



kidsalive
INTERNATIONAL

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Park School (Caraballo)

Our school originally began as a care center program in 2005 and has continued to expand facilities and services over the years. Located on the north coast of Dominican Republic, it was a response to the great need to serve both local and Haitian children from impoverished communities. The staff focused on basic education skills and Bible knowledge, and in 2017 we completed our accreditation to a full-time school.

We serve 120 students through 6th grade, and in addition to quality academics, students participate in discipleship and mentoring programs. Our kids receive a nourishing lunch at school, and because so many of them live in extreme poverty, this may be the only meal they will eat that day.

As our older students complete their basic education, we provide needed vocational training that will give young adults tools to provide for themselves and become responsible, productive members of the community.

In addition to becoming a fully accredited school, we also enhanced our electrical system with both back-up and solar power and added a 14-station computer lab that will greatly improve our students' educational experience. Immediate goals are to add a health specialist and staff psychologist, as well as to complete training for our teachers that will help them to better serve kids who have endured trauma, offering them hope out of hopeless situations.

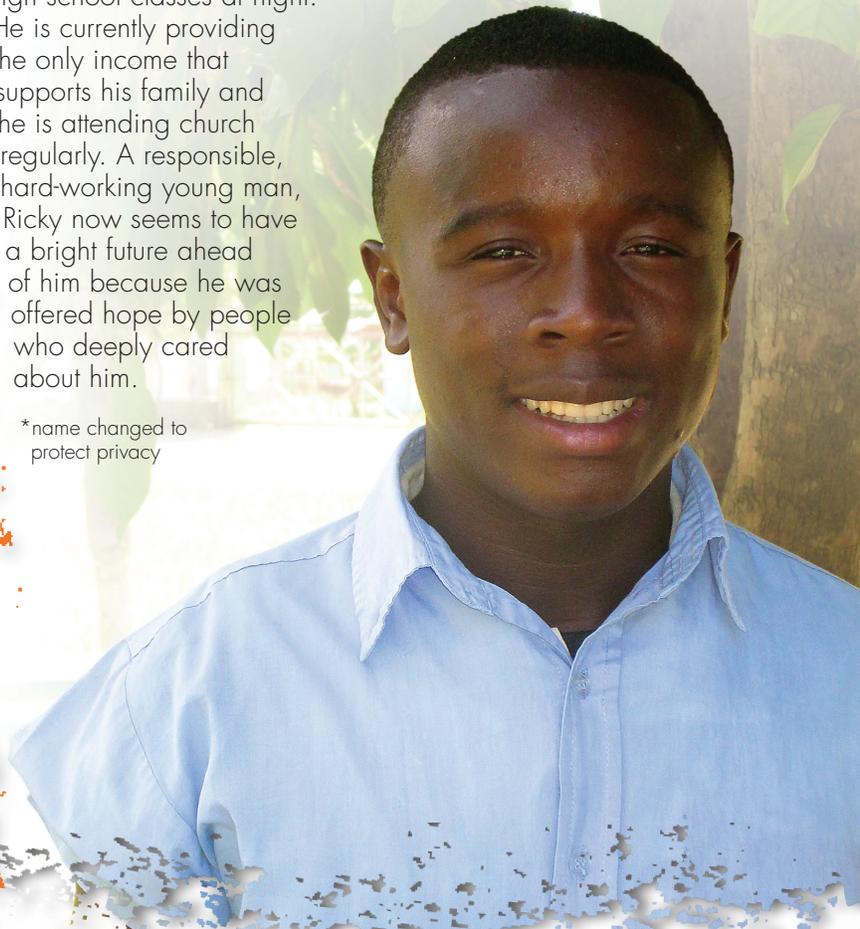
Hope Changes Everything...

AT PARK SCHOOL!

Ricky* was one of the first children to come to our care center in Caraballo in the fall of 2005. Only five years old at the time, he lived with his widowed mother and several siblings, and had no memory of his father who had died years before. He quickly became attached to our director and progressed fairly well until middle school. At that point Ricky began to rebel, acting disrespectfully, behaving poorly at school, and even drinking alcohol when he could find it. Eventually, his behavior was bad enough to warrant a two-week suspension from our school.

The suspension was a shock to him, as was realizing that our director had seen him in town drinking, and instead of confronting him, simply shed tears and prayed for him. Miraculously, Ricky's heart began to soften, and he has made many positive changes in the past year. His attitude has dramatically changed, and he began to work for us in maintenance while attending high school classes at night. He is currently providing the only income that supports his family and he is attending church regularly. A responsible, hard-working young man, Ricky now seems to have a bright future ahead of him because he was offered hope by people who deeply cared about him.

*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 Park School! Please pray for:

- More child sponsors and site partners to support growing programming needs as children mature
- Approval for permanent school code and spaces for additional children in each classroom
- Resources to help children recovering from traumatic situations

