SUMMER 2025 UPDATE

TEN YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!
2015 - 2025



A special thank you to DSOSF donors from **Dominica Rosario**, Founder and Director of the Dominica School and Orphanage

"In May of 2015, we were within weeks of telling 200 students and orphans that we could no longer feed, house, or educate them. Then the DSOSF came into our lives. Over the past ten years, your donations to the DSOSF have provided **70% of the funding** for the operations of the school and nearly all of the funding for infrastructure improvements. You have had a huge impact on thousands of children, providing quality education, nutrition, and emotional support; ensuring that these children living in the impoverished community of La Ureña are not forgotten. The children, the teachers, and I consider you to be our closest friends. We can't thank you enough for everything you have done for our community."

Best wishes to all of you, Dominica



TEN YEARS OF VISITS TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC











TEN YEARS OF IMPROVEMENTS, PAID FOR BY YOUR DONATIONS

2015 **Paid outstanding debts**, including back pay to teachers. Reopened the orphanage, which closed in 2012 due to a lack of funds.

2016 Purchased new **bean and rice stoves**.



2017 Supported the emigration of **seven Venezuelan teachers** to join the DSO teaching staff.

2018 Reopened the high school following 2014 closure. Constructed **two new classrooms** to accommodate growing student enrollment.

2019 Installed a fence and **camera security system**.



2020 Provided food and medication to the community during the pandemic. Purchased **ten computers** for virtual learning.

2021 Installed a new **basketball court** with a metal roof.



2022 **Repaired floors** throughout facility and renovated the preschool playground.

2023 **Repaired the roof** and the ceiling of the dormitory.



2024 Installed a **new generator**. Purchased additional housing for teenage orphans.

2025 Installed a new **propane system, water pump and water tank**.



2025 VISIT TO THE DSO MARKS TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF DSOSF

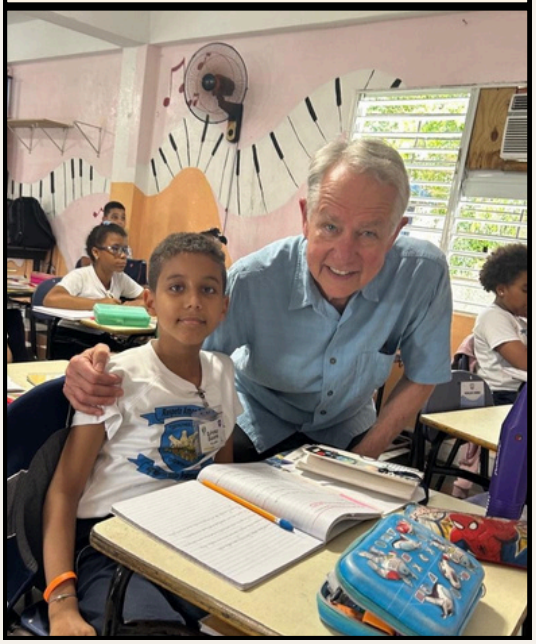
All visits to the Dominican Republic on behalf of the DSOSF are paid for by the fund advisors and their guests – no money from the DSOSF is used for these trips.

Fund advisors Phil Hawley and Lauren Norelli, and Clay Bryant, a long-term DSOSF supporter from New Orleans, visited the school and orphanage for several days at the end of April. Clay is fluent in Spanish and the students loved the opportunity to communicate with him without any language barrier. It was a wonderful trip—highlighted by student presentations celebrating the tenth anniversary of DSOSF support.



L to R: Lauren Norelli, Dominica Rosario, Clay Bryant, Philip Hawley, Raiza Piña (DSO managing team coordinator), Orestes Garcia Betauces (accountant for the DSO).

STUDENT PROFILE: ETHAN BASORA



Ethan Rafael Estevez Basora is ten years old and is in the fifth grade. At the age of four, Ethan lost his mother, and two years later he was placed in the DSO dormitory when his father was incarcerated for committing murder.

Initially, Ethan was very withdrawn, but with continuous support from volunteer counselors and psychologists at the DSO, Ethan has opened-up dramatically and has become an engaged member of the school community. Ethan is a committed student, excelling at math and science, and his favorite hobby is Taekwondo (a discipline which has proven to be very helpful for some of the students with emotional problems).

2025 DSO STATISTICS

Total # of Students	**373**
Pre-School (age 3-8)	**38**
Middle School (age 9-12)	**180**
High School (age 13-18)	**155**
Social Program Students*	**239**
Children in foster homes	**64**
Children in the Orphanage	**27**
Certified teachers	**24**
Assistant teachers	**12**
Non-Academic Employees**	**10**



* Social program students pay no tuition and all meals are free.

** Includes cooks and orphanage night aides

For more information about the DSO visit **www.dominicaschool.org**.
Questions about the DSO or the DSOSF can be directed to **philip.c.hawley@gmail.com**

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 DONATIONS

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

Thank you for caring. We never imagined this project would grow to this level over ten years! Let's keep it going—and growing. With your support, today's students will become doctors, teachers, veterinarians, lawyers—the leaders of the La Ureña community.

— **Phil Hawley**, **Lauren Norelli** and **John Zeiger**, fund advisors to the DSOSF