



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



DREAMROOT
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



Permission to dream

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Letter from the Executive Director

As a young organization, these first 2.5 years have been a season of clearing a path, breaking new ground, and laying the foundation to collectively build upon.

We started with a vision of unlocking the potential in people and embolden effective leadership at the grassroots level - partnering with those who are standing in the gap for the vulnerable who are falling through the cracks in society. These unsung heroes are local leaders running humble social initiatives in underserved communities that are overrun by poverty, violence, and economic instability.

A pillar of our guiding philosophy is a belief that people are transformed through relationships. By consistently showing up for others week after week, DreamRoot local leaders are bringing hope, setting people on a path toward success, and raising up new leaders who are transforming their own families and communities.

A snapshot of accomplishments from the year include:

- Provided 200 hours of leadership coaching and training to 12 established leaders of social initiatives and 35 emerging leaders who are working in 12 communities and impacting over 800 students collectively.
- Completed the construction of two community-based training centers in Brazil and one Resource Center in Haiti.
- Distributed 200 COVID-19 relief care packages to community members in need.
- Donated 150 jiu jitsu uniforms and 50 belts.
- Facilitated a Brazil-U.S. cultural exchange and networking by hosting a jiu jitsu camp for 12 U.S. students in Brazil.
- Local leaders provided 3,500 hours of training to students.

If a theme of 2021 was training centers, then the theme of 2022 is poised to be leader training and development; our core offering.

We have concentrated on laying our foundation. There is more work to be done and we are just getting started. As DreamRoot soon enters year three in existence, we will continue strengthening and further developing our community-based programs and leadership training programs informed by local needs and capabilities.

Amy Passos

Executive Director and Board President





WHO WE ARE

DreamRoot Leadership Institute (DreamRoot) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit focused on people who are committed to reversing cycles of poverty in underserved communities where individuals dream of a life that is free of hunger, despair and suffering.

As an international training and development organization, DreamRoot provides a combination of training, resources and networking to local community leaders. We also collaborate with them to launch local initiatives that transform their communities in ways that lead to sustainable social and economic growth.

Our Vision

To see every person, regardless of their life's circumstances, be given the opportunity to realize and achieve their dreams; where they are living out their fullest potential and all of society advances as a result.

Our Mission

To release the potential of leaders in underserved communities to reverse the cycles of poverty and promote the well-being of every member of society.

Core Values

1. We value each and every person. By design, everything we do is human-centered.
2. We hold ourselves, partners and beneficiaries to high standards of excellence, transparency, and accountability. Our time, talents, resources, and influence is a trust given to us to be cared for in a manner that brings maximum impact for those we serve.
3. We are united by a passion to continually learn for the purpose of maximizing and fulfilling potential. We are curious about possibilities and enjoy exploring them
4. We are committed to embodying servant leadership. We aim to partner with and develop leaders who demonstrate character and who are working toward the well-being of others and creating a society free of injustice.

Communities We Serve

Brazil

PERNAMBUCO

- Pau Amarelo, Arte Suave DreamRoot Training Center | Programs: micro-entrepreneurship incubator, psychiatry, jiu jitsu, and community outreach
- Arthur Lundgen | Program: jiu jitsu
- Beberibe | Program: jiu jitsu
- Bairro de Dois Unidos | Program: women's jiu jitsu
- Camaragibe | Program: jiu jitsu

ALAGOAS

- Sitio Cacimba do Barro, Sertão DreamRoot Training Center | Program: jiu jitsu, educational activities, and community outreach
- São José da Tapera | Program: jiu jitsu

RIO GRADE DO SUL

- Porto Alegre, Gaditas Training Center | Program: jiu jitsu

SAO PAULO

- São José dos Campos | Program: English as Second Language (ESL) program

Minas Gerais

- Mato Verde | Program: English as Second Language (ESL) program

Haiti

LES CAYES

- Fonfrede - DreamRoot Resource Center | Program: primary education

United States

VIRGINIA

- Sterling | Program: jiu jitsu



Before DreamRoot Support

THEN

Negative role models leading to gang violence, domestic abuse and addictions.

THEN

On-going cycles of poverty with few opportunities to break it or hope for the future.

THEN

Limited job opportunities and work experience due to weak economy and prohibitive cost of schooling and training.

THEN

Communities live with uncertainty and fear.

After DreamRoot Support

NOW

Platform for positive role models in the community. Students are choosing DreamRoot programs instead of gangs, contributing to a reduction in drug trafficking, gang participation and violence.

NOW

Students find meaning in their lives and develop the confidence to set and achieve goals. Academic and vocational achievements like graduating from college and starting businesses are rising among students.

NOW

Students gain experience and advance to leadership roles within DreamRoot programs as well as volunteer for community service projects. DreamRoot Training Centers are incubators for micro-entrepreneurship.

NOW

Training centers provide a safe haven for the community to gather, engage and learn from each other and enjoy positive activities.

DREAMROOT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MODEL & SERVICES

DreamRoot's leadership development model involves **identifying** proven leaders and high-potential change makers within underserved communities, **equipping** them with the training, coaching, resources and networks they need to **launch** local initiatives that have a transformative social and economic impact and **multiply** leaders for expanded and sustainable operations.



DreamRoot comes alongside established and emerging leaders to launch, operate, and multiply meaningful community-based social initiatives to reverse the cycles of poverty and promote the well-being of every member of society.



IDENTIFY

DreamRoot identifies local leaders who are actively involved in their community with a vision that sees beyond the current limitations to the greatness that their community can become. In 2021, we partnered with 12 leaders working in 12 communities to serve over 800 men, women and children with community enrichment programming to transform their lives.

Navigating locations that are often overrun by violence and poverty is challenging. Many local community members have the insight to find solutions and are capable of responding to the challenges their community faces. Too often, a relatively small percentage of community members are working to effect change and are without a strong support network or the necessary skills and resources. This leaves them vulnerable, stretched thin, and leads to burnout, where, in many cases, their efforts are ineffective and discontinued. Without the presence of active leadership and meaningful initiatives, poverty and violence perpetuates. We as a society need these local leaders to remain present, actively working toward change while being the light in these tough locations.

DreamRoot supports community members to rise to greater heights as they build a thriving future for themselves, their communities, the nations, and the next generation. We do this by strengthening local leaders who are on the front lines in these tough locations around the world.

We provide a variety of services to equip local leaders with leadership training and networking opportunities, to launch new and expanded programs with seed investments and advisory services, and to multiply their reach in terms of training centers and additional leaders for their communities.



EQUIP

We equip local leaders with training, coaching and networking opportunities to accelerate the impact of their social initiatives.

Training

We provided 12 local leaders of community-based social initiatives with 200 hours of leadership development through instruction, as well as coaching and advising. In addition, we completed a jiu jitsu leadership cohort for lead instructors. We will host our first cohort for assistant jiu jitsu coaches in early 2022.

Coaching

A great tool we used for developing the local leaders is one-on-one coaching.

We partner with dedicated leaders to improve the lives of people living in poverty, pain and despair. Often working along, with limited resources, training and encouragement, they muscle through to make a difference. Many local leaders we meet in these circumstances are fighting discouragement and waning motivation.

Through coaching, we've seen local leaders gain clarity of vision and guidance that creates a path to achieve their hopes and goals for their own lives and communities.

Oftentimes, a simple perspective shift through coaching allows the leader to see themselves, their challenges and community from a different angle. They discover how to better leverage their talents and giftings while engaging those around them.

Networking

A strong network is critical for local leaders working in desperate circumstances. Social support networks provide encouragement, learning and resource opportunities.

In 2021, DreamRoot facilitated leaders coming together throughout the year to share their challenges and lessons learned with each other. Networking included:

- Jiu Jitsu Leadership Cohort participants meet regularly throughout the year
- A training and networking workshop bringing together 40 established and emerging leaders from across 6 communities
- U.S.-Brazil cross-cultural exchange during the Team Passos Jiu Jitsu Training Camp
- Brazil community members were able to meet and connect with US students, who they remain in contact with still today
- Local leaders visits to one another's social initiatives to connect and facilitate workshops



These networking opportunities have served to build relationships, embolden one another, share best practices and strengthen their initiatives. By connecting with other social initiative leaders with similar experiences, they gain a heightened sense of hope and motivation, knowing they are not alone.

Fortified with skills from training, vision and confidence from coaching, and encouragement from networks, leaders are positioned to continue with endurance, resilience, passion, and love for others, even when challenges arise. The transformation in the leaders we work with is inspiring and motivates us to continue DreamRoot's work to unleash potential.

“Going to Brazil was a truly life changing experience. I learned so much about the other culture. I met so many amazing people that I still keep in touch with. I was able to connect with and get to know everyone on a deeper level than I ever expected.”

- Dylan
U.S. student who attended camp



Jiu Jitsu leader Workshops

DreamRoot hosted two workshops in Brazil for over 35 jiu jitsu social initiative leaders. When they returned to their communities, they were able to share valuable lessons with more than 400 students. Leading on the jiu jitsu mats is no different than leading anywhere else in life. The role of a leader is to create an environment that facilitates team growth and provides a platform for others to contribute their own talents.

Jiu jitsu is a sport that is great for fitness and self-defense. But jiu jitsu's greatest benefit is the ability to build community and facilitate healthy relationships.

LAUNCH

Seed Investments

DreamRoot also provides seed investments to trained and vetted local leaders to help launch social initiatives or expand established programs so they can serve more beneficiaries. In 2021, we provided funding for:



Haiti Resource Center construction



Sertão Training Center construction



Gaditas Training Center construction



Arte Suave incubator office build out

Advising

We offer on-going advising for local leaders of social initiatives at different phases of their operations. As an initiative progresses, situations inevitably come up. DreamRoot helps the leaders to navigate through by responding to needs and challenges, building off their success, enhancing their programming and expanding their reach.

In 2021, we advised local leaders on the development and expansion of their programs through topics like curriculum systemization, student relations and retention, and identifying and engaging emerging leaders.



A beautiful aspect of DreamRoot's work is that we collaborate with each local leader to tailor programs to community needs while designing operations to be self-sustaining, wherever possible. This helps ensure longevity and expansion of operations and impact while allowing DreamRoot to reallocate resources to launch and fortify other local leaders and social initiatives. Together, we multiply transformation in lives and communities today and for future generations.

Amy Passos

Executive Director and Board President

MULTIPLY

Sustainable social and economic change requires leaders who are active in both carrying out the vision and raising up others who are equipped to do the same. The multiplication of leaders is essential.

We embrace a strategy of multiplication by preparing leaders to mentor and develop additional leaders, and provide the resources, including training centers, to effect change at an increasingly greater scale. DreamRoot's leadership development model empowers and equips leaders and beneficiaries of social, educational and extracurricular programs to transform their own lives and the lives of those around them.

DreamRoot Training Centers and social initiatives are key components for creating a space and offering the tools to develop and multiply leaders.

We are delighted to share that in 2021, thanks to the dedication of DreamRoot local leaders, the locations they served experienced an increase in community member involvement and emerging leaders prepared to assist in and lead programming.



Above: Assistant coaches and emerging leaders at the Arte Suave social initiative

Meet the DreamRoot Local Leaders

DreamRoot leaders stand in the gap for the vulnerable who are falling through the cracks in society. These unsung heroes lead humble social initiatives in underserved communities that are overrun by poverty, violence and oppression.

Through the social initiatives, they create safe and supportive spaces for community members to experience:



Healthy connections



Predictable routines



Activities and relationships that build self-esteem



An alternative to going to the streets or isolating in an empty house

We are grateful to these DreamRoot leaders who solve local challenges and raise up others to do the same.



Being relationship-centered, these leaders know there's a light that turns on inside of someone when they know that you genuinely care for them. When that light ignites a connection that evolves into a healthy and trusting relationship, healing and growth begins.

Tony Passos

Global Programs Director



Jhon and Eneide
PERNAMBUCO, BRAZIL
Arte Suave / DreamRoot
Training Center



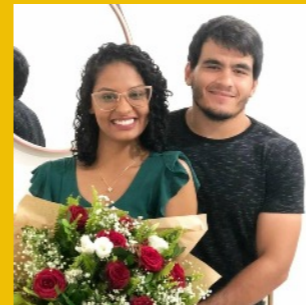
Rose and David
LES CAYES, HAITI
DreamRoot
Resource Center



Jesse
PERNAMBUCO, BRAZIL
Director
Jiu jitsu program



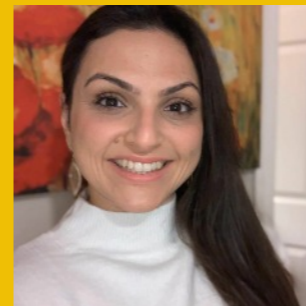
Eduardo
RIO GRANDE DO SUL,
BRAZIL
Gaditas Training
Center



Davi and Ingrid
ALAGOAS, BRAZIL
Sertao DreamRoot
Training Center



Julio and Alejandra
ALAGOAS, BRAZIL
Community education
outreach



Rafaela
USA AND BRAZIL
ESL Program



Josiany
USA AND BRAZIL
ESL Program

2021 IMPACT

A snapshot of the numbers in 2021 include:

Provided 200 hours of leadership coaching and training to 12 established leaders of social initiatives and 35 emerging leaders who are working in 12 communities and Impacting over 800 students collectively.

3 COMMUNITY BASED CENTERS
CONSTRUCTED

200 HOURS OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING
PROVIDED TO LOCAL LEADERS

800 STUDENTS COLLECTIVELY
IMPACTED BY LEADER INITIATIVES

3,500 TRAINING HOURS PROVIDED TO
STUDENTS BY LOCAL LEADERS

12 COMMUNITIES
IMPACTED

1 U.S. - BRAZIL CULTURAL
EXCHANGE TRIP

150 JIU JITSU UNIFORMS
DONATED

200 COVID-19 CARE PACKAGES
DELIVERED

Through your support, DreamRoot is partnering with local leaders in 12 communities whose social initiatives include:

- Jiu jitsu programs for children and adults
- Specialized jiu jitsu and self-defense programs for women
- Licensed psychiatry sessions
- Nutrition and physical therapy programs
- English as a Second Language (ESL) courses
- Running a primary school
- Children's arts and crafts sessions
- Women's health initiatives
- Student-led distribution of care packages to households negatively affected by COVID.
- Leaders invested 3,500 hours to train students in 2021.



Training Centers

Training centers are a key focus. After all, training centers are, essentially, DreamRoot incubators, accelerators and launch pads. They are where we identify, train and equip emerging leaders so they can engage in community social initiatives and launch additional enrichment programs.

Our focus is not simply on the construction of a building. It's the establishment of safe and accessible spaces for vulnerable individuals in communities to heal, grow, and thrive into their own leadership calling.

DreamRoot Training Centers host local leader social initiatives which help community members fulfill their personal leadership calling. Students experience a rise in confidence, gain a higher vision for their lives, and learn life skills needed to achieve their dreams and contribute their fullest potential to society, resulting in healthier and thriving communities.

Communities where DreamRoot Training Centers are located experience a reduction in crime and a rise in hope that increases community connection and development.

In addition to completing the construction of two community-based training centers in Brazil in 2021, we also completed the Resource Center in Haiti.



It is really important that these programs bring a different mindset. Today at the training center we have educational activities. We see the kids who participate in the program observing the lessons and helping other students to learn and understand. These programs are forming other leaders. We work intentionally every week to strengthen the youth in our community to have a higher vision for their lives.

- Ingrid

Local leader at the Sertão DreamRoot Training Center

Sertão DreamRoot Training Center

Location: Sitio Cacimba do Barro, Alagoas, Brazil

Overseen by: Davi and Ingrid



In October 2021, the Sertão DreamRoot Training Center construction was completed and commemorated with a grand opening celebration filled with games and treats. The center is located in the Sertão region of Brazil and among the most impoverished districts of the country.

During the construction, 11 locals were employed, and 20 volunteers helped to complete the building. During different phases of the project, vocational training was offered to community members to learn skills like masonry.

The center's offerings include jiu jitsu led by instructor Davi and assistant coach Erick, Saturday literacy classes and educational games for the children in the town led by Ingrid, and educational events and gatherings for community members.

The new Training Center has quickly become a center of activity since its inauguration, hosting events such as:

- A breast cancer awareness and prevention workshop attended by 17
- Weekly jiu jitsu classes
- Children's literacy classes and educational games attended by 18 - 30 children every Saturday
- Christmas and Dia Das Crianças (Children's Day) holiday festivities enjoyed by the children and families in the community.

Thanks to the support of our donors, we have been able to supply the center with Skoolzy educational toys that teach fine motor skills, math, visual perception, matching, imagination and creativity, and more!

Haiti DreamRoot Resource Center

Location: Les Cayes, Haiti

Overseen by: David and Rose



In six months, six local community members from Les Cayes completed the Resource Center construction in July 2021. The resource center is situated on a 4.5 acre primary school campus that serves 200 students.

Local leaders Rose and David oversee the resource center where, in conjunction with the school they run, they educate more than 200 primary education students.

The resource center offers the students a space outside of their normal class space where this change in ambiance helps to keep the students engaged and facilitates learning. The subjects they learn at the Center include English classes, expressive reading, and learning about their rights as children.

The Center also hosts workshops and conferences here throughout the year. Soon they plan to add additional subjects such as music and choir.

School is one of the few, if not only outlets many children in Haiti have that is safe, supportive, and enriching. The sacrifice and dedication local leaders like David and Rose consistently demonstrate toward the children and families in their community is astonishing. They have remained firm on mission in the midst of many challenges and continue to model for all of us what servant leadership looks like.

We're excited to see how this DreamRoot Resource Center is impacting lives already and can't wait to see where it goes and what they will offer for their community!

The DreamRoot Resource Center is one of my favorite places. Rose and I and our students are really grateful for this center.

- DAVID

Local Leader in Les Cayes, Haiti

Gaditas Training Center

Location: Porto Alegre, Brazil

Overseen by: Eduardo



The Gaditas Training Center is run by local leader, Eduardo. He and his wife have two biological children and, because of their heart for children in their community, adopted 18 kids. Eduardo leads a social initiative called Projeto Gaditas Jiu Jitsu where he and his team of coaches work with at-risk children and youth through jiu jitsu and mentorship.

For 11 years, the initiative was located on the outskirts of an under-served community. In 2020, the lease on Eduardo's mat area

where he ran jiu jitsu class ended. This opened the opportunity for him to move his jiu jitsu social project to a building within the community of most of his students. This move means that his social initiative and mentorship is now more accessible to those he serves.

In February 2021 the construction project was completed. Jiu jitsu classes are now held multiple times per week where Eduardo also regularly spends time with his students, speaking about hope and their future.

Arte Suave DreamRoot Training Center

Location: Pernambuco, Brazil + three satellite locations

- Paulista, Pernambuco, Arthur Lundgen
- Beberibe, Recife, Pernambuco
- Bairro de Dois Unidos, Recife, Pernambuco

Overseen by: Jhon and Eneide



DreamRoot renovated the Arte Suave DreamRoot Training Center in 2020. What was once a dilapidated warehouse is now a dynamic center where participants have access to a jiu jitsu mat area, a fully operational kitchen, a classroom, student lounge and an office rented to local entrepreneurs.

In 2021, the center became a small business incubator. Through DreamRoot seed investment, the office space is now fully equipped. The office is rented at subsidized rates to budding local entrepreneurs.

Two students from the center, Regina and Jhessika recently graduated, one in nutrition and the other in physical therapy. They have now launched their businesses through the incubator and help students and other community members live healthier lives.

A licensed psychiatrist also offers counseling sessions to students and community members recovering from domestic abuse through the newly renovated office space.

During 2021, the Arte Suave / DreamRoot Training Center experienced:

- An increase in the number of emerging leaders taking coaching and volunteer roles
- Distribution of 200 COVID care packages to community members in needs
- Quarterly food preparation and distribution by students to their local community
- Incubator services with a fully equipped office space offered to budding entrepreneurs at a subsidized rate to offer enrichment services to students and community members.

Highlights



YEAR-ROUND DREAMROOT GI DRIVE

Most children in the DreamRoot jiu jitsu program cannot afford the standard uniform that consists of a gi and belt. The annual DreamRoot Gi Drive, which takes place throughout the year, provides many of our jiu jitsu students with their first uniform so they participate with focus and confidence. To have their own uniform instills a sense of dignity and pride that enhances learning and growth both on and off the mat. In 2021, 150 gis and 50 belts valued at \$10,700 were donated.

Fun fact: When unrolled and lined up one after another, those belts measure 375 feet – that’s 125 yards, longer than a 100 yard American football field.

Children from the Open Arms Orphanage in Pernambuco, Brazil which was co-founded by DreamRoot leader Jesse, were among the jiu jitsu students to receive gis. When we delivered their gis, the children couldn’t stop smiling.

When the gis were delivered to the children of the Sertão DreamRoot Training Center jiu jitsu program, an eight year old boy shared happily that the donated gi was the very first piece of new clothing he ever received.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Gi Drive. We accept gi and belt donations throughout the year. If you would like to donate one, please contact us at hello@dreamrootinstitute.org.

BRAZIL WELCOMES U.S. JIU JITSU STUDENTS

In partnership with Team Passos Jiu Jitsu, 12 jiu jitsu students from the United States arrived in Brazil for a jiu jitsu camp and cultural exchange with their Brazilian peers in Recife. It was the week of a lifetime full of cross-cultural connections, joint training sessions, making new friends and enjoying meals together.

Highlights included:

- Touring the city of Recife, also known as the Venice of Brazil, and the capital of the northeastern state Pernambuco.
- Visiting jiu jitsu academies and social initiatives including the Arte Suave DreamRoot Training Center. Local leaders Jhon and Eneide Alves completed the training center’s renovations last year.
- Facilitating a jiu jitsu leadership workshop for emerging leaders and Assistant Coaches.

It was powerful to witness true bonds of friendship, respect and encouragement formed among students and leaders from the U.S. and Brazil. One young man from Brazil explained that our presence gives them hope and energy to keep going.

A sentiment shared by the U.S. students was how much they enjoyed training at the Arte Suave DreamRoot Training Center and connecting with the students there. One camp attendee shared: “A highlight of the trip for me was training at the Arte Suave DreamRoot Training Center and seeing the impact that jiu jitsu social initiative and community is having on so many lives. I had a wonderful time and was glad I could share the moments alongside teammates and friends.”



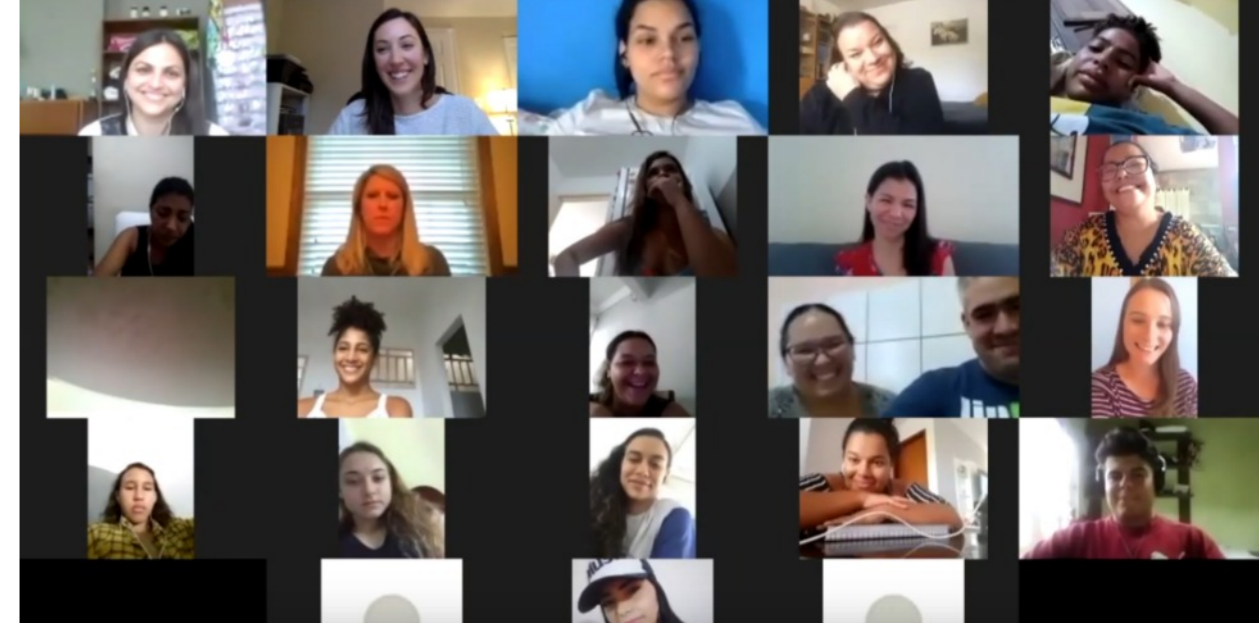
CURATING & DELIVERING COVID CARE PACKAGES

Brazil began 2021 with 7.7 million COVID cases and ended the year with 22 million cases. Many communities have limited social programs and government help so they rely on their neighbors and non-profits for help.

At the Arte Suave DreamRoot training center in Paulista, Pernambuco, local leaders Jhon, his wife Eneide, and their students put together amazing care packages to help people who have lost their jobs during COVID. They delivered 200 food and hygiene packages to feed and care for a family of four for a month.

This initiative is in addition to their quarterly gathering to share soup and sandwiches with 30 neighbors.

It's great seeing local leaders and students shine in these moments and help so many people!



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Virtual English as a Second Language (ESL) classes were offered to 12 students located in the Brazil states of São Paulo and Minas Gerais. A beginners program for new students and an intermediate program for returning students was facilitated throughout the year by three instructors clocking in over 100 training hours.

The programs are designed to teach more than just the English language. The students were challenged to extend themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of. And we are proud to say they excelled!

The students were encouraged to develop daily study routines and meet assignment deadlines. A fun exercise practiced regularly was students would submit their homework to one another to correct. This engaged the students further where we noticed they would study more during those weeks. It also developed collaboration skills. The students met the challenges of the program with determination, developed new life skills, and grew in confidence and motivation at each milestone they accomplished. We celebrate these accomplishments with them!

“One of the many highlights of this program for me was seeing the instructors realize their own potential as leaders and teachers. One of the instructors has been a stay at home mom for years. She completed a degree in teaching in Brazil and began working only a few years before starting her family. Teaching in this ESL program has helped her realize the immense talent and passion she has to teach. With this new-found confidence, the program has sparked her dream to return to work and grow professionally.

- Rafaela
ESL Program Director

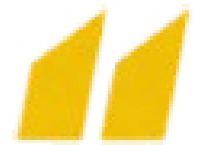


MULTIPLICATION IN ACTION

Regina has trained jiu jitsu at the Art Suave DreamRoot Training Center for many years. We were delighted when she went on to university and earned her degree in nutrition in 2021.

Today, she provides individual and group consultations and education in the incubator office at the Arte Suave DreamRoot Training Center where she is helping other students and community members adopt healthier lifestyles. We are thrilled to watch Regina share her passion for nutrition with the community and how her clients are embracing new habits that transform their lives.

Regina's hard work provides a shining example of emerging leaders rising up to serve their communities in meaningful ways.



FORMING FRIENDSHIPS ACROSS CULTURES

"In October 2021, I had the opportunity to visit the Arte Suave DreamRoot Training Center during a weeklong trip to Recife, Brazil. The experience was nothing short of inspiring and transformational. During our short time at the training center, we quickly built relationships with the local leaders and the students at the center. Everyone was extremely welcoming and excited to meet us. The warm hospitality was a clear representation of a culture formed through relationship building. Everyone we met shared tremendous amounts of gratitude for our visit and for the DreamRoot supporters that are providing opportunities for them to excel under challenging circumstances.

One of my favorite experiences was training jiu jitsu with the kids and seeing their giant smiles. Some of the young students were timid to meet us at first, but as soon as the training started, they quickly opened up as cultural and language barriers collapsed. It was awesome to see how simply showing up and meeting people where they are can have such an impact on so many people. I was also able to form a strong friendship with one of the local leaders, Jhon. We shared stories, meals, and laughter, as we learned from one another how we are more similar than we are different.

The influence DreamRoot is having on this local community is clearly changing lives and renewing spirits. Even more so, the Training Center is bringing cultures together and forming lasting bonds. I'm grateful to have made this trip and I know the relationships I formed while visiting equally impacted my life as they have the lives of my new friends."

- Andrew
Brazil Training Camp attendee





PASSING THE BATON

“We have always had the dream of creating an educational and extracurricular center in our community. Thanks to DreamRoot this dream is a reality.

We have been able to hold jiu jitsu classes and extracurricular programs for the kids of the community. More importantly, the kids’ perspectives are changing through spending time with the kids and playing educational games and showing them new things.

Just like DreamRoot, we understand we need to form new leaders. A child who attends these programs can become a leader in the community where they will pass on what they are learning to others in their community and then develop other leaders in their community.”

- Davi

Local leader of the Sertao DreamRoot Training Center



LEADER PUTS HIS PEDAL TO THE MEDAL

Haiti suffered extensive challenges in 2021. Besides political unrest and a devastating earthquake in Les Cayes, there was a crippling fuel shortage. As if this wasn’t enough, prices for gas and food skyrocketed, leaving many parents unable to send their children to school.

That’s when David, a DreamRoot local leader in Haiti, put his pedal to the medal, so to speak. David generously used his own vehicle and gas to drive his students to and from school each day. When his gas ran out, he biked students to class for a week - peddling in the heat on unpaved roads.

We are grateful for David’s consistent presence in the lives of his students and community where he serves as a role model and example of healthy leadership.



CELEBRATION

In the Fall of 2021, Arte Suave celebrated 11 years of serving their community. Back in 2011, local leader Jhon held jiu jitsu classes in a parking lot, on broken down cardboard boxes with only a handful of students.

In 2020, through DreamRoot seed investment, Jhon organized 29 community members to renovate the Art Suave DreamRoot Training Center. Today, thanks to Jhon's leadership and the completion of the center, Jhon, his team, and their program of participants have a full academy, safe haven and beacon of hope.

Jhon has multiplied the social initiative's impact by training over 20 emerging leaders to help run the operations of the center, expand program offerings, and launch jiu jitsu social initiatives in three additional communities. Their work now spans four communities and collectively serves over 200 students and the wider community.

We celebrate Jhon's leadership. In our book, that's proof that a powerful dream, fortified with resilience, dedication, and community support can yield incredible achievements.

What's to Come



Jiu Jitsu Leadership Cohort



Local leader partnership expansion



Expansion of program offerings at community-based training centers

Check Out Our Financials

DreamRoot was funded entirely by generous individual and corporate donors. A total of \$121,288.78 was raised, positioning us to expand programming to those in need.

\$121,288.78 = 26% Corporations 74% Individuals
 2021 Operating Revenues

\$55,963.39 = 75% Programs 25% Administration 0% Fundraising
 2021 Expenses

OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the organizations and individuals that joined our mission to reverse cycles of poverty in underserved communities through financial support!

Corporate Sponsors

- Data Machines Corp.
- Team Passos Jiu Jitsu
- Armezzani Jiu Jitsu
- Arjake Japanese Restaurant
- Onda Brazilian Jiu Jitsu

We are so grateful for all those who donated time, money, and resources to DreamRoot in 2021. Thank you for your commitment to walk this journey with us. And so are the people and communities who benefit from your generosity.



MEET OUR TEAM

DreamRoot Leadership Institute

Leadership



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Executive Director,
Chairperson, Board of
Directors



Antonio Passos

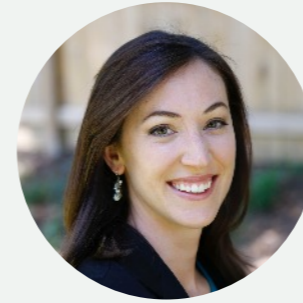
Global Programs
Director



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David Marroquin
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Homespire Mortgage
ROCKVILLE, MD



DREAMROOT

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

22445 Davis Drive, STE 153
Sterling, VA 20164

202-670-2408

hello@dreamrootinstitute.org

EIN: 84-2542844

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