



**kidsalive**<sup>®</sup>  
INTERNATIONAL

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** **Casa Monte Plata** **Children's Home and** **Eva Russell School**

In 1984, a Dominican couple was burdened to provide an education to the poorest children in their region. This small beginning eventually grew to include family-style residential homes where needy children could be cared for physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Loving Christian house parents serve as healthy role models and help the children feel safe and secure.

There are currently 40 children in our care, and our main goal is to introduce them to the love of Jesus. As they grow and learn, we transition them to an independence home, where graduates have ongoing guidance while they learn to live without constant adult supervision.

Over three decades, the Eva Russell School has experienced amazing growth, now providing a quality education to 215 children. From preschool classrooms to core subjects for older students, we are laying a foundation of excellence that can help break cycles of poverty and oppression. But the most important thing we teach them is the love of Jesus that offers them hope for a brighter future.

We recently began intensive trauma care training for our house parents and selected school personnel, opened a ninth-grade classroom for the first time, and held a major book fair with the help of a visiting work team. Current objectives are to hire a social worker, convert a parking lot to green space, and expand office space. Every detail of our plans is designed to bring hope, healing, and love to those who need it most.

# *Hope Changes Everything...*

## **AT CASA MONTE PLATA CHILDREN'S HOME AND EVA RUSSELL SCHOOL!**

Many children we serve are Haitian and have come to Dominican Republic while their families search for work and better opportunities. However, many Haitians face intense discrimination and hardship. Rachel\* is from a Haitian family and has attended our school since she was five years old. A strong temperament and anger issues caused her to get in fights, fail first and second grades, and show a lack of respect to her teachers. Several times she was sent to the school psychologist to help her learn positive behavior and healthy personal interaction.

We are overjoyed to see such wonderful changes in Rachel over the past two years! Not only is she performing well in school, but she is responsible, respectful, and building healthy relationships with her peers. Most importantly, she made the decision to follow Jesus, the One who gives her true hope for the future. Rachel says that she would like to attend college after graduating from our program, and we pray that she will influence her family, community, and the world with the good news of Jesus.

\*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 Casa Monte Plata Children's Home and Eva Russell School! Please pray for:**

- More child sponsors and site partners to support growing programming needs as children mature
- Spiritual and emotional growth for the many children in our care
- Funding for needed facility expansion

