



# DREAMROOT

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



## QUARTERLY REPORT

### 2023 Q2 IMPACT

LOCAL LEADERS. GLOBAL SOLUTIONS.



At DreamRoot, we believe in partnering with communities in a way that will set them up for long term sustainable success aimed at ending cycles of poverty.

We have entered the second half of the year continuing the momentum of successful training and program implementation with impactful wins at the local level.

This report highlights several stories and testimonies of those touched by this work.

In addition to the many events and programs run, the DreamRoot leadership team continues to facilitate monthly local leader meetings and one-on-one leader coaching calls to help strengthen and equip the local leader network as they continue to show up in their communities.

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# AMAZON LEADER CONFERENCE

Another conference in the Amazon is in the books! We returned from Brazil in May where members of our leadership team traveled upriver to speak to 50 local leaders over several days about running community initiatives with excellence through unity among one another and cross-collaboration with other organizational leaders.

Most of the leaders commuted to the conference by rowing for hours by canoe from their different villages up the Amazon river. In the evenings when the conference day ended it would already be dark. A normal part of life there, the leaders would return home with their cell phone for light in one hand and a paddle in the other to navigate their way home. The critical need for connection and their passion, commitment and sacrifice to the work these leaders do was a reminder to us about the importance of showing up.



The foundation of everything we do is relationships. Because it is out of relationship that true and lasting transformation takes place. Therefore, a highlight of our time was sharing meals during the week together with the local leaders and their families. We also visited several of the leaders' initiatives and visited a school. It was a delight to connect with many of the elementary and middle school students to talk about the importance of having dreams and a vision for their life combined with discipline in studying and collaboration with others.

Having now returned to this location several times, we have been able to build deeper and more impactful relationships. We heard many testimonies sharing how they have been able to implement the things they learned at the previous conference and are seeing improvements in their community. Things like collaborating not just with the adults within their own initiatives but with the children and cross-collaboration with leaders of other initiatives. Wow!

It is a true joy and inspiration to see the impact and fruit from these leaders' work - their vision and ability to see potential, their heart for their community members, their consistency in showing up, and the intentionality with which they work. This combination is powerful, and we are witnessing mountain moving impact.



# Amazon Impact Testimony



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During the conference sessions in the Amazon, the leaders broke off into small groups to discuss the importance of clear communication for effective leadership. In one of the breakout sessions, a local leader shared his excitement for how the communication tools he was learning in this conference would help lead his team better. As he was sharing this, he began to cry because at that moment, we understood how it would not only help him better lead his team, but it would help him become a better husband and a father. He explained that he had always thought that many of the challenges he faced on his team and in life had been a lack of discipline or willingness of others. As he learned the tools taught in the conference, he realized that by improving his own communication skills, and thus his leadership skills, he would have a healthier family and also set his team up for success to have an even larger positive collective impact.

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True leadership starts at home. For all the work the leaders do in their villages, ensuring the they are healthy and equipped on the individual and nuclear level is where the foundational and sustainable transformation flows.

# MANAUS BJJ WORKSHOP

DreamRoot Programs Director, Tony Passos conducted a jiu jitsu (BJJ) workshop for students in Manaus near the Amazon river in Brazil. The objective of the event was to train and encourage the program's instructors, while also connecting with the youth and kids in the community.

The jiu jitsu community initiative is led by Rodrigo and his team of assistant coaches. They are a dedicated group that works largely with kids and teenagers in tough situations using jiu jitsu as a tool to teach life skills and mentor youth towards a path of success.

During the workshop, Tony valuable insights on leadership within the context of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and class facilitation tools. Practical tips were provided to enhance the instructors' ability to lead engaging and effective classes.

Tony actively engaged the students and fostered a transformational learning environment as he demonstrated techniques, sparred, and shared life lessons. He shared a inspiring words of wisdom about hard work, resilience, integrity and the power of dreams.



A trusted guest speaker can be a fresh voice for young people. Tony's unique voice resonated with the young people, complementing the ongoing guidance from their instructors. The instructors continue to mentor and work with the students weekly and are seeing transformation not just in their lives but in their families at home.

We are looking forward to hosting Rodrigo along with many other local leaders across the nation in Recife, Brazil for the DreamRoot local leader workshop in October.

**Jiu-jitsu is just a tool. The academy is just a platform. It is all about relationships.**





# FIRST EXPERIENCE IN THE SERTÃO

DreamRoot local leaders Davi, Ingrid, Erick and Rogeria took some of their jiu jitsu students to compete at a jiu jitsu competition in a nearby city in the Sertão of Brazil. Beyond just competitions and medals, the goal of this trip was to give the students life-changing experiences.

So, after the competition, the leaders took the students to the mall to celebrate by enjoying a meal at McDonald's and watching a movie in the theater. This was the FIRST time these children ever visited a mall, went to a theater, walked on an escalator, rode in an elevator and tried ketchup. And what a fun time they had!



DreamRoot aims to spark and restore dreams while equipping and mobilizing people to make their vision a reality. New experiences are powerful catalysts to achieving this. It is moments like these that allow each of us to dream outside of current constraints to see the possibilities. This weekend was life-changing in the lives of each of the students.



A huge thank you to the Sertão DreamRoot team for your tireless dedication to the lives in your community. And thank you to our donors for helping to make this weekend possible by linking arms in this mission.

# HAITI SUMMER CAMP

We are excited to announce the start of our 5-week summer camp in Les Cayes, Haiti on July 17th.

During the camp, students will continue learning as they prepare for the upcoming school year and will be surrounded by healthy mentors to help guide them through. 125 students in grades 1-7 will participate in a variety of enriching activities such as creative writing, singing, dancing, art activities, skit writing and reading poetry.

This camp is a lifeline for these students, as it offers a safe space to play, enough food on the table, and support from healthy mentors. We need your help to make this camp a reality.

Please consider sponsoring a child to attend the camp for \$40. Funds will go toward supplies, meals, and employing camp counselors and cooks.





*We are delighted to welcome seven interns to our team. This summer we are collaborating on various communications and curriculum development projects. Join us in welcoming our new team members!*



Hi all, My name is **Bhavna Idnani** and I am a UX Design Intern at DreamRoot Leadership Institute. I did my undergrad in Business Management from University of Mumbai, India. Currently, I am living in Chicago and pursuing a Masters in Human Computer Interaction at DePaul University. While interning at a digital marketing agency I learned about UI UX and recognized the importance of making technology as per user needs. When it comes to design, making it accessible and inclusive is something I always aim for. Being able to design systems and solutions that can create difference in people's everyday lives is what excites me about UX. Apart from that I am involved in skill based volunteering. In my free time I love to read, draw, discover new food and cafes.



Hi, I'm **Lucas Lu** and I am excited to be supporting DreamRoot's journey and mission and can't wait to strengthen underserved communities around the world.



Hi! My name is **Vicki Brent**, I am a student at Aberystwyth University in the U.K. I am excited to work with DreamRoot and can't wait to learn and develop with the rest of my team.





Hi Everyone, My Name is **Fisayo Jeje**. I also go by Mercy. I am a student at African Leadership University, ALU, Rwanda studying Entrepreneurial Leadership. I am Nigerian, and African. This summer, I am a Marketing and Communications Intern at DreamRoot Leadership Institute. I love what DreamRoot Leadership Institute does and I am super glad to be part of the team. It aligns so well with my interests and drive as a person. Nice meeting You.



Hi! My Name is **Naysa M.** and I am a freshman in high school, and I am volunteer at DreamRoot Leadership Institute. I want to pursue a career in political science, but I do also want to keep multiple doors open for what I want to do in my future career wise. I am excited to work with DreamRoot so I can grow to learn more so I can learn more about what I want to do in the future. I look forward to learning more from others I work with, and show my skills, too. I also look forward to working more with teams and projects where I can collaborate with others.



**Winter Dube:** Exposure to new things has been happening more frequently than ever in my life this past summer. Through DreamRoots, I hope to obtain knowledge about my future aspirations and to become familiar with the best practices/methods in my major. I'd like to also explore outside of my comfort zone to create a better understanding of my passions.



Hi! I'm **Chloe Roofeh**, and I study at the University of Michigan. I am a Content Strategy Intern with DreamRoot for the summer! I look forward to working alongside a team of individuals who all want to help underserved communities achieve their true potential

# UPCOMING EVENTS

JUL  
**15**

## Armezzani Jiu Jitsu DreamRoot Fundraiser Workshop

- 7/15 at 12:00 pm
- John Antoline  
Memorial Park, 1098  
Jackson Ave,  
Monaca, PA



JUL  
**28**

## Exploring Education in Haiti: Fireside chat with local DreamRoot leaders Rose and David

- 7/28 at 12:00 pm
- You are invited to a conversation and Q&A. You are welcome to send us any questions you'd love for Rose and David to answer.
- Email questions to [hello@dreamrootinstitute.org](mailto:hello@dreamrootinstitute.org)

Register for the fireside chat [HERE](#).



OCT  
**27**

to

OCT  
**29**

## Brazil local leader training workshop + networking event

- 10/27-29 in Recife, Brazil

OCT  
**12**

to

OCT  
**19**

## Brazil-U.S. Exchange Trip

- Train jiu jitsu at DreamRoot leader programs, connect with community members
- Children's Day community block party celebration.







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