



## Dining for Women Interim Progress Report: The Mariposa DR Foundation

### 1. Organization Information

**Name:** The Mariposa DR Foundation  
**Program Title:** Unleash the Leader in a girl  
**Grant Amount:** \$44,450  
**Contact Person:** Patricia (Tricia) Suriel, Executive Director  
**Address:** 421 North Aurora Street, Ithaca, New York 14850

### 2. Recap briefly what outcomes the program was designed to achieve

The objective of Unleash the Leader in the Girl is to educate, empower and employ girls so that they can end the cycle of generational poverty for their entire families. We create an environment where Dominican and Haitian girls ages 8 - 21 will develop healthy relationships and feel empowered to make a difference in their lives, their communities, and the world. We achieve results through six key focus areas: academic enrichment, community engagement, experiential learning, health and wellness, international awareness and summer programs.

### 3. Has funding changed for this program? For example, have you received unexpected funding from another source?

Programmatic funding has remained on track with our anticipated growth trajectory. We have not received any additional, unexpected large institutional grants. We got some additional funding for food earlier than we anticipated from a crowd-funding site, Catapult.org.

### 4. Is your organization or program situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant program staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?

We have not experienced any significant changes within our internal structure. We have added additional full time staff and volunteers as planned for the year. Our foundation remains strong. We were, however disappointed to learn that a large institutional funder for the past 2 years was not in a position to continue to provide us with a grant. We worked diligently to compensate for this by launching some additional smaller individual giving campaigns.

**5. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?**

Securing the funds to hire additional highly qualified staff continues to be a challenge. It is always difficult to fund staff, however good people are a critical component to the successful execution of our programs. We were able to hire some additional staff this fall, however the organization is growing so rapidly we need more administrative and fund development capacity to keep up with it all. We rely heavily on volunteers which is great for day to day programs, however it is difficult to deal with turnover and constantly retraining new people to assume additional responsibilities like grant writing, data management, donor stewardship, etc.)

As our programs grow and we deepen our connection with the families, we continually face the challenge of helping with personal issues for each girl. From accidents to severe illnesses to needing new homes to hunger, we try to maintain a “whatever it takes approach” to make sure that girls can stay in school and regularly attend programs.

Securing funds for security at our property is also a difficult. Keeping our property secure and protected is a significant and very necessary monthly expense. As we enroll more girls and receive more resources - computers, supplies, volunteer support etc. the cost goes up. Keeping everyone and everything safe is always our number one priority.

**6. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?**

Since we submitted our funding proposal we did have one significant change in the structure of our program. Starting in the 2014 academic year, we granted tuition scholarships for an additional 66 girls to attend local private elementary and high schools. We made this decision for several reasons - we were able to establish beneficial partnerships with best schools in the area so that the girls are accessing the highest quality education available; the government delayed the opening of a new public school in Cabarete and many children were going to be out of school well into November. Given the lack of organization, proper staffing and programming in the public school system and the construction of the new school, we felt it was best to invest additional resources and enroll our girls in longstanding, trusted academic institutions in our community. Because we decided to invest a significant amount of funding in tuition payments for an additional 66 girls here, we decided to limit our new enrollment in Mariposa programs to 46 girls this year instead of our original intention of enrolling 50 beginning in September 2014.

**7. What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.**

Objective stated in LOI and proposal:

*The objective of Unleash the Leader in the Girl is to educate, empower and employ girls so that they can end the cycle of generational poverty for their entire families. We create an environment where Dominican and Haitian girls ages 8 - 21 will develop healthy relationships and feel empowered to make a difference in their lives, their communities, and the world.*

We have made tremendous strides in reaching our objectives this year with the support of the grant from DFW. As mentioned before it is important to note that we are now funding tuition for 80 girls in local private schools. We also provided school uniforms, books and supplies for each and every girl in the program. This year we offered more than 30 activities for the girls to choose from and took numerous field trips. We hosted a free medical clinic for the girls and their families that included free HIV testing as well as dental visits for all of the girls. Enrolling our girls in local, private schools, run by strong Dominican women, we have deepened our connection within the education system in our community and are able to have greater insight into the education that our girls are receiving and how to best support them in achieving success.

**8. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outline in your proposal?**

No, we do not anticipate any difficulty in achieving the goals outlined in our proposal. Unleash the leader in a girl is the ongoing flagship program at The Mariposa DR Foundation and because of DFW's support we were able to make it even more robust this year.

**Expense Report**

Budget Item	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent to Date
Program Manager Salary	\$10,000	\$7,200
Fees for workshops with local artisans	\$8,000	\$5,000
Food for girls while attending programs	\$15,000	\$9,000
Safe transportation to and from the Mariposa Center for Girls	\$8,000	\$6,000
Medical supplies	\$5,000	\$3,000
School Uniforms	\$4,000	\$4,000