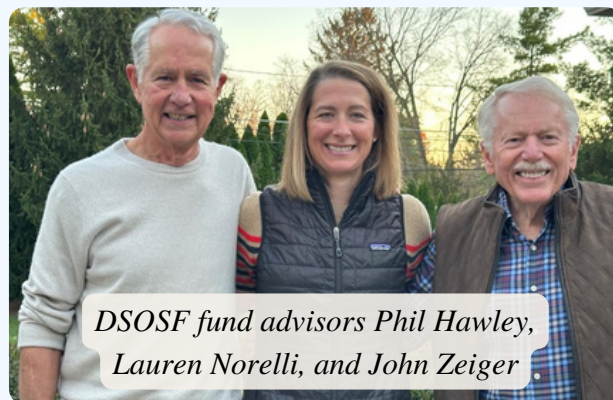


WINTER 2025 UPDATE

“When we created the fund (DSOSF) in November of 2015, our goal was to save a struggling school and orphanage. At the Dominica School and Orphanage, we saw a safe and loving environment where children were thriving, and we hoped we could mobilize donors to help the school survive. We were simply trying to keep the school open.

But your donations over the past ten years have brought about a dramatic transformation: the orphanage has reopened, providing housing for hundreds of students, and the school is now one of the finest academic programs in the Dominican Republic. None of this would have been possible without you, our donors, a group of loving people who believe in helping the children of La Ureña. Thank you so much for your donations, they have a resounding impact.”



How are your donations being spent?

Operating expenses for the 2023-2024 school year: **Enrollment of 360 students**

Staff salaries	45%
Food	32%
Utilities	7%
Transportation	4%
School supplies + uniforms	4%
Maintenance + repairs	4%
Drinking water	2%
Misc. expenses	2%



In addition to being the primary funding source for the school's operations, the DSOSF has provided **\$300,000** for numerous infrastructure improvements over the past ten years.

DSO SPOTLIGHT: THE DSO IS AN OASIS FOR HAITIAN IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

The island of Hispaniola is split down the middle by a 244-mile border. On the western side is Haiti, a failed state with no functional government, now controlled by gangs. On the eastern side of the border is the Dominican Republic, a functional democracy which fears being overrun by immigrants from their western neighbor. Dominica Rosario has been managing the Dominica school and orphanage for 30 years and Haitian children have been under her care the entire time.



“The problem became much greater in 2013 when the Dominican Republic retroactively removed birthright citizenship from hundreds of thousands of children of Haitian descent. **Opening the DSO doors to Haitian children has always been our policy**, as the children are often refused entry to

public schools. These children find an oasis at our school. They feel our respect and care as we feed, educate, and clothe them. Outside of our environment, they know that they are not treated equally.” — Dominica Rosario



10 of the 43 Haitian students attending the DSO

HAITIAN STUDENT PROFILES

At the start of the 2025-2026 school year there are 43 Haitian students attending the DSO, 39 of whom are undocumented. Ten of these children are permanent residents in the orphanage. “Some have no birth certificate—they are “stateless”—with no citizenship in any country,” according to Dominica. The Dominican Republic is now enforcing an aggressive mass deportation of anyone without documentation, deporting 276,000 Haitians last year. **The DSO is a true safe haven for these Haitian students.** To protect the children from being arrested by immigration authorities, Dominica submits their names and ages to the ministry of education, indicating that they are being cared for by the DSO.

NICOLE MILLIAR



Nicole Milliar is a ten-year-old Haitian child who has been attending the DSO since she was three years old. She was brought to the DSO along with two siblings by her relatives when her mother was no longer capable of caring for the children. She was born in the Dominican Republic, but her birth certificate says she is a foreigner. When Nicole finishes high school and applies for a scholarship to college, she will need a foreign student visa, which is difficult to obtain. Dominica has a group of local supporters (attorneys, government officials, social workers) who help the Haitian students procure these student visas.

Jerry Enmanuel Cliff Pierre is a Haitian student who attended the DSO for 12 years. His family was permitted to immigrate to the Dominican Republic after a devastating earthquake in Haiti left more than 200,000 dead in 2010. After graduating from the DSO in 2022, Jerry studied international business at UNAPEC University on a scholarship funded by the Lorena Hawley Memorial Fund and the DSOSF. He currently works as a counselor, helping Haitian and Venezuelan immigrants with their legal documentation. Jerry is fluent in English and Spanish, and is competent in French and Creole.

**JERRY ENMANUEL
CLIFF PIERRE**



Similar to other economies, the Dominican Republic has experienced **high inflation** over the past five years. The cost of educating and feeding each student is 50% higher than it was when the DSOSF first started supporting the DSO ten years ago. This is why your ongoing donations are so important! If you know anyone who might be interested in supporting a small international charity with an enormous impact, please tell them about the DSOSF.

HOW TO DONATE

The administrative costs of the DSOSF are covered by its founding members, allowing 100% of your donation to go directly to the school and orphanage.

CHECKS

“Dominica School and Orphanage Support Fund #3877”
Attn. Jeff Byars | The Columbus Foundation
1234 E. Broad St. Columbus, Ohio 43205

STOCK

Contact Jeff Byars at the Columbus Foundation
jbyars@columbusfoundation.org | (614) 251-4000

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

We have established a new “designated fund” at the Columbus Foundation: The Dominica School and Orphanage Designated Fund, #4644. This fund can accept tax-free Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from an IRA as donations to the Dominica School and Orphanage, providing a significant tax benefit to qualified donors. If you are interested in donating to the DSO using a QCD, send an email to philip.c.hawley@gmail.com requesting an information sheet on the QCD option.



SCAN TO
DONATE ONLINE