Recap briefly what outcomes the program was designed to achieve:
Unleash the Leader in a girl is an experiential education program designed to empower young Dominican and Haitian girls to create sustainable solutions to end generational poverty. Through our six key focus areas – academic enrichment, community engagement, experiential learning, health and wellness, international awareness and summer programs, we work to ensure that girls are getting the support they need to stay in school, pursue secondary or higher education, learn valuable job skills and make healthy decisions including preventing teenage pregnancy and early marriage.

What was accomplished in connection with the project? Please address each stated objective. If any project objectives were changed, please also explain the circumstances leading to the modification of the objective(s).

The objective of Unleash the Leader in a girl, as stated in the original proposal, is to educate, empower and employ girls so that they can end the cycle of generational poverty for their entire families. With funding from Dining for Women, we were able to enroll an additional 46 girls in the program. As mentioned in the interim report, we reduced the number from 50 down to 46 as we made the decision to invest in private school scholarships for 66 girls for the academic year. We expect this number to increase in September 2015. With the support from Dining for Women we were able to provide 140 girls with more than 30 different activities to choose from, including art, sewing, theatre, swimming, surfing, tutoring, field trips and much, much more.

In addition to continuing to provide wraparound support to our girls and their families, in the last year, we have really honed in on our long-term vision of becoming a learning institution for the world. As we grow, our additional main objective will be to use our location in a tourist community as an asset to share our work with others. While providing quality programs for local girls, we will continue to invite visitors into our community and our center so that they can learn about our unique model and together we can share knowledge and collaborate on how to educate and empower girls all over the world.

What challenges did you face in connection with the project? How did you address these challenges?

As expressed in our interim report, the challenge of recruiting, retaining and affording long-term qualified staff continues to be a challenge. We are very much dependent on our volunteer program for day to day on the ground operations and really need resources to add key people to our permanent core team. Our long term solution is to continue investing in developing the job skills of our girls as the vision is to have more of them running the ground operation in the future. We are a long way from this so in the meantime, we work hard to provide professional development opportunities for existing staff and volunteers and maintain great relationships with both local and international schools and institutions that support our work.
Another challenge that has come up for us is the question of when do we release the girls from the program and let them find their own way in the world. Some of the girls that have been with us the longest are now in their early 20’s and venturing into unchartered territory in their culture of being a young, independent woman. This is a spectacular challenge to have, as it’s a clear indicator that our work is having the intended impact. However, what this means is that we have to invest more resources into programs for our older girls to support them in pursuing their individual plans. More Mariposa girls are going to high school and college and talking about long term career goals. Our program cost per girl goes up significantly after age 15 and because our retention rates are high, we have more older girls needing extensive support each year.

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?

There have been no significant changes in the program since the approved proposal. We have added some additional key staff members including an Administrative Director that is helping to ensure smooth operations in the Dominican Republic.

What were the most important lessons learned?

Family and community engagement has been a core component of our programs since we began and as we continue to grow and strengthen relationships, we learn more about how important buy-in from family and community is for girls in achieving individual success, especially as the girls get older. Having girls in the home over the age of 16, pursuing high school and college degrees and delaying marriage and childbirth is something new for most of the parents and we must find ways to work together with families to ensure supportive and healthy environments for our girls to thrive.

We have always tailored our programs and outreach around being centered in a tourist community. Over the past few years we have put a lot of work into developing and expanding our volunteer programs, welcoming more than 1,000 visitors a year onto our property. While we want to share our work and what we have learned with as many people as possible, there is a delicate balance between maintaining a safe and comfortable environment where the girls feel ownership over their space and becoming a tourism attraction for the visiting public. Tourism, visitors and volunteers are critical to our success and it is our goal to thoughtfully include others in our work as much as possible. We have learned that we must be very creative and targeted about how we engage different groups and stakeholders and what activities we invite them to take part in. Service learning is an important piece of the work we do and as we work through phase two of the physical build out of our center, we will create a space that is both inviting to visitors and protective of our girls and their safe place.

What has changed within your organization as a result of this project?

As a result of this project, more girls in the community are going to school, going further in school, playing sports, pursuing passions, learning English and becoming independent young women who are making healthier, smarter choices for their futures. With support from Dining for Women we were able to fully incorporate 46 new girls between the ages of 8-10 into the program. By starting them at a young age, they will grow into young women with the support of Mariposa and have a better chance to lift themselves and their family out of poverty. DFW’s support has also provided us with the capacity to
improve our cultural programs and seek additional funding to support our Program Manager, enabling her to create more robust options for all of the girls. Another thing that this program is changing outside of the day to day at the center, is the surrounding community. Community members are starting to see the changes and more are coming on board to support our work in various ways. Families, teachers, leaders and business owners are standing up for girls, because they are now realizing that educating and empowering girls will create a stronger and more prosperous community for everyone. In the coming years, The Mariposa DR Foundation will be a great resource to employers as they will have the confidence that girls who have gone through our program will have had access to the best local education and training programs available.

Describe the unexpected events and outcomes, including unexpected benefits.

While we always have interest from volunteers and service learning groups, we did not expect the volume of inquiries that we would get this year. Visitors who came in years past are coming back with groups and some groups are now making annual visits. While we expected to have many visitors throughout the year, one of the things that is far stronger than we ever could have expected is the sense of community across the world that we have created together. Thousands of people contribute to our success each day including those who have come to visit and those who simply follow our work online and support from far away, hoping to visit in the future. None of what we do would be possible without this amazing network of support and we continue to be amazed at the thousands of people who remain committed to success of the girls at Mariposa here in the small town of Cabarete.

Did you change your strategy as a result of obstacles you encountered? How will you address these challenges in the future?

We have not encountered any major obstacles that would warrant changing our overall strategy. As mentioned before, we are currently thinking through how we best support our older girls as they transition into full adulthood as independent young women. We will continue to treat each girl as an individual and work with her and her family to best address their specific needs and challenges as we have seen great success with this approach.

Approximately how many lives have been touched, both directly and indirectly, by the program?

This question is difficult to answer because although we work with 150 girls on a day to day basis, our impact is much larger. We are touching the lives everyone in our community and people all over the world. By educating and empowering the girls of our community, we are lifting future generations of entire families out of poverty. We are changing the way that parents, teachers, businesses and community members think and helping them realize the unique potential of girls to make the world better. Without our support, these 150 girls could potentially produce more than 400 babies born into extreme poverty in the next 10 years. With our support, the future is going to look much different with strong, smart women having fewer, healthier more educated children.

Through our volunteer program and the many visitors that come onto our property each year, we are affecting change all over the world. People go back home motivated to get involved and see that they too can really make a difference. Our volunteer groups also work to improve local schools and community spaces – baseball fields, homes, etc. which directly impact thousands right here in Cabarete. Our estimate is that we touch more than 20,000 lives per year in some way.
What are the measurements used to monitor success and how was this information measured (e.g., surveys, observation)? Be specific and include measurable results.

We keep detailed files and records on each of the girls that enter and exit our programs. We are working on defining how we can quantify our success as each girl is an individual and success looks different for each one. We like to use the story of Edileisa and Yanibel to illustrate how important it is to look at success based on the individual. They are both the same age and entered the program at the same time four years ago. Edileisa came into the program on track to go to high school and was reading at an appropriate level, whereas Yanibel could barely recognize the alphabet. Fast forward, both are amazing young women, Edileisa has started her first year of college and wants to become a doctor and Yanibel is now reading at a 5th grade level and has gained valuable skills that will employ her in the future. There are 150 stories just like this that tell how each individual girl is achieving her version of success.

One of the quantitative measurements we often use is comparing the girl to the age her mother was when she had her first pregnancy. All of our girls over the age of 14 have made it past the age their mother was when they gave birth to their first child. In the Dominican Republic an estimated 40% of girls living in poverty become pregnant in their teenage years. For Mariposa girls, it is less than 1%.

If the program is ongoing, provide plans and expected results, including projected timeframe.

Unleash the Leader in a Girl is the ongoing flagship program at The Mariposa DR Foundation and there are no plans to change this. We expect that as our youngest girls grow up through the program, attending and graduating from high school will be a general expectation and not something unique. We expect that more of our girls will go to college. We expect that we will see more local businesses employing young women that grew up attending programs at The Mariposa DR Foundation. We expect that our community will change for the better as these young women become mothers, educators and leaders.

In the next few years we are rolling out a plan for the phase 2 build out of our property which will include a visitor’s center where people can come to learn about our work. We will create a unique space where the integrity of our programs and privacy of our girls is protected, yet open and welcome to those who wish to join us. Our goal is to become a learning institution where educators, volunteers and girl champions can come to collaborate and share knowledge on how to educate, empower and employ girls all over the world. We will add girls to our program each year, however our long term growth strategy is not to directly serve as many as possible. Our goal is to maintain the extensive wraparound services we have for girls and their families and make a real difference in their lives and share how we can replicate this model with others.

Provide a detailed list of all expenses incurred during the grant cycle which have been paid for with the Dining for Women grant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Item</th>
<th>Total Amount Allocated</th>
<th>Amount Spent at Interim Reporting Period</th>
<th>Amount Spent Since Interim Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Manager Salary</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$7,200</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for workshops with local artisans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food for girls while attending programs</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe transportation to and from the Mariposa Center for</td>
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<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>girls</td>
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<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical supplies</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
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<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did this grant and relationship with DFW assist your organization in obtaining other funding, partnerships with other organizations, or public recognition in some capacity?

In addition to catalytic financial support, DFW has helped further establish The Mariposa DR Foundation as a leader in the international development community. Having DFW on your top funder list is a great asset when applying for additional funding. We were fortunate enough to also have several Skype conferences with DFW groups from around the country as well as welcome a group of DFW volunteers to work directly with our girls this past March. We have created some amazing connections with the women in this organization and we hope that this is just the beginning of a long term relationship and that DFW members will continue to visit and work with us in the years to come.