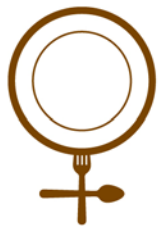




Featured program for April 2014

Mariposa DR Foundation Unleash the Leader in a Girl



Dining for Women



Changing the world one dinner at a time

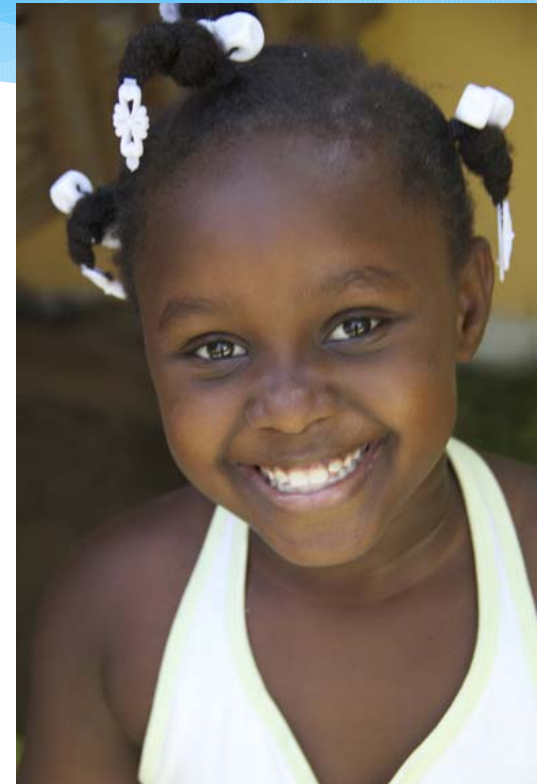
What are we supporting?

The Mariposa DR Foundation is receiving \$44,450 for one year to educate and empower at-risk adolescent Dominican and Haitian girls between the ages of 8 and 21 to create sustainable solutions to end generational poverty.



The grant pays for:

- Daytime nutritious meals and snacks for 150 girls in the education and leadership program for one year
- Safe transportation for girls between home, school and the Mariposa DR Foundation facility
- Personal and health items for girls including sanitary napkins, first aid kits, and school uniforms
- Partial support for the in-country program manager and the artisans who educate the girls



“Investing in women is smart economics, and investing in girls, catching them upstream, is even smarter economics.” Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Managing Director, The World Bank

Life Challenges of Women and Girls

In a region of extreme poverty, low literacy, and rising sex tourism, girls stand little chance to succeed in life.

- **Early pregnancy:**

The Dominican Republic continues to have one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the Latin American & Caribbean region and in the world

- **Domestic responsibilities**

A 10 year old girl growing up in poverty has already worked more than 1,000 hours performing domestic chores

- **Lack of education:** Less than 20 percent of all girls in the DR make it past 8th grade

- **Danger of kidnapping:** Adolescent girls are prime targets for the thriving sex and child pornography business.



“Girls who receive an education marry later, have fewer children, and are more likely to seek healthcare for themselves and their children.” The Girl Effect

Where they Work: Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is located in the Caribbean Sea in the Greater Antilles archipelago. It shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti and is located about 1,300 miles from Miami.



- The lush tropical geography and beautiful beaches make the Dominican Republic a popular international tourist destination.
- There is little opportunity for uneducated, unskilled workers.
- Tourism fuels the economic engine of the Dominican Republic but few dollars trickle down to the large population of the poor, who are unskilled and uneducated.

The Program

A year-long holistic, experiential day program that invests in the economic potential of the girls through access to quality education, health care, job and life skills training which combine to help girls feel empowered and in control of their lives.

Academic enrichment

- Private tutoring, school supplies and school uniforms to keep girls in public schools

Community engagement

- 15-20 hours community service yearly requirement

Experiential learning

- Girls can choose among local resource options like nature hikes, gardening, cultural arts, vocational training

Health and wellness

- Medical, dental, and eye exams and care
- Daily nutritious meals and snacks
- Weekly health education classes
- Sports, swimming and physical education

International awareness

- Work alongside service learning groups, volunteers, and sponsor groups



Summer program

- An all-day summer camp provides the same activities available during the school year

Program Budget

DFW's grant to Mariposa DR Foundation is \$44,450 over a one year period.

Unleash the Leader in the Girl - Budget		DFW Grant
Personnel Expenses		
Program manager (in-country)		\$9,000
Local artisans		\$5,000
	Personnel Subtotal	\$14,000
Program Expenses		
Community Service Projects		\$2,000
Food & food supplies		\$15,450
Safe transportation		\$7,000
Medical supplies		\$3,000
School uniforms		\$3,000
	Program Subtotal	\$30,450
	Total	\$44,450

Why we Love this Program

We love this program because Mariposa DR Foundation involves the local community in achieving its success in a unique and holistic way



- All the girls in a family and immediate support group are included in the program to ensure continued support and a higher participation rate
- Girls engage regularly with their families and work along with parents, siblings, neighbors, and community members
- Success is different for each girl and each girl has a different set of challenges that may be standing in her way
- Girls have a broad spectrum of options to choose from for their own personal programs

The ultimate goal is to create a “conveyer belt from cradle to college” for girls and their children.

Evidence of Success

Every girl currently in the Mariposa DR Foundation program has stayed in the program beyond the age of her mother when the girl was born.

Success is measured on a case-by-case basis

- A pregnant girl had a healthy baby, became a good mother and developed a marketable skill
- Another girl learned to swim and became the first Dominican girl kite boarder in a sport dominated by boys
- Another girl did not complete high school but learned to sew and developed a successful dress-making business
- Another girl graduated from college and returned to the Dominican Republic to give back to the community



Success is when a girl is empowered and the cycle of poverty is broken.

About the Organization

Mariposa DR Foundation was inspired by the UN Millennium Development Goals because they are dependent on the education and empowerment of girls.

- Founder Patricia Sureil, the driving force behind Mariposa DR Foundation, came to the DR to start a business and went through a transformation when she discovered her charitable instincts
- She married into a poor Dominican family and was personal witness to the tragic lives of several women in the family
- She began by raising money to fund school libraries and soon learned the plight of adolescents and need for mentoring (DREAM project).
- In 2009 she established Mariposa DR Foundation and began transforming the lives of adolescent girls. In 2010 the foundation bought an abandoned private school which is being improved but already houses the organization and many of the girls' activities.

“I have met countless Dominican and Haitian mothers who are not looking for a hand out but for a hand up.” Patricia Thorndike Sureil

Questions for Discussion

Care to share your thoughts?



1. How is the girls leadership program set up to address the diverse needs of the poverty-burdened girls they accept into the program?
2. In what ways does the program ensure that parents support their daughters and encourage them to attend on a regular basis?
3. Why does the program not consider a girl who becomes pregnant a failure? Why is the girl encouraged to stay in the program during her pregnancy?