



# **Technical Proposal-Colegio Moriah**

**Prepared by: Community Service Alliance**

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**SECTION ONE**

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Funder (to which this application is directed )	Friends of Colegio Moriah Ministries
Date of Application	June 2011
<b>ORGANIZATION NAME</b>	
Applicant Organization (Full Legal Name)	Colegio Evangelico Moriah
Doing Business As	Education/School
Tax Exempt ID # (EIN)	RNC: 430085571
Name of Executive Director	Esther Perez Valdez Derolus
Name of Attorney (if applicable)	Dr. Cesar Pequero
Name of Accountant (if applicable)	Esther Perez Valdez Derolus
Name of Contract Fundraiser (if applicable)	Friends of Colegio Moriah
Name of Fiscal Sponsor (if applicable)	N/A
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	
Proposal Contact Name	Tanis and Esther Derolus
Title	Colegio Moriah School
Phone (include your dir.tel/mobile numbers)	809-339-8662, 809-878-6198
Fax	N/A
E-mail	<a href="mailto:tanisestherderolus@yahoo.com">tanisestherderolus@yahoo.com</a>
Street Address	Las Colinas II
City	San Pedro de Macoris
Organization Website	www.colegiomoriah.org
Country	Dominican Republic
<b>ORGANIZATION FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>	
Organization's Budgeted Expenses for Current Year (07/31/11)	\$71,000 USD
Endowment Size (market value as of fiscal year mm/dd/yy)	N/A
Organization's Major Funding Sources (e.g., local community foundation, county board of health, etc.) by percentage	Friends of Colegio Moriah (40%)



ORGANIZATION'S AFFILIATION	
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (if there is any, specify)
Name of affiliated organization : N/A	

REQUEST DATA	
Program/Project Title	Community Evaluation: Proposal to Provide Assistance to Colegio Evangelico Moriah School
Total Budget for this Program/Project	Total: \$82,000 USD
Grant Duration (e.g., one-year grant, etc.)	One-year grant (2011-2012)
Anticipated Project Start Date	August 2011
Community/Counties served by this Program/Project	Las Colinas 1, Las Colinas 2, Santa Fe, Esperanza
Total Number of people to be served during grant period	300 (around 200 families)
Brief demographic description of population served by this Program/Project	Poor rural community lacking access to adequate education
<b>TYPE OF REQUEST</b> (check all that apply and see glossary for definitions)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital Request <input type="checkbox"/> Technical assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment <input type="checkbox"/> Program/Project Start-up <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	
<b>SIGNATURES</b> (both are required unless otherwise not applicable )	
Signature of Executive Director	
Signature of Board President	

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## SECTION TWO – ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

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Believing that each child has a right to education, the founders of Colegio Moriah realized that the lack of access to quality education is a pressing need in the Dominican Republic. This is especially true in the batey communities, which are largely inhabited by first, second and third generation Haitian immigrants. These children face an array of obstacles when trying to obtain access to education.

Colegio Moriah founders settled and decided to start an educational program in a community nestled in the bateys located on the outskirts of San Pedro to facilitate access of the children in the community to a quality education. Based on the motivation that education is a basic right and that every child deserves access to quality education, Colegio Moriah began its operations.

Colegio Moriah was founded in September 1998 by Esther and Tanis Derolus. Its vision is to offer new hope and opportunity to children living in the Dominican Republic through facilitating quality education and health, guided by Christian principles. They strive to facilitate quality education. Colegio Moriah seeks to empower children and families in target communities and provide them tools to seek further opportunity for advancement in the future.

Colegio Moriah is an elementary school, certified by the Ministry of Education, that serves close to 300 children in programs that run through 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Apart from its educational offerings, medical outreaches, conferences (e.g., sexual health education, parent-child relationships), sports programs, and cultural trips (e.g., museums, parks) are among the activities that children have access to at little or no cost.

Despite financial limitations, the school has been working to both maintain small groups in the classrooms to personalize attention to each student, as well as expand to build classrooms to begin to offer a full high school program. Due to the fact that many obstacles that children face inhibit them from continuing their high school education in area public schools, Colegio Moriah hopes to expand its offering to ensure that children who begin their education are able to continue and complete high school.

Among its accomplishments, parents attest to the quality of the education their children receive at Colegio Moriah. The low student to teacher ratio that allows for personalized attention to each student and the attention to the physical, spiritual, mental and emotional needs of the students has marked a difference in the education each child receives. As a testimony to these accomplishments, there are multiple students who once received their education that are productive members of society, pursuing their college degree or employed in San Pedro. The Regional office of the Ministry of Education has also affirmed the important

work that Colegio Moriah is engaged in, which serves a highly vulnerable population of San Pedro, which is poorly served by the overcrowded public schools.

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### **SECTION THREE-STATEMENT OF NEED/COMMUNITY BENEFIT**

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In terms of education in the Dominican Republic, it is said that 22,000 youth aged 10-14 are not in school and another 69,000 aged 15-24 are unable to read and write. The educational system is plagued by poor outcomes, frequent repetition and drop-outs (Central bank, National Labor Force Survey database, 2008). Student to teacher ratio is an alarming 78:1, which speaks to the inability of the educational systems to meet the demand of the rising number of students. At-risk youth face additional problems such as a lack of positive role models at home (e.g., broken homes) and parents with low levels of education that are unable to adequately pay for their children's education (USAID/Dominican Republic Cross-Sectoral At-Risk Youth Assessment, 2010). Families lacking sufficient funds for food and transportation also have problems keeping children in school in rural areas in the Dominican Republic, such as in locations near Colegio Moriah (USAID/Dominican Republic Cross-Sectoral At-Risk Youth Assessment, 2010).

Historically, those living in batey communities, such as those surrounding Colegio Moriah face many challenges including lack of access to basic health and educational services. National surveys conducted in 1992, 2002, and 2007 have reflected that those living in the bateyes possess less education and have lower quality of health, as compared to the National averages. For example, the illiteracy rate in the bateyes, among those 10 years and older is 30%, which is almost three times the National average (11%). Likewise, while 85% of children in the bateyes attend primary school, a mere 21% attend high school (DHS Batey study, 2007).

Additionally, children living in the bateyes are especially vulnerable. An alarming 20% of these children do not live with their parents and 8% are orphans. Around 48% of these children aged 0-4, plus another 30% aged 5-9 lack birth certificates, which are necessary to obtain employment, bank accounts, and enroll in high school. (DHS Batey study, 2007).

The reality of the communities of Las Colinas I, Las Colinas II, Santa Fe and Esperanza, batey communities served by Colegio Moriah emulate the aforementioned National trends. The results of a community assessment conducted in a sample of 82 homes in these communities revealed that a large proportion of families have inadequate access to potable water, compromised housing, many with dirt floors, and income that is below the minimum wage. Over 56% earn less than \$135 USD monthly, while 17% of the population earn as little as \$27 USD per month. Apart from these challenges, only 25% of the population are employed, and a large proportion of these adults (70%) work in provinces around San Pedro, many in tourism and free trade zones, which often leaves children unsupervised or left to the care of a relative or neighbor.



These situations make for challenges when it comes to providing education, especially understanding that those children attending Colegio Moriah face numerous challenges that compromise their overall well-being, which must be understood in order to deliver education, engage parents and begin to address more of the needs that each of these children face.

The two public schools in the district where Colegio Moriah is located, the Colinas and Santa Fe schools, serve a dense population of families living in multiple barrios (Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, Colinas I, Colinas II, Barrio Azul, Villa Blanca). The Colinas public school offers pre-school to 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Santa Fe offers pre-school to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Colinas is located 5-6 km from Colegio Moriah, while Santa Fe is located 7-8 km away. While the Santa Fe and Colinas schools are located within the same jurisdiction of Colegio Moriah, both are overpopulated. The Santa Fe school has capacity for 800 children and currently has over 1,000 children and cannot accept any more students. The same is true for the Colinas school. They are currently serving over 900 children, when they have capacity for 600. Colegio Moriah is providing an important service in that they serve 300 children that may not otherwise be served by these public schools due to the fact that they are overpopulated.

The difficulties families face to generate income, also affects Colegio Moriah because many families have a hard time paying any contribution for the education of their children, which, in turn, puts Colegio Moriah's ability to sustain a portion of its operational costs in jeopardy. Given that they do not turn away any children for lack of ability to pay, many of the children they serve would otherwise have to recur to the overcrowded public schools.

To date, Colegio Moriah has received the generous support of donors from its partner non-profit "Friends of Colegio Moriah" to cover initial building of the school and its annual operational costs. However, diversifying Colegio Moriah's funding is necessary in order to bolster support for other programs, essential to the growth and livelihood of the school; including breakfast program, a technical training program, education for adults in the community, amongst other community outreach initiatives.

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#### SECTION FOUR – PROGRAM/PROJECT DESCRIPTION & METHODOLOGY

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The long-term goal of Colegio Moriah is to improve the overall quality of life of the children and families living in the communities of Las Colinas I, II, La Esperanza and Santa Fe through the provision of education.

The objective of their current program is to provide a quality education for 300 children in these communities. To achieve this objective, the following areas will be of focus:

1. *Ensure that students that attend Colegio Moriah excel in their academic performance and achieve personal growth.*

One of Colegio Moriah's main objectives is to provide services that allow children living in situations of vulnerability access to a high quality education in order to allow them opportunities to thrive in the future. The educational process is not only focused on helping students achieve success in academics but also that they are provided with an environment in which they receive emotional and psychological support and opportunities for spiritual and personal growth, in an effort to attend to the "whole person" in a comprehensive way.

To ensure quality of educational services, Colegio Moriah works to recruit and cultivate highly qualified instructors and provide them with continued training and support. Support from teachers from the United States has allowed for ongoing trainings in the topics such as the use of didactic resources, use of library resources and use of technology in the classroom.

Equally, Colegio Moriah has continued to build onto its infrastructure to not only diminish the teacher to student ratio of 25:1 but also build space for a computer lab and a play area including a basketball court to provide students access to different activities to complement the academic experience.

Colegio Moriah's directors work hard to provide continued follow up to ensure that this objective is being met. The following results are monitored consistently to measure the program's progress:

- \*Curriculum and learning standards established for each grade level.
- \*Compliance with standards.(do not pass students without compliance)
- \*% students that attend daily classes.
- \*% students who learn to read and write
- \*% students that pass National exam (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

In an effort to provide ongoing emotional and psychological support to students, trained staff conducted individual evaluations of each student to identify support needs and develop interventions to meet these needs. These interventions include individual counseling, home visits, support to the family and work with instructors to provide support for children with special needs in the classroom.

2. *Involve at least 70% of parents as active members of the educational process of their children.*

Parent involvement is of the utmost importance to help children achieve in and outside the classroom. Due to the fact that many of Colegio Moriah's students come from homes run by single mothers, living in situations of poverty, providing support to the family is essential to the success of these students. Currently, involving parents is challenging in that many work long hours, some outside the area of San Pedro in an effort to support their family.

Activities to engage parents in their children's educational process will include:

- Individual parent/teacher conferences to support student's education (learning disabilities, behavioral issues).
- Support of the school psychologist to generate strategies to help children excel.
- Bi-monthly general meetings with parents to discuss general aspects and reinforce topics such as parenting, themes.
- \*-Parent attendance at meetings.

3. *Expand educational program to offer high school.*

Another goal of this project is to expand the educational services that the school currently provides to the provision of high school (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades). This expansion will allow many of the students who are not able to continue their education beyond 8<sup>th</sup> grade due to multiple obstacles to acquire their high school degree at Colegio Moriah. This expansion will occur gradually; starting with the completion of the necessary infrastructure to operate, and later the certification by the Ministry of Education to operate and implement the high school curriculum. Finally, one additional grade will be added each year until reaching the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The following benchmarks will be utilized to measure implementation:

- Certification by Ministry of Education to operate as a high school
- Meet requirements to be certified
- Structure high school curriculum
- 3 additional teachers
- Building science lab
- Finishing construction—bathroom and offices
- Equipment for five classrooms (boards, chairs, etc)

4. *Provide a nutritious breakfast or snack to 300 kids each day.*

The objective of the breakfast program is to ensure students receive proper nutrition as many students currently do not receive enough food, and thus become weak and lethargic during the school day (many students only eat 1 meal per day).

5. *Provide income-generation opportunities to parents of children in an effort to improve living conditions for families.*



Furthermore, adult and technical training will enable parents and other community members to gain the skills and training needed to better support their families and be positive role models for their children. In order to achieve this objective, *at least 40 parents of children from Colegio Moriah will participate in vocational trainings aimed to facilitate income-generation.* Most of the trainings offered will teach parents practical professions, such as painting, sewing, language training, and others.

The duration of the project/program is one year, beginning in August 2011 and extending until May 2012. Other supporters like Friends of Colegio Moriah, which was founded as support for the program, and University volunteer groups who aid in teacher training will complement components.

Overall, this organization is positioned to address needs in the community. Friends of Colegio Moriah is an institution with over 12 years of experience in the area. Thanks to the support of this organization, Colegio Moriah has been able to provide quality education at a very low cost for the students and their families. Parents have attested to their children's academic and human growth and express satisfaction with the work Colegio Moriah has done for them and the community. Despite limited funding, Colegio Moriah is lucky have seasoned professionals as part of their team. Colegio Moriah has also been recognized for their work in the community by the Ministry of Education, international NGOs and professionals who have helped in their mission, which provides evidence of its credibility and the effectiveness of their accomplishments in the community of San Pedro.

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