

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



#### **DIRECTOR'S WELCOME**

Dear volunteers, employees, board members, program partners, families and dear readers,

Looking back on the year 2016, I am delighted about the many positive developments and successes we have achieved together. The year flew by, which I regard as a positive sign for a lot of work that included progress and fun..

In this year's annual report, you will be able to read how and why we are doing charity and volunteer work, among other things. The various programs will be presented in detail as well as the projects launched in 2016 by volunteers. We also present our partners and supporters as well as some of the small and great success stories our volunteers achieved in 2016. Keep on reading and find out what these amazing volunteers have done!



The special thing in 2016 was the foundation and the foundation registration, which after a lot of effort and bureaucracy was made a reality. In addition, was the new cooperation with the support program of the Federal Government of Germany "Weltwärts". Thus, eight volunteers this year and twelve volunteers next year will have the opportunity to volunteer with us. We have three new employees and would not be able to grow without them. The new year will also focus on the strengthening of the work of the charity in terms of security, and the continuity of the workplaces and the work conditions for the staff. Personally, this year was important to me because my daughter moved to Samaná. It makes me happy to look after my daughter as a single parent. However, I now unfortunately have less time which I can devote to the charity work. I would like to thank all of the volunteers and the staff for their understanding.

I would also like to give thanks to all of the volunteers, board members, employees, program partners and supporters who showed a lot of dedication, motivation, and commitment in 2016. Without you all, Aldeas de Paz's association would not be possible. A heartfelt thanks to all!

I look forward to the year 2017, because many further development steps and projects are planned for the charity. For this I wish all of us a lot of motivation, endurance and strength.

Best regards,

Manfred Mönnighoff

Presidente Aldeas de Paz

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# **CONNECT WITH US**









# SKIP AT A GLANCE

In January 2015 the Dominican branch of Fundacion Aldeas de Paz has successfully established headquarters in Santa Barbara de Samaná, a coastal town in the north east of the Dominican Republic, and registered a considerable growth in 2016.. Before moving to the Caribbean the organization was acting prolifically for nearly 15 years in Venezuela. Because of the increasingly difficult social and political situation in Venezuela during 2014, volunteer placements had to be temporarily suspended.



Aldeas de Paz is a sustainable and transparent grass-roots NGO. Working independently from political, religious or business interests and maintains this independence by completely funding and operating its programs with the practical and monetary contributions of volunteers and interns.

The organization is led by Manfred Mönnighoff, a German entrepreneur who developed the Peace Villages Foundation. Since midyear of 2016 he is supported by Julia Schaaf, coordinator of the volunteers, and Yunior, Mama Elba School's headteacher. The operative tasks are mainly executed by those two as well as local staff and volunteers from all over the world.

Aldeas de Paz is a youth orientated organization with the purpose of educating, mentoring, inspiring and empowering young people to develop their potential. As well as helping them to create opportunities for themselves and their community through our educational programs and recreational activities. The organization promotes children rights and equal opportunities for all.

2015 Active since	<b>8</b> Number of projects in 2016	RD\$4,029,000 Annual income in 2016
<b>52</b> Number of volunteers in 2016	<b>6</b> Number of staff in 2016	<b>20</b> Number of partners
<b>81</b> Numbers of students at Mamá Elba School	450  Number of hours we worked with children of special needs in 2016	<b>423</b> Number of students participating in activities in 2016



#### HOW WE WORK

At Aldeas de Paz we promote a Culture of Peace through enriching cross-cultural exchange for people of all races and nationalities. This combined with voluntary community service where we provide additional opportunities in education, sports, health care and skill training.

In practice, this means that we provide education not only in our school for children with special needs "Mama Elba", but also in our free English and Computer Classes for young adults. In addition to projects like recycling workshops in communal schools.

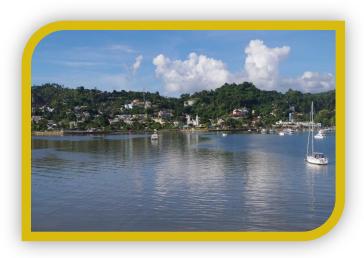
Thereby our work is low threshold, inclusive and values every human being, providing easy access to everyone who is interested.

In our projects we also focus on the preservation of cultural values as well as local knowledge and working with cultural sensitivity. Volunteers work side by side with the local employees of the organization learning and benefiting from each other.

What we believe in is creating a culture of peace by empowering young people as well as defending children rights. Our aim is to encourage individuals to develop their potential and help them to create opportunities for themselves, which in turn ,will positively effect and give back to the whole community.

#### WHERE WE WORK AND WHY

We work in Samaná a city in the northeast of the Dominican Republic. The official name is Santa Bárbara de Samaná. Samaná is the capital of the province and has 108,179 inhabitants Some of the main (2012).characteristics of the region are the distinctive nature, the beautiful beaches and waterfalls and the whale season in January and February. These sites make Samaná one of the most touristic places in the Dominican Republic however it is less developed than destinations like Punta Cana. The



town of Samaná wants to develop its tourism more but pursues the goal of being a quality destination and not a mass tourism destination like most of the Dominican destinations are. The problem in the tourism sector is especially the missing know-how of the different stakeholders. People do not know how to attract tourists to their shops or hotels, how to promote themselves or how to have exceptional customer service. The language barrier is often a problem in the tourism sector.

Another problem people face in Samaná is the lack of education. There is a lack of materials, new teaching methods, and motivation in the classrooms. A University is missing in the province so students from Samaná have to move to or commute to Santo Domingo or Santiago etc. to study. Due to the lack of education there are many unemployed residents, this population includes children with special needs who suffer from the lack of education because disabled persons are not allowed to go to the normal schools and there is no special school for them in the province.

Also the pollution is a big problem in town. Natives are not aware of the effects of the garbage in the streets and in the sea. Due to this lack of education, pollution and littering is a major issue. The pollution affects all areas such as health, tourism, and others.



#### So why do we work here?

It's not easy to save the world, but through sustainable projects we can help people learn how they improve their lives, give children with special needs the opportunity to go to a school and to learn how to write and to read, offering English and computer classes to young people in the city and through giving workshops about conservation of the environment or customer service.

# ALDEAS DE PAZ PROGRAMMES



Mamá Elba School School for children with special needs



**English Classes** Free English Classes for the locals



**Toursim Project** Free workshops for El Limón Guides and supporting the Mildania Hotel



**Red Cross Foundation** Supporting the foundation of the Red Cross in Samaná



Hospital Dr. Leupoldo Pou Supporting doctors and nurses



**Computer Classes** Free Computer Classes for the locals



**Recycling Project** Making children aware of the trash problem and possible solutions



**Sports Programme** Helping children to grow not only athletically but also socially

#### PROGRAMME SUMMARIES

# MAMÁ ELBA SCHOOL

With our Youth Care and Community Work Program we aim to empower young people by offering them additional educational opportunities and tutoring classes, as well as supporting and educating parents. With the help of local professionals we started the first educational initiative for children with special needs in Samana.

There exists no public school for children with special needs in Samana right now and an

inclusion in the regular schools is often problematic. The great participation of children in the Mama Elba School proves the urgent demand for individual support and encouragement as well as easy access to education without stigmatization.

There are 27 children inscribed at the moment. Usually there is an average of 15 children in the school every day.

The Mama Elba school is located in the heart of Samana and provides education for children and adolescents with special needs in the age from 5 to 30.

The classes take place from Tuesday to Thursday from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm. They are divided into sectors which cover basic skills such as calculating, writing and reading and a creativity and sports part to train motor skills, social skills and improve the capability to manage daily tasks independently.

The director of the school and two permanent employees are from Samana and supported by various volunteers. The high number of volunteers allows us to work in little groups of children to provide individual and adequate education.



#### **Workshops at School**

in our Mama Elba School. The workshops intend to

Since those ideas are worked out, discussed and our school and children and provide some concrete implemented right away.

## Implementing the concept of Montessori at Mamá Elba School

We orientate our classes on the pedagogical theories of Maria Montessori and identify with her philosophy as well as methods and structures.

The Montessori Method mainly consists of the idea that every children is willing to learn and the teachers are only providing help and motivation to support the children. Thereby Help and Motivation in school routine are reflected in different parts.



At the beginning of the implementation, our

volunteer Max referred to the aim and attitude every Montessori teacher should have which is the understanding of Montessori's Philosophy. Secondly, he considered methods for the teachers to motivate the children. These include, respect for the students learning rhythm followed by the opportunity of punishments without demotivating the student. Furthermore, he described a typical day in a Montessori school which is divided in a working and a creative part. In addition, he regarded the room and class structure in a Montessori school. In particular the small number of students who are looked after enable an appropriate way of teaching. Even the room structure



and the number of materials enable the children to find their best way to learn and to support their creativity. In conclusion, we continue to transform the school to a Montessori. Progress continues.

The teachers are motivating the students to learn while respecting their individual rhythm. A school day is separated in a learning and a creative part. Both lessons are taking place with different materials and clearly structured groups to provide a suitable learning

atmosphere.



#### Maria's donation

Aldeas de Paz. With her band shadd.net she organized a

## Case Study

To visualise the outcome of our work and show how we have an impact on the children's life, we want to share a case study about Melissa, an eight year old girl who has participated in our school since 2015.

When Melissa came to our school first, she was a very shy and introverted girl. Her outer appearance distinguishes her from the other children since she is very small, has no hair, wrinkled skin, and a very distinctive voice.

In the beginning, her lack of her made her feel ashamed of herself. Melissa always avoided contact with other children and tried to compensate her insecurity with non-beneficial strategies.

Those include the manipulation of or picking on other children. Furthermore, she was overwhelmed by the daily school tasks and therefore, only showed little motivation. Her strategy to get attention was mainly through oppositional behaviour.



Through appreciation and positive acknowledgement, she started open up. Melissa integrates herself in the group by showing social manner. For instance, she began to share her food and help other children.

Today, she is very motivated in performing her tasks and participates in group activities with pleasure. She is learning fast and focused. Melissa builds up self-confidence and gains the volunteers' trust. Thus, she actively seeks physical contact with them.

Melissa among other children, have achieved great development in their behaviour and progress in the year 2016. We hope to continue our story of success in 2017.



Laura's diploma thesis on the Mamá Elba School Laura worked for the organization for six months in 2015as a volunteer. She came back to write a diploma thesis on



#### HOSPITAL DR. LEOPOLDO POU

Aldeas de Paz also places volunteers in the public hospital of Samaná. The hospital Dr. Leopoldo Pou is a state-run hospital, thus the medical care is free of charge. There are 59 beds and the hospital employs a staff of 240.

The hospital has very little financial means. It is therefore dependent on donations and foreign aid such as support through USAID.

From time to time this becomes especially apparent, e.g. when the hospital runs out of anesthetics or butterfly cannulas; the result being that the patients themselves have to buy the material needed for their own medical treatment.

During the year 2016, sixteen volunteers worked in the hospital. The volunteers of Aldeas de Paz have the option to work either in the healthcare or in the medical field.

The range of tasks a volunteer is assigned depends on the volunteer's medical knowhow as well as her/his particular language skills.

Generally speaking the tasks might include shadowing the doctors, assisting nurses and doctors, and interpreting, for example when tourists are patients or physicians, foreign like specialist surgeons, come to work in the hospital.



already the 25<sup>th</sup> year in a row. To express its performed surgeries, treated general medical adjusted the prostheses for the patients they opportunity to learn tremendously.



#### **ENGLISHCLASSES**

Tourism is the most important economical sector in the Dominican Republic. Through the globalization, speaking English becomes more and more important in order to be able to adapt to the international industry. Additionally, many citizens of the Dominican Republic want to study in the United States. However, in the public schools, English is either not taught or with massive deficits. Therefore, we decided to start an English class program for the natives of Samaná.

First, we started in the hospital because the medical care for tourists is otherwise not possible. All in all, 10 volunteers split in rotation were included in the lessons and about 15 doctors and nurses were enrolled. After this successful project, we decided to offer English classes for all the locals.

For us, it is an important issue, that everyone who wants to learn English, has the possibility to do so. Neither the age, nor the financial means matter, since our English classes are for free and without any age limit. We planned to divide the group into two classes: one for the beginners, the other one for the advanced students. The first class took place in September 2016 and the number of people who participated exceeded our expectations. In total were 122 participants interested in learning English, 75 in the beginner's Class and 47 in the advanced class. This stresses the importance for the people and the willingness/motivation of them to learn the English language. The age range varies from 10 to 50 years.

In the beginner's class, we planned to teach grammar or vocabulary in a big group. Subsequently, we repeat everything in smaller groups. This offers the students the possibility to ask questions and cater to specific needs. Initially, the advanced class is taught in small groups due to the skill levels.

The people who still attend are highly motivated and make big progress in speaking and understanding the new language. All in all, it was a big success to introduce English lessons. We will continue to hold classes into 2017.



#### COMPUTER CLASSES

In September we started to provide free computer classes for the citizens of Samaná. It is the second time this program took place in the Mama Elba School. To improve this project, the organization bought some new computers.

At the beginning of the year we had 6 students and in September the interest rose so high that we had to split the class in two different groups, with a total amount of 13 participants. Every group had two lessons a week and each lesson lasted for two hours. Most of the people had slim to no knowledge about interacting with computer systems.

We invested much effort in this project because it is a service for the people to learn job relevant computer and multimedia skills for free. The ultimate aim for the participants was to achieve a certificate which can be used for job interviews.

We employed a local computer expert, Angel, to secure a high level of expertise for the class. Furthermore, at least one volunteer was always supporting the teacher in the class. This helped in making the class personalized. The volunteers conducted weekly meetings in which the topics and tasks for the next week(s) were planned.

In the Computer class we taught basic knowledge that is needed to gain job relevant skills which include: using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, creating an E-mail account and sending messages, as well as using the internet for research. For the upcoming year we are already planning an advanced computer class in which we teach participants how to use special computer programs like Photoshop or Adobe Premiere, but not all of the recent students will be allowed to take place in this class. First, they have to pass a final exam which tests all their new learned skills to be able to participate and move on to an advanced class.

Due to the high level of participants, we want to continue with this project next year and are already planning a new beginner and an advanced class.



#### TOURISM PROJECT

In the tourism program we introduced and conducted two projects. The first one, was the implementation of the workshops for the guides in El Salto del Limón. There are several ranches that offer tours to the waterfall by horse or by foot. Before reaching the waterfall there is an approximately 40-minute hike, the ranches not only offer the horses but they also offer a guide. At the end of the tour, every guide hopes for a tip from the tourists. We went to two ranches to do a workshop to show them how to improve their customer service skills to improve the probability of earning money. We showed them how to present themselves and their horses and taught them the importance of conversation, for example teaching the tourists information about the plants and other details on the way to the waterfall. We also encouraged them to learn English or other languages to improve their work. The guides were really thankful and interested in our workshop and put their new found learning into practice, by offering the volunteers a tour using their skills they learned in the workshops.

The second project was supporting the Mildania Hotel, where our intern Silvia worked for a month and a half at the reception. Some of her tasks were doing check-ins and -outs, administrating the Facebookand homepage, taking professional photos of the hotel for the homepage, giving information about the region to new customers etc. She learned a lot about hotel administration and gained experienced for her future.





#### **RECYCLING PROJECT**

The litter poses an evident problem in Samaná. Four volunteers started a project to help improve this. It was the second time that such a project was organized by the foundation in Samaná. We use the children in Samana to help us with this effort. We present on the consequences of littering and the possibilities of recycling, reducing and reusing trash at the schools to make the children aware of the problem and possible solutions. Afterwards the kids play games that explain how recycling works and lear how to reuse old plastic bottles and toilet paper rolls. We have been

to three different primary and secondary public schools and have had about 250 participants. In December we organized a garbage collecting event at the Malecón (bay). The Aldeas de Paz volunteers were supported by nearly 60 children and we collected a great amount of trash. The activity was a great way to make the children aware of the issue.





#### SPORTS PROGRAMME

Another programme which was initiated by a volunteer was a sports programme. Bruce taught kids and teens from the town how to play Baseball. His aim was to address social issues, like the lack of education. The high unemployment rates and the increased risk of participating in negative behaviours deemed harmful to society. Bruce created a kick starter programme to highlight the importance of after school sports clubs. The target group was children with learning disabilities. The programme is making use of baseball not only because of its popularity in the Dominican Republic, but because of its strong association with numbers and the main focal point of the programme is to improve numerical skills. The programme was trying to engage its target group in specific behaviours that will enable them to enhance their learning ability and apply newly learned skills to further their education. All in all his 10-week-program was a huge success and up to 20 children participated.



#### FOUNDATION OF THE RED CROSS

Another project to be put into action is the foundation of the Red Cross Samaná. Although other branch offices such as the Red Cross El Limón and the Red Cross Las Terrenas already exist in the province, the office in the province's capital has yet to be established. The requirements for the foundation include a group of 30 members over the age of 18 and a local head quarter that can be rented, bought or donated. Apart from presentations on the history and ideals of the global Red Cross/Red Cresent movement, this issue is currently the main topic during our weekly meetings (on Wednesdays 6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.). Furthermore films are shown, talks are given and ideas for future campaigns are developed and discussed. A group of seven members has committed itself to representing and leading the young organization and is in contact with the

national headquarters in the capital. Anyone willing to participate in the voluntary work is very welcome to join the group. The primary aim right now is to form a solid group of activists that are trained to be mentors and educators of first aid and other healthcare workshops. Another objective of very high importance, is the provision of a blood bank in Samaná. Additionally it would be very important to be able to supply trained helpers for large events and in times of emergency like natural disasters and accidents.





## **VOLUNTEERING**

Volunteers make a vital contribution to the successful existence of Aldeas de Paz. Not only through their work, their ideas and their knowledges but also through their payments for their internships or voluntary services: thereby they enable the organisation to buy equipment for the programmes and to pay the local staff.

For this reason it is remarkable that in the second year in which Aldeas de Paz is operating in the Dominican Republic the number of volunteers increased greatly:



For 2017 the organization has many new applicants, so many projects, memories, and friendships will continue to be formed.

Volunteering for Aldeas de Paz is possible in the following fields:

NGO Management and **Administration** 

Social Multi-Media Journalism

Youth Care and Communinty Work

Medicine and Healthcare

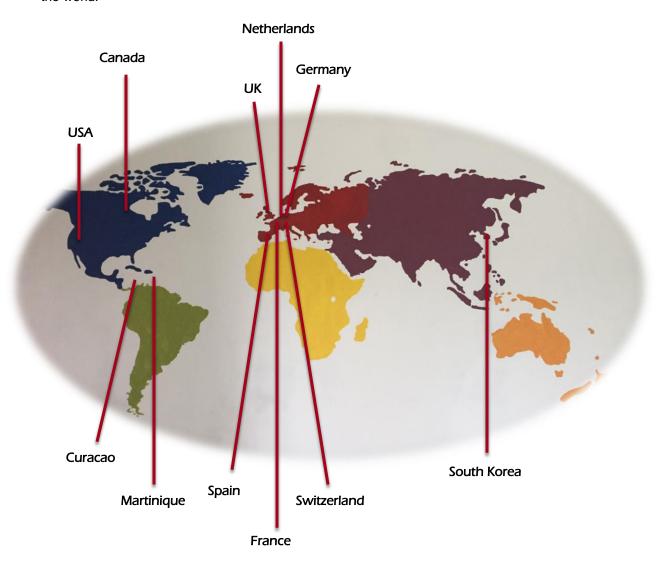
Dental Healthcare Hospitality and **Tourism** 

In addition to those mentioned above, volunteers are always welcome to initiate their own projects. An example for such a new project is Bruce's sports programme.



#### **Bruce's sports programme**

he taught kids and teens from the town how to play Baseball. Using sports as a vehicle to make the kids grow socially and Our programme is very rich in cultural diversity. The Aldeas de Paz Volunteers come from all over the world:





## **Painting the School**

## **Cooperation with the German Red Cross**

In 2016 the cooperation with the German Red Cross started, which is a milestone for Aldeas de Paz. In September the organisation became for the first time the deployment location for eight volunteers from Germany who participate in a volunteerprogramme called "weltwarts" which is funded by the German Government and in this case coordinated by the German Red Cross. Normally the Aldeas the Paz



Volunteers stay only for several weeks in the Dominican Republic, but now it's the first time that volunteers will stay for a whole year, to guarantee personal and financial stability. Another advantage is that those volunteers participate in several seminars to prepare for their voluntary service in a developing country as well as to reflect on their activities mid-service and postservice.



#### On the weekends

On the weekends there is a lot of time for the history of the Dominican Republic. Often the famous island Cayo Levantado, to Playa Rincon (known as the second most beautiful beach in the world) or to the capital of the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo.

# Spanish Classes

Learning the native language is crucial for integration and educating. Communication with natives and everyday situations become easier with Spanish knowledge. Therefore, Aldeaz de Paz provides four free Spanish lessons each week for all the volunteers. Depending on former knowledge there are two different courses. A volunteer can choose between the beginners course which includes basic grammar and communication skills and the advanced



one where the subtleties of language are taught. In small role plays, interactive teaching and individual conversations the volunteers get the opportunity to improve their knowledge. Considering the individual motivation the classes are a great way to get in touch with the language and furthermore with the people.

#### REVIEWS FROM FORMER VOLUNTEERS

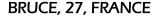


Aldeas de Paz is doing amazing work in Samaná and always looking to go one step further for the community, trying to improve current projects as well as bring new ideas in. Alongside working with the community to improve the lives of people in Samaná, Aldeas de Paz gives the volunteers incredible opportunities to get involved as much as they want to, the more you give to your time with the organisation the more you get out of it. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for Aldeas de Paz.

OLIVIA, 23, UK

Aldeas de Paz has a real positive impact on the community. They are always trying to get locals involved in the development or delivery process of new initiatives, which is a great thing.

I am truly grateful to Manfred and Aldeas de Paz for giving me the opportunity to be part of it. I will be back.







An organization that really achieves something! It's great to be part of it!

NICOLE, 23, GERMANY

Had an amazing time with Aldeas de Paz in Samaná. As a social work student I could make a lot of great experiences for my future job. It was a pleasure to be one of the first volunteers in the organization and see this great project growing. I already had my first "come back" and it's just awesome to see how good everything works. I try to come back as soon as possible and I would recommend everyone to be part of this community and it's projects. Thank you guys for doing that important work and sharing it with so many people.





# **FINANCIAL REPORT**

January - November 2016

# **Activos**

Activos Corrientes	RD\$
Efectivos en caja y banco	335.342,00
Cuentas por cobrar	390.768,80
Inventario de Utiles Escolares	5.500,00
<b>Total Activos Corrientes</b>	731.610,80

Activos Fijos	RD\$
Maquinaria y Equipos	728.964,00
Otra Inversion	
Total Activos Fijos	728.964,00

**Total Activos** 1.460.574,80 RD\$

# **Pasivos**

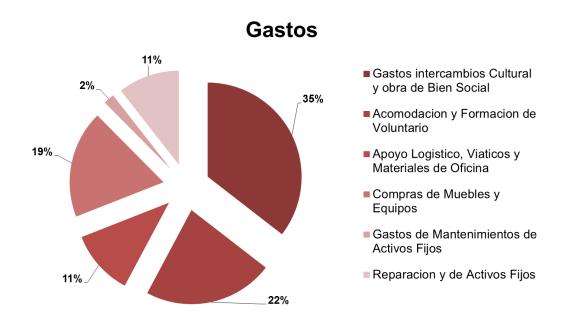
Pasivos	RD\$
Cuentas por pagar Sr. Manfred	1.065.522,00
Maquinaria y Equipos	40.000,00
Total Pasivos	1.105.522,00

Patrimonio	RD\$
Capital	355.052,80
Beneficio de Año Anteriores	0,00
Beneficio (Perdida) del Ejercicio Actual	0,00
Total Capital	355.052,00

**Total Pasivos y Capital** 1.460.574,80 RD\$

Ingresos	RD\$
Blance Anterior Año 2015	110.332,00
Donacion de la Alcadia	15.000,00
Donacion Internacionales	Euro\$ 67.652,00
Prestamos Hecho del Sr. Manfred	Euro\$ 8.000,00
Total Ingresos	4.029.894,00

Gastos	RD\$
Gastos intercambios Cultural y obra de Bien Social	1.310.568,00
Acomodacion y Formacion de Voluntario	825.084,00
Apoyo Logistico, Viaticos y Materiales de Oficina	415.208,00
Compras de Muebles y Equipos	683.964,00
Gastos de Mantenimientos de Activos Fijos	68.959,20
Reparacion y de Activos Fijos	390.768,80
Total Gastado	3.694.552,00



# **DONORS**

Without the help of our volunteers Aldeas de Paz would not be able to exist. So we want to thank you for getting a member of the Aldeas de Paz family, your donations and your great work. Thanks to every single one of you!



#### **PARTNERS**

And also to our partners we want to say thank you for the collaboration and your support!

Alcadia Samaná

Cámara de Turismo

Clinica de las Especialidades Samaná

Clinica Odontologica Especializada - Dra.

**Nelida Garcia** 

Conani

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz in Nordrhein -

FreiWerk gGmbH

Dr. Jaime Jones W. - Odontologo

Escuela Liceo José Gabriel Garcia

**Escuela Liceo Demousi** 

Escuela Primaria José Gabriel García

Gobernación de Samaná

Hospital Dr. Leopoldo Pou

**Hotel Mildania** 

Ministerio de Educación de Samaná

Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de Samaná

Ministerio de Turismo de Samaná

Procuraria de Mujeres

Quelonios

Rancho en El Limon: La Manzana

Rancho EL LIMON (Entrada principal)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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