



Annual Report 2018

This report covers important events of 2018 at the schools Together for Better supports in the Dominican Republic. All the schools that Together for Better supports are run by local foundations, teachers and volunteer associations. The main project is Camino de Esperanza Pre-& Primary school, 97 students, in Veron, La Altagracia Province.

Important efforts through the year

Reconstruction & repairs, Post Hurricanes: Hurricane Maria (fall 2017) left the Camino de Esperanza School without roof. Repairs were finalized in February 2018. Minor repairs were finished in three additional schools February.



After hurricane, before reconstruction, no roof.



Camino de Esperanza after reconstruction.

Early Childhood Education: Effort to strengthen the education quality for the early childhood education (3-5 years old) was done in collaboration with teachers from a high ranked private pre-school in Santo Domingo. The plan has been implemented in Camino de Esperanza and FUCPE Pre-school.

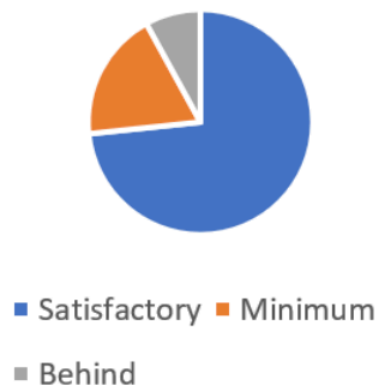
Back to School: During fall 2018 TFB funded school material to all 377 students in Camino de Esperanza, FUCPE and Melvin Jones School for the entire school year. Supplies are based on the schools reported needs and means everything from benches, to blackboards, paper & pens, paint and more.

Numbers and facts, Camino de Esperanza

For the school-year 2017/18, Camino de Esperanza reports 84 students, of which 20 in pre-school and 64 in 1st-4th grade. 76 children completed the school year; 55 reached satisfactory level, 15 minimum proficiency level and 6 were behind.

The education of girls has been promoted, and from fall 2018, 50% of students are girls. In a national test for 3rd graders (age 8-9), 12 out of 13 passed test. All the 4th graders that finished CDE in June continued to higher education in another school.

Results at CDE
2017/18



Testimonial, Founder of FUCPE school

"With the construction of the playground, Together for Better helped us create a recreation area for the children, before we often had conflicts and fights. The educational materials and planning for the teaching staff has helped us to teach and the children to learn and has served as a tool for achieving the objectives. Your support has helped to generate significant changes in the lives of many children, young adolescents and adults." Elvitana Roberto



The story about Wendy

This is Wendy. Since her parents could not keep her, she lived with her grandmother. But the grandmothers new partner beat her and finally did not allow her to sleep in the house. One morning, the founder of CDE found Wendy sleeping in the neighbor's dog-house after the Grandmother reached out for help. Now Wendy lives with the CDE Founder and her family. Wendy goes to school in Camino de Esperanza.

Why Together for Better

The school system in the Dominican Republic produces the lowest educational outcome in Latin America, and more than one third of the children live in families that survive on less than USD 5 per family member per day. Only 35% of children ages 3-5 have access to early childhood education. Together for Better supports education in poor areas in the south-east of the Dominican Republic. The goal is that the children learn to read and write to be prepared for higher education in a state-funded school. Together for Better work to make sure the most marginalized children get access to free education. Since the start in 2013 the foundation has funded constructions of three school buildings, two playgrounds and helped many children to a better youth. Yearly, we supply educational material to between 300-400 children in poverty for the entire school year. ´

Our main support is made to Camino de Esperanza school and secondly FUCPE. One additional Pre-& Primary schools have been supported this year. These are the schools:

Camino de Esperanza, 97 students, Veron

Melvin Jones Primary School, 80 students, La Romana (in cooperation with Lions Club, La Romana)

FUCPE, 200, La Romana

Camino de Esperanza

Camino de Esperanza is a Pre- and elementary school situated in the outskirt of Veron, La Altagracia Province. The school was founded by Johanny de Vargas who saw the growing need of providing the children a place to learn how to read and write. She rented a space and started to recruit kids from the streets and put them into the classrooms.

When Together for Better's Founder first visited in 2013, the school was run on very limited resources. The building was mainly made out of tin and plywood, with no running water or electricity and a hole in the ground functioning as a toilette. School supplies were almost non-existent, and teachers' salaries were based on small donations made by parents. Because of the difficult situation, the Principal was thinking of closing down.

Together for Better started supporting in 2014. Today the school consists of two classrooms, two bathrooms and an office for the Principal. TFB supports with most running costs. We also support outreach programs to the most vulnerable children and families in the community, and sponsor girl's education. Up until today over 200 children in poverty has received education in CDE.

