



TMA supporters at our recent AGM

WINTER 2023



President's Message

Two TMA representatives just returned from attending the largest annual education conference in the Dominican Republic (DR), at the invitation of Acción Empresarial por la Educación (Business Action for Education) EDUCA, the sponsoring organization. They shared the story and work of TMA in the DR over the past 18 years. More importantly, they and DR mentors provided an orientation to TMA's mentoring model and evidence of its results to Directors of Education from across the country.

The invitation was prompted thanks to Mr. Aslini Brito, our recent AGM guest speaker, sharing with EDUCA his experiences and observations of Ontario's quality education system during his pedagogical visit.



It is a significant development and as we approach 2024 new and exciting opportunities await us as described in this newsletter.

~ Nancy Threan Loraine

Summer 2024 Recruitment

As TMA's outreach and impact continues to grow, we are welcoming new educators to join us for our summer 2024 teams. If you are interested, or know of an educator who may be interested in learning more our work, visit our website at teachermentors.ca/or contact teachermentors.prog1@gmail.com for application information.

 facebook.com/TMA-Teacher-Mentors-Abroad

 twitter.com/TMentorsAbroad

 instagram.com/tmentorsabroad

Program Committee Update

TMA's Program Committee provided attendees at this year's AGM with a glimpse of their upcoming plans as they continue to make a significant impact by strengthening both the depth and the number of partnerships with educators in the Dominican Republic. Last summer's workshops which focused on student centered learning with an intentional inclusion of literacy strategies as well as distributing copies of the Un Sancocho de Piedra picture book were very well received by the participants. One of our Dominican mentors, Dominga, shared a recent video of her students reading the book, dramatizing parts of the book and completing writing activities based on the book. Understanding the continued need to address the gap in literacy achievement, the Program Committee is exploring more picture books and literacy resources to include in upcoming workshops.

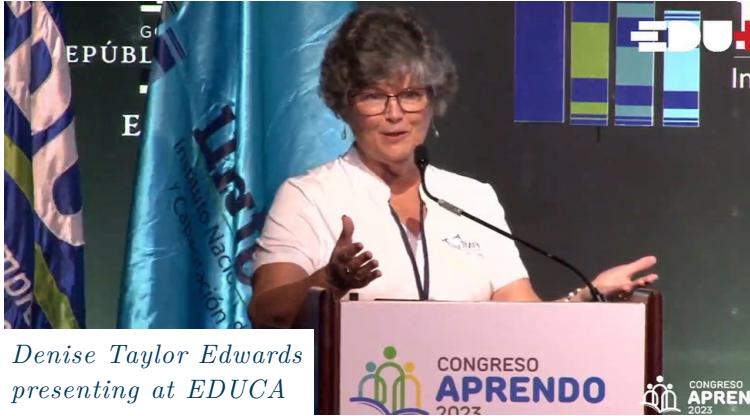
The Program Committee is continuing their commitment to work with the Dominican mentors throughout the year as they focus on mentorship skills, facilitation skills and professional learning development and delivery.

Following the AGM, in collaboration with Aslini Brito, former Regional Director for La Vega, members of TMA's Board of Directors and Program Committee, met to examine and revise TMA's Strategic Plan. The goals of the Strategic Plan continue to focus on increasing the professional capacity of Dominican educators, strengthening relationships and collaboration between the Dominican Republic and Canada, and expanding TMA's organizational capacity to deliver programs effectively. With Aslini's guidance and support of TMA's work, the Program Committee anticipates a growing partnership and collaboration with the Ministry of Education in the Dominican Republic, which, in turn, will help meet the goals of TMA's Strategic Plan.

TMA Attends EDUCA

TMA attends the Acción Empresarial por la Educación (EDUCA) Conference Dominican Republic November 2023

TMA was honored to be invited to the EDUCA Conference in Santo Domingo to present the work of TMA and conduct a workshop for approximately 50 teacher mentors. Other international presenters from Spain, Columbia, and other nations, together with Ministry staff representing K-12 and colleges/universities learned more about the work of TMA in the Dominican Republic. The topic of the EDUCA conference was parent involvement in the education of their children. Denise Taylor Edwards, board member and teacher mentor, delivered a charismatic presentation, in Spanish, about TMA at the conference.



Denise Taylor Edwards presenting at EDUCA

A video was shown to the audience about the long-standing work in Consuelo by several groups of



L-R Blas Moreno (DR Mentor/translator), Janet Giberson, (TMA), Ancell Scheker (Deputy Minister of Technical & Pedagogical Affairs of Ministry of Education of DR), Denise Taylor Edwards (TMA), Darwin Caraballo (Exec. Dir. EDUCA), and Aslini Brito

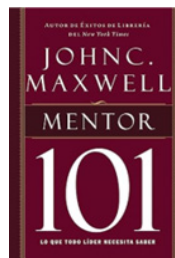
volunteers from Ontario, including TMA. The video was a narrative about how a group of Canadian nuns travelled to Consuelo in 1959 and their dedicated work in helping the development of this community including the construction of a school as a key project.

Representatives from EDUCA expressed a desire for TMA to consider working with them on future initiatives. Following the recent change of government in the Dominican Republic, all the Regional Directors were replaced. This is not uncommon with a change of government. It presented an opportunity for EDUCA and the Ministry of Education to utilize the talents of the former regional directors through the assignment as mentors to some of the lowest performing schools in the country. TMA supported these former directors through online workshops on concepts of mentoring, and may be in a position to continue this work in the future.

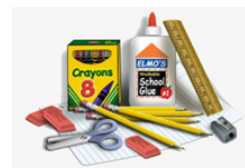
Consider a Donation to TMA

Consider a donation this holiday season to TMA to make a huge difference for teachers and students in the Dominican Republic!

\$200 provides a classroom teacher with a set of 30 books to use for reading, writing, speaking, listening and drama activities



\$100 supports the purchase of five Spanish versions of Mentoring 101 books for new DR Teacher Mentors



\$50 equips a teacher with chart paper, markers, post-it notes, lined paper, pencils, and notebooks



\$30 supplies a teacher with a set of five books for a reading group

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