

Who We Are

GO Ministries empowers passionate local leaders to redeem people, renew communities and restore creation through mutual transformation.



GO MINISTRIES

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Leadership Development Complex currently under construction.



GO MINISTRIES

Success in the Dominican Republic



“Go Baseball Academies enhance secondary education and may improve long term health outcomes among Dominican youth.”

The GO Ministries Difference

In the Dominican Republic, baseball is king. Seen by many as the best option to pull a child and family out of poverty, parents enroll their son in traditional baseball academies, forgoing formal education, with the hopes of signing a major league contract. Unfortunately, 97% of athletes never secure a contract, and leave the academy with little education, and few job skills or stable job prospects, ultimately returning to a life of poverty.

GO Ministries, a faith-based organization located in Santiago, DR, empowers local leaders assisting in church planting, education, medical clinics, small businesses, community development and youth sports academies.

Students enrolled in the GO Sports academies are required to demonstrate academic success, ensuring all athletes, regardless of a signed contract, leave the academy better prepared for a life outside the constraints of poverty.



Current Research Findings

According to a recent study, parents of children involved with GO Sports believed **educational and long-term success of their child was positively affected by the academies**, keeping children off the streets, offering a healthy lifestyle alternative and providing structure in the child's day, filling time previously spent on the street.

In addition, parents felt the GO academies **promoted self-discipline in school and church**, specifically citing **positive changes in children's attitudes and behaviors**. Parents also felt the GO Sports academies **enhanced potential for economic stability**.

Finally, **GO Sports included all children, regardless of athletic potential, gender, or race**. With a focus on developing the athlete holistically, **all kids were welcomed**.

Conclusions

Coaches, parents and community leaders cited GO Sports academies as a "refuge" for the athletes, a place where children were mentored athletically and spiritually, and given a positive option to the harsh realities and negative outcomes associated with life on the streets.

Participation in the GO Sports academies may lead to academic achievement, economic stability and improved health and well-being of Dominican youth athletes. GO Sports academies provide youth access to opportunities that may not otherwise exist.

Franz, C.E., Cook, K. (2019). Utilization of Social Determinants of Health to Improve Education Among Youth in Dominican Baseball Academies. Health & Social Care in the Community, 00, 1-8. DOI:10.1111/hsc.12874