

Crismary - Rockstar Leader



Throughout our recent travels in the Dominican Republic we made an intentional effort to meet with local leadership and partners as part of our Mission and Vision to focus on community driven projects and solutions. One such partner is [Puente](#), an organization in Constanza which shares many of our values. We are partnering with Puente in Barrio 41 and outlying bateys on community-led water, sanitation, and flooring projects. Today we would like to highlight one of

Puente's leaders, **Crismary Gutierrez**.

Crismary is a dynamic young woman with a passion for social justice and supporting those in need in her community. Crismary was born in Santiago into a large family. She was raised by her grandmother and studied business administration in post-secondary. She rose through the ranks in the business department of a Zona Franca (Free Trade Zone), then in the accounting department of a service business, until one day, as she sat in her cubicle, she realized that she could be putting her skills to use to support the people of the Dominican Republic, in a job setting that would bring her more joy.

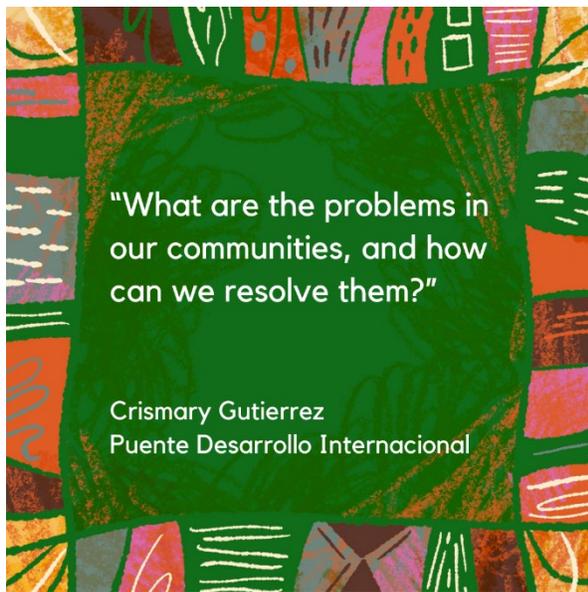
Along with her partner Scott, they co-founded [Puente](#), which means "bridge" in Spanish. Today Crismary is the country Director, wearing many hats for the organization. Her main role is to make sure that all of Puente's initiatives come to fruition and also to empower residents to continue with those initiatives. Cris is known for the energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge she shares through "charlas"—workshops or "chats" with community members providing knowledge and skills in leadership, data collection, preventative health care, community collaboration, and more.

Now a flourishing organization that focuses on community data collection to drive locally directed projects, Puente is proving to be an excellent partner for Rayjon. Young women like Crismary, with a personal history grounded in the Dominican Republic and

the drive to use their skills to lift others to better lives, are the future of sustainable development. We are honoured to partner with such a talented and inspiring Dominican woman.

Gracias, Crismary.

(In case you missed it—you can listen to Crismary’s voice in our recent podcast [“Tapestry 2030 Season 2: Dominican Driving the Vehicle of Change”](#)).



“What are the problems in our communities, and how can we resolve them?”—Crismary Gutierrez, Puente Desarrollo Internacional

To our many supporters, we must say again a tremendous thank you. Your talents, time and donations empower Haitian & Dominican leaders making lasting changes in their communities.

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