The Mencia Foundation

Project ‘Juega Conmigo’ 2017-2018

Mission Statement: To maximize the learning process in underprivileged children in rural Dominican Republic by providing toys that will promote intellectual, emotional and/or physical development.

Description: This project will provide age-appropriate toys for school-aged children in the Dominican Republic who will otherwise not have a toy to play with this Christmas. With your help, we will put smiles in the faces of these children while enhancing creativity, imagination, speech, reading, and problem solving. Learning can be fun!

The Mencia Foundation will target children of low-resource families whose parents are unable to provide toys.

**Whom are we Helping?**

The Mencia Foundation is dedicated to helping children in very rural areas of Dominican Republic who live in very poor conditions and thus have a hard time focusing on education and personal development.

For this project, we will distribute toys to the students attending the following schools:

1. Escuela El Jobo – Salcedo, DR

2. Escuela Los Robles – Salcedo, DR

3. Escuela La Yuca – Ocoa, DR

4. Escuela La Colonia – Ocoa, DR

5. Escuela El Partido – Salcedo, DR

6. Escuela La Estrechura – Ocoa, DR

The total of kids reached will be 350. All of these public schools are located in very low-resource areas in Dominican Republic.

**How we do it**

The Mencia Foundation will use donations to purchase age-specific toys that will stimulate intellectual development and ship them from Lawrence, MA and Chicago, IL to Santo Domingo, DR. Our volunteers will go to the different locations and distribute the items directly to the children to make sure the toys go to those who we intend to help.

**Why are we doing this?**

Some children in poor countries, such as the Dominican Republic, will never get the chance to own a toy in their lifetime. Play is an important part of childhood development. It helps them learn new skills and concepts, such as reading, science, math, social skills, and problem solving, among other things. Toys stimulate imagination, creativity, arouse curiosity, and challenge kids to develop critical and strategic thinking. It is our hope that by providing toys for children this year, we will impact their personal development long-term.

For more information, please visit our website at

[www.menciafoundation.org](http://www.menciafoundation.org)

You can also reach us at angela.gutierrez@menciafoundation.org