



kidsalive[®]
INTERNATIONAL

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Palo Blanco School (Fountain of Living Water)

Since 2001, Palo Blanco has been reaching out to needy children in rural villages. Our ministry began in a tiny one-room facility, and then Kids Alive realized that new construction would be necessary to keep up with the increasing number of students needing help.

There are now 280 children who participate in our academic, spiritual, and vocational programs. A full Christian education is offered through 8th grade, and children who attend public school come in the afternoon to receive a healthy lunch and educational enrichment. From academics and vocational training to spiritual guidance, our staff is committed to supporting each child as they plan for life after our school.

In addition to traditional academic and Bible education, the school continues to provide high school discipleship clubs, exposure to vocational training such as sewing and woodworking, and sports activities such as soccer and baseball in the afternoons or evenings.

But nothing is more important to us than sharing the good news of the Gospel with each student and making sure they know how much Jesus loves them.

This year we added 8th grade to our school and completed a four-classroom building and office expansion. Another victory was seeing several of our Palo Blanco youth enter the college scholarship program. We hope to soon add 9th grade, continue development of our high school discipleship and vocational training programs, and add a health specialist to our staff. Our school is making positive impacts as hope transforms lives.

Hope Changes Everything...

AT PALO BLANCO SCHOOL!

In Dominican Republic, family issues of poverty, neglect, and systemic abuse are rampant, and we see many cases of kids from these circumstances. Stephany* came from a home where they were not only very poor, but her parents had a contentious relationship. Though her mother worked tirelessly for the family at home, Stephany's adult half-brothers did nothing to help, draining the family resources and causing tension. Many painful incidents in her life caused her to need counseling, and just assuring her of a daily meal at school made a huge difference for her.

During her first weeks with us, Stephany's default response to anything new was to say, "I can't do that." But as we soon realized, she was an excellent student, responsible, and eager to learn. Her grades were good, and she was a star student in Bible knowledge and memorization. Eventually she was part of our first graduating high school class, and she is now part of the Kids Alive university program despite all the adversity she has faced.

We were devastated when Stephany was in a near-fatal motorcycle accident in 2016, requiring months of hospital care, surgeries, and trips to the capital for treatment. It has been humbling to see her attitude as she has dealt with all the obstacles in her life – she leans heavily on her faith in God and realizes that her experience is helping her as she now serves students at the Kids Alive school. Grateful for the hope she found, Stephany is pursuing a degree in psychology, so she can reach even more children.

*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 Palo Blanco 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
- Resources to add a health specialist for our children

