DSOSF 2024
DOMINICA SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2024 Summer Upgrade

DSOSF provides funds for seven infrastructure projects



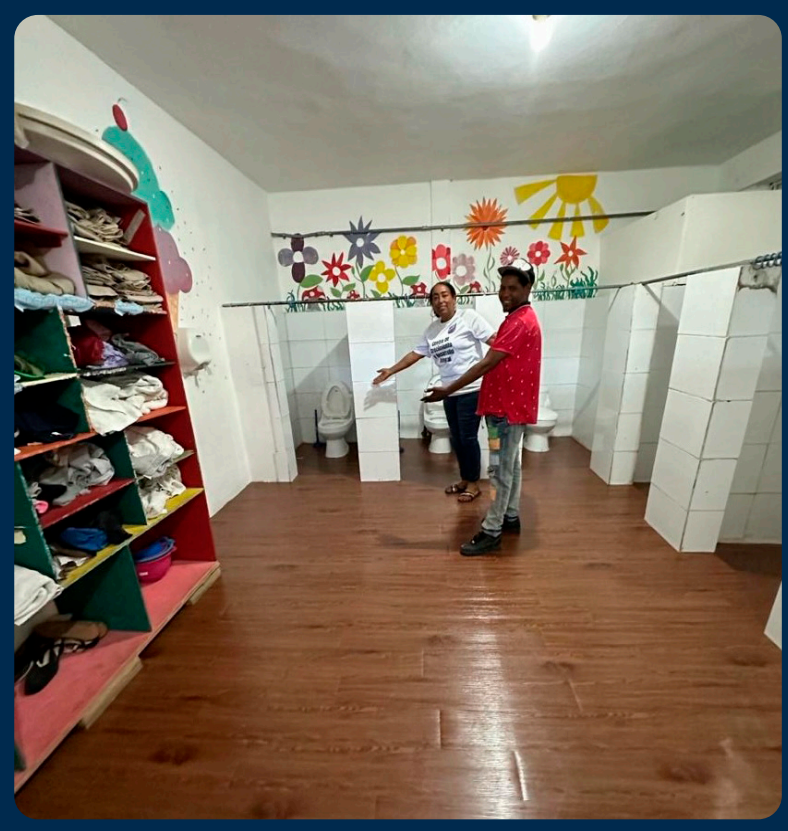
New generator arrives at the DSO.

DSOSF fund advisors Phil Hawley and Lauren Norelli visited the school and orphanage for several days at the end of April. After touring the facilities with Dominica and her staff, the fund advisors approved an aggressive facilities improvement plan for the summer of 2024. These improvements will ensure an **reliable and safe learning environment** at the school for years to come.

The most critical project is the purchase of a 57 kw generator to provide electricity to the school during the frequent (almost daily) power outages. The lack of reliable electricity causes disruption to school activities, and it creates safety concerns when the security cameras and lights don't work. In addition, power outages result in food loss due to a lack of refrigeration.

Other infrastructure projects include:

- Repair dormitory roof damage from the 2023 tropical storm
- Install two new refrigerators
- Replace the orphanage bathroom floor
- Install security cameras to monitor three outdoor activity areas
- Install outdoor lighting for three outdoor activity areas
- Replace seven non-functioning fire extinguishers


New orphanage bathroom floor

2024 Graduation Ceremonies

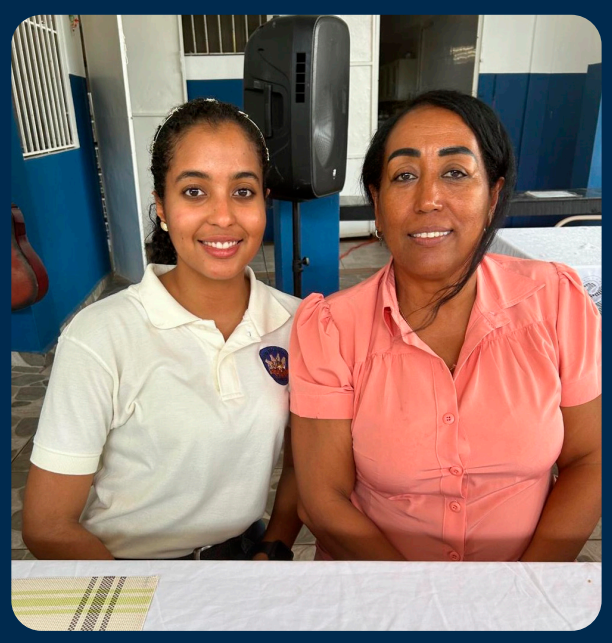


Pre-school graduation ceremony

23 seniors graduated from the DSO on June 27. The valedictorian is Kelvin Marte, with a grade average of 98%. Kelvin will be attending the Intec University on a scholarship provided by the Lorena Hawley Memorial Fund of the First Community Foundation. He will be studying international business. He is fluent in Spanish and English, and he is teaching himself French by viewing YouTube videos.

A graduation ceremony was also held for 23 preschool students who are progressing on to the primary school next year. Each student wore a cap and gown and a banner saying, **"I can already read and write."**

Mother-Daughter Duo Keeps the DSO Running Smoothly



The DSO is managed by the school's founder, Dominica Rosario. Her daughter, Athenas Paredes, is the assistant manager. Athenas graduated from the DSO in 2013, and attended the University in Santo Domingo. After completing her veterinary medicine training in 2021, she accepted a position as the assistant director of the Aquarium in Santo Domingo, a part time job which allows her to help manage the daily operations of the DSO. She directs many of the music programs, teaching both guitar and drums. Athenas is also especially adept at planning the classroom schedules, and she can be seen throughout the day moving groups of children from one classroom to another. She is an invaluable resource to the school–following in her mother's footsteps.

Scan to donate to the DSOSF

Please consider donating to the DSOSF by scanning the QR code or visiting our donation page at dominicaschool.org/donate.

For more information about the DSO and the DSOSF, visit the website at dominicaschool.org. Specific questions about the DSO and the DSOSF should be sent to philip.c.hawley@gmail.com.

– Phil Hawley, Lauren Norelli and John Zeiger, Fund Advisors to the DSOSF