Community Empowerment
through Leadership Development

YSPANIOLA INCORPORATED

www.yspaniola.org

2010 Annual Report

Si ou vle lapè, batay pou lajistis

Si quieres la paz, lucha por la justicia

If you want peace, fight for justice

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MISSION

Yspaniola empowers marginalized batey communities of Dominicans and Haitians in the Dominican Republic. Through university scholarships, leadership training and community development, we provide resources for individuals and bateys to access local networks and rise out of poverty.

VISION

We envision a world where students from bateys in the Dominican Republic are expected to pursue higher education and to use their acquired knowledge and skills to bring their families and communities out of poverty. We envision a world where students across the United States take part in international service-learning as a way to better understand their place in this world and their responsibility to promote positive change.

VALUES

We value individual empowerment and believe that all people have strengths to contribute to making this world a better place. We value community empowerment and believe that well-trained, passionate local leaders are the key to promoting thoughtful sustainable development.

GOALS

We strive to achieve three goals: 1) empower youth in marginalized bateys to seek personal achievement through higher education and service to their communities, 2) promote sustainable development in bateys through the support of community-led programs, and 3) encourage active participation of students across the United States to contribute responsibly to sustainable international development.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters of Yspaniola:

We have come a long way since the first Yale trip to Batey Libertad, Dominican Republic, in March of 2005 (see photo above)!

What started as an undergraduate student organization by eleven students eager to partner with a community that inspired them, has now expanded as a non-profit organization with an alumni base of over 100 students from diverse fields and backgrounds. Yspaniola has supported over ten student-led service-learning trips to the Dominican Republic since 2005, with a strong emphasis on pre-trip planning and education to promote a safe and enriching experience that requires students to think critically about their place in this world and their role in supporting sustainable international development. As a testament to the value of the trips, numerous participants have returned to the Dominican Republic to lead trips, conduct independent research, work with NGOs, and spearhead community projects.

2010 marked a year of many new beginnings. We embarked on our first year as a 501(c)3 non-profit, with new benefits and new responsibilities. We conducted our first major capital campaign, raising over $10,000 to start a university scholarship program for deserving students from the bateys. In October, our selection committee directed a rigorous process to select the recipients of the first two scholarships, Fede and Mayra, who will be featured in this Annual Report. These scholars will begin their studies at the Technological University of Santiago (UTESA) in January of 2011.

We could not have accomplished this much without your tremendous support. Thank you for believing in our mission and giving us the encouragement we need to move forward. We hope you will consider yourself a partner in this exciting endeavor to empower students and communities in the Dominican Republic and in the United States.

With Gratitude,

Cynthia So

Cynthia So
Executive Director

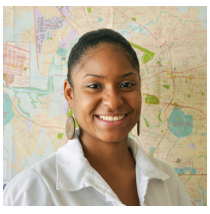
SPOTLIGHT ON OUR 2011 SCHOLARS

Yspaniola's first round of university scholarship applications took place in October of 2010 in the community of Batey Libertad, in the Valverde Province of the Dominican Republic. Ten high school graduates completed a rigorous written application and interview process. A selection committee of three students and professionals in Santiago, Dominican Republic, evaluated the applications and chose two scholarship recipients based on the following criteria: academic merit, financial need, leadership potential, and critical reflection on problems facing the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the bateys.

Congratulations to Fede and Mayra!

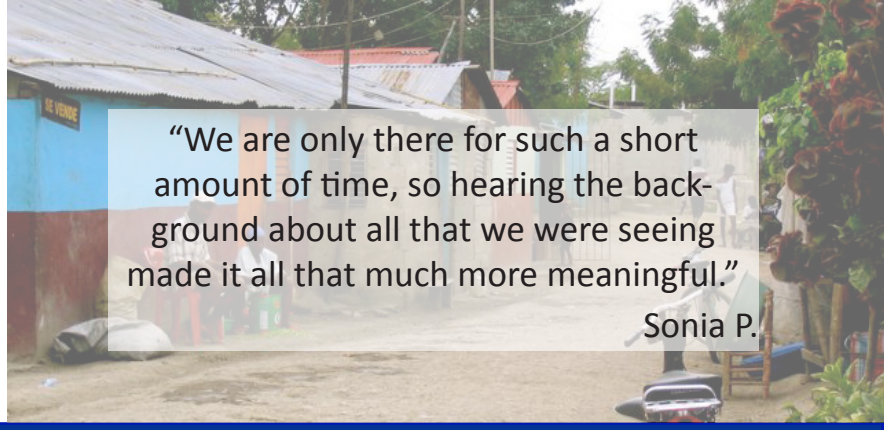
Federico Charle was born in Batey Libertad, where he grew up among five siblings. He graduated from Liceo Vespertino Maizal in the Spring of 2008. After graduating, Fede began working in the rice fields and in construction to help support his family, although the work did not pay well enough to save money for school. Now, with an Yspaniola scholarship, Fede will not return to the rice fields, but will study Modern Languages at the Technological University of Santiago (UTESA).

Mayra Altagracia Rodriguez Helena also grew up in Batey Libertad, alongside her brother and three sisters. She graduated from Liceo Vespertino Maizal in the Spring of 2010 near the top of her class. Nevertheless, her family's limited financial resources prevented her from enrolling at the university despite her desire to one day become a school teacher. Now, with an Yspaniola scholarship, Mayra will study Education at UTESA with a focus on the natural sciences.



2010

2 trips from Yale College
4 student leaders
17 participating students
$6,612 fundraised



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2010 YALE SERVICE-LEARNING TRIPS

The Rice Fields

"Really eye-opening. You learn about it in the abstract, and then realize that your friends in the batey have had to actually *do* that, that it's people's *lives*." Erica P.

The Market in Dajabón

"I've never seen anything of this intensity before." Jackie W.

"Seeing the contrast of the area before and during the day of the market was essential." Paul R.

Batey Libertad

"The most important part, to me, was bonding with the people. Otherwise all the other information just becomes academic, or abstraction. You need to be able to tie ideas with faces and people to genuinely want to help. At least I do." Erica P.

The Beach in Sosua

"Observing the stark contrast between the tourist areas and the bateys is a surreal experience." Stephen W.

2010 was the first year a group of Yale Public Health students traveled to Batey Libertad.

A group of four students spent several days in Batey Libertad conducting a preliminary health needs assessment of the community.

Participants: Susanna Damgaard, Keith Ellis, Lauren Quinn, Krysta Titel

A YALE PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERIENCE

REPORT FINDINGS

Major Health Needs/Burdens:

- Agricultural work hazards
- Chronic, often undiagnosed diseases: Diabetes, Hypertension, Arthritis
- Motor vehicle accidents/injuries
- Stigma around HIV/AIDS education
- Lack of adequate sewage disposal
- Poor sanitation: inadequate hand and food washing, lack of shoes for children
- Inadequate access to potable water
- Parasitic infections, urinary tract infections
- Insufficient access to fresh fruits and vegetables, leading to malnutrition
- Inability to afford the costs of health care, including transportation to health centers in the nearby town of Esperanza

Existing Community Capacities:

- Formal and informal health care personnel: 1 part-time volunteer nurse, 1 medical student, 2 community health workers, 1 informal community health worker
- Organizations involved in the community: Yspaniola, Institute for Latin American Concern, Fanm Vanyan, Centro de Madres, Vermont Housing Project, Pies Descalzos, Batey Libertad Coalition, Seeds of Self-Reliance, Grassroots Soccer
- Access to a medical reference manual
- Access to non-prescription drugs, vitamins, and limited medical supplies

Recommendations:

- Scholarship program to fund medical/nursing students from the batey, with student agreement to serve batey for 1-2 years post-graduation
- Visiting medical missions fundraise to support a year-round physician or nurse in the batey
- Monthly health talks about how residents can stay healthy
- Donations of appropriate medical reference manuals
- Creation of a Medical Coalition formed by residents of the bateys, local organizations, and outside consultants

Their full report is available upon request: info@yspaniola.org

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2010 SUPPORTERS!

Visionaries (≥$500)
Jonathan Bloch
Gabelli Funds
Gideon Mausner
Diego Robalino

Partners ($250-$499)
Daniel & Miriam DiMaio
Tony Ingram
John Lamb
Pat Tomasso & Joel Mausner
Tara & Jerry McElroy
Tess McNulty
Adwaita Nayar
Erica Pool
Susan & Yuen So
Samson So

Sponsors ($100-$249)
Lynn Bernstein
Ann Burford
Cecile Droz
Elisabeth Erekson
Vincent Granata
John Hertzer
Mary Janney
Eric Weidong Ma
Teresa Mbagaya
Carolyn & Joe Osborn
Sonia Parra
John Rogers
Andrew & Steph So
Jackie Wanjala
Jeffrey & Bridget Wirth

Supporters ($50-$99)
Julius Asubonteng
Guy Baehr
Dacia Beard
Etai Bruhis
Michael Cecil
Thomas Conboy
Benjamin Conniff
Diran Dermen
Stephen & Anna Ehrlich
Rosalinda Garcia
Timothy Herpin
Jeremy & Lisa Kass Hoffman
Burnes Hollyman
Courtney Kase
Ellen Lamb
Jay Levy
Helen Loeser
Sheila Breen Peters
Matthew Pohl
Robert Pool
Cindy & Steves Rodriguez
Clairelise Rodriguez
Pamela & Charles Swearingen
Tinbet Tecle
John Works
Dongliang Zhan

Friends (≤$49)
Brittany Adler
Richa Agarwal
Alpine Tilden Tenakill Lodge No. 77
Kaku Armah
Henry & Mary Arnold
Alejandro Baez
Ian Barr
Isaac Bloch
Mark Borinsky
Angelia Burford
Felipe Carvallo-Mendoza
Bei Bei Chen
Rochelle Coatney
Luciano Custo-Greig
Hajera Dehqanzada
Rachel Dickens
Yalina Disla
Idalia Earls
Gina Espinoza
Rebecca Falik
Felice Farber
Sasha Fernandez
Lauren Fine
Douglas Fleming
Emily Friedrichs
Joshua Garcia
Bill & Helen Gleason
Jennifer Goldman
Rock Grant
Heningham Kennedy
Michael Kornstein
Katie Kuhl
John Loge
Francisco & Brittney Maia
Alyson Miller
Sheri Miller
Katherine Murtaugh
Lorin & Christine Nathan
Joseph Nwadiuko
Cecilia Oyediran
Sean Rinella
Tobias Robison
Karen Russell
Jillian Sala
Amanda Sciacchitano
Junlong Shao
Sona Shilpakar
Shiyu Song
Judith Vasquez
Christine Wang
Jaine Weise
Moucun Yuan
Janice Zulkeski

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cynthia So
Executive Director
University of California
San Francisco

Jonathan DiMaio
Local Program Director
Parker Huang Fellowship
Dominican Republic

Gerald McElroy
University Program Director
Fulbright Fellowship
Dominican Republic

Catharine Axley
University Liaison
Yale College Class of 2010

left to right: Catharine, Luis, Cynthia, Gerald, Jonathan

We're excited to welcome the newest additions to our 2011 Board of Directors!

Luis Vasquez – Yale College Class of 2007
Stephen Wirth – Cornell Law School

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

2010 SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

Wesly J. Lisme
Anna Pancheshnikov
Sulenny Sanchez

2010 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Stephen Wirth

Stephen has worked countless hours in the Dominican Republic with our Local Program Director to establish the framework for Yspaniola's University Scholarship Program. Thank you!

left to right: Anna, Wesly and Sulenny

Stephen Wirth

Alyssa Orrantia

Please welcome the newest member of our team

LOCAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Alyssa Orrantia

Alyssa will live and work with our 2011 Scholars in Santiago, Dominican Republic - providing academic tutoring and support, assisting with leadership training and workshops, managing finances, coordinating logistics with visiting service-learning trips, and conducting ongoing research into the educational needs and capacities of youth in Dominican bateys.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2011

We are excited to launch our **Leadership Training Program** in 2011. This program is two-fold: 1) Our scholars will take part in cumulative journaling and discussion exercises surrounding topics of leadership, current events, critical analysis of local problems and solutions, and the development of community projects; 2) In collaboration with our Local Program Director and Coordinator, the scholars will also create several workshops to present to community members of bateys, including a workshop in financial management and HIV/AIDS education. As a culmination to the leadership training program, scholars are required in their final year of university study to design and implement a community project to address a local concern of their choosing. Grants will be awarded to scholars to carry out these projects.

In upcoming years, Yspaniola will expand its programs to a **greater number of bateys**, with support and coordination from our scholars, community members, and identified community leaders. We are evaluating the capacities of bateys in the Cibao region, to assess the university-readiness of students and the need for improved access to primary and secondary school.

Yspaniola had a successful Annual **Board Meeting and Retreat** in December of 2010, located in beautiful Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The six board members discussed the strategic plan for Yspaniola and came up with several areas for focused development: 1. Creating a sustainable fundraising strategy, 2. Transitioning from an all-volunteer structure to support key paid staff, 3. Cultivating partnerships with universities in the United States and the Dominican Republic, 4. Updating our risk management policy.

Yspaniola plans to add **new scholars** to our University Scholarship Program through a new round of applications in 2011. In future years, applicants will be recruited not only from Batey Libertad, but also from other bateys in the region.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PROFIT AND LOSS SHEET
January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

Income

Individual Donations	$11,288
Corporate Donations	$500
Service-Learning Program Fees	$8,220
Fundraising Events	$1040
Total Income	**$21,048**

Expenses

Service-Learning Trip Expenses	$6,704
Scholarship Program Expenses	$1,380
Administrative Costs	$144
Total Expenses	**$8,228**
Net Income	**$12,820**

SUPPORT YSPANIOLA

$10 buys a textbook for a scholar

$50 funds one class at the university

$100 provides one month's rent for a scholar

$250 funds one trimester's tuition for a scholar

$4,000 provides a one year full-ride university

scholarship with leadership training

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