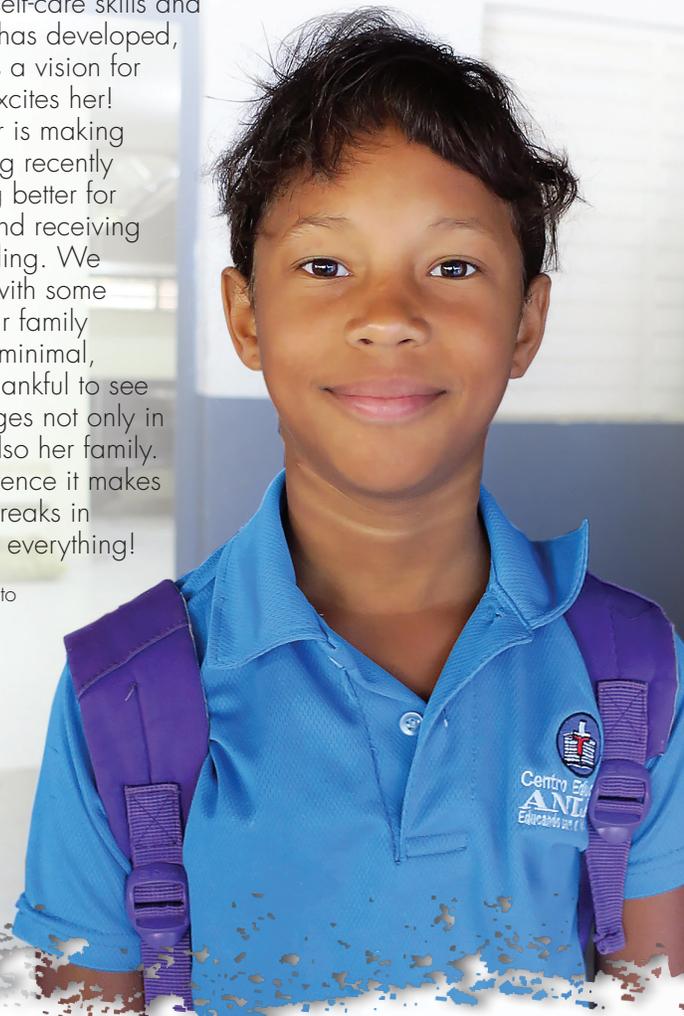
Hope Changes Everything...

AT ANIJA SCHOOL!

When Crystal* came to ANIJA, we were deeply sad about her circumstances. She arrived with broken shoes, inadequate clothing, and always smelling very bad. There were many days when we bathed her at school, and she often showed up just to sleep all day. Eventually we learned that she and her siblings were left alone for days at a time while her mother left to find work in the capital, generally unsavory work. So, it wasn't a surprise that Crystal rarely spoke and had very limited academic knowledge. We began to work with her gently, offering her the care and acceptance she needed to feel safe.

But Crystal's whole outlook on life has changed greatly, and we are thankful to see God's hand at work. She now expresses herself well, is progressing at a consistent rate in her academic studies, and readily asks for forgiveness if she has wronged someone. With the good self-care skills and confidence she has developed, Crystal now has a vision for her future that excites her! Even her mother is making progress, having recently married, caring better for her children, and receiving regular counseling. We provide them with some food since their family resources are minimal, and we are thankful to see positive changes not only in Crystal, but also her family. What a difference it makes when hope breaks in and changes everything!

*name changed to
protect privacy



"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."

Psalms 31:24 (NIV)

What's happening...

IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC?

Dominican Republic is a country mired in deep poverty and home to more than 10 million people. For over 25 years, Kids Alive has grown to serve nearly 2,000 children in family-style residential homes, care centers, and schools. Without intervention, most of our children would be unable to break the cycle of poverty that traps them in hopelessness.

Education is crucial to lifting people out of poverty and giving them hope for a better future, but the Dominican public school system is rated the worst of all Spanish-speaking countries*, with both poor quality and high drop-out rates. Several studies estimate that less than 20% of poor children graduate from high school, which perpetuates cyclical poverty in families.

Kids Alive remains steadfast in our mission to bring hope to those who feel trapped, and we have clearly seen

God's hand working to transform lives. Our ministries are experiencing success in breaking cycles of poverty and putting kids on the road to brighter futures. Most importantly, every child we serve hears about the God of hope who desperately loves them.

From the ashes of many societal problems, young, excited Christians are emerging, and we feel privileged to play a role in this process. This past year has been particularly exciting as we have had Christian weddings, record numbers of high school and university graduates, and increasing quality of our programs in several important areas. Through an inspired national staff, talented missionaries, dedicated church partners and Service Teams – and the many child sponsors who support transformation from afar – we see God's work filling hearts with hope.

*United Nations Study TERCE 2015

Partner with us in prayer...

God is working at ANIJA School! Please pray for:

- More child sponsors and site partners to support growing programming needs as children mature
- Additional spiritual growth and maturity for every child
- Continued strengthening of our sports ministry
- Expansion to 9th grade in the fall of 2018

