



Community Empowerment
through Leadership Development



Yspaniola Incorporated

www.yspaniola.org

2011 Annual Report



Si ou vle lapè, travay pou lajistis

Si quieres la paz, trabaja por la justicia

If you want peace, work for justice



Report Content

Mission, Vision, Values, Goals

Message from the Executive Director

The University Scholarship Program

The Local Program

Thank You to our Supporters

Board of Directors and the Local Team

Financial Statements

Looking Forward to 2012



Mission

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

Vision

We envision a world where students from marginalized communities 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 people take part in service-learning as a way to better understand their place in this world and how 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 effective development and social justice.

Goals

We have four goals: 1) empower youth from marginalized communities to lead and advocate for their communities 2) conduct research on quality of and access to education in the Dominican Republic 3) promote sustainable, responsible, and accountable development through the support of community-led programs, and 4) encourage active participation of students in the United States and Hispaniola to contribute responsibly to development.

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of Yspaniola:

2011 was an exciting, busy, and instructive year for Yspaniola.

Our scholars, Mayra Rodriguez and Federico Charle, had a successful first year studying at La Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago in our University Scholarship Program. We discovered strengths and weaknesses of our program, and adapted to best support Mayra, Fede, and future scholars. We also expanded our local program to include a leadership and microenterprise institute, an intern program, and the groundwork for a research institute that will study education in the Dominican Republic. Two international service-learning trips visited our team in Esperanza and Batey Libertad; with a generous donation and our trip participants' enthusiasm, Yspaniola constructed 11 latrines with the support of local community leaders. In July, we hosted our first conference, "Puntos de Encuentro," about race relations and marginalized communities on Hispaniola.

This is an important time for Yspaniola. While we remain dedicated to our friends in Batey Libertad, we realize that larger societal changes are required to make lasting transformations. In order for marginalized communities to rise out of

poverty, individuals must have access to quality education that creates leaders who can advocate for their communities' interests. Our University Scholarship Program creates these leaders and critical thinkers; through the Local Program we test initiatives and work with communities to understand how to improve access to and quality of education. With these programs, we hope to support the education reform movement that is already underway.

As we hone our programs, Yspaniola continues to grow. We are happy to announce that in May 2012, after a rigorous selection process, Yspaniola will accept two new scholars from Batey Libertad who will join Mayra and Fede in Santiago to pursue higher education degrees.

None of what we have accomplished could have been done without your support. Thank you for believing in our vision and our conviction that responsible development and research can improve lives while reversing systematic marginalization. We hope we can consider you a partner in our efforts: your encouragement is essential to our success, and we look forward to keeping you informed about our scholars' progress and our local programs.

With gratitude,



Jonathan DiMaio
Executive Director



The University Scholarship Program Begins

2011 was an exciting first year for our University Scholarship Program!

Our scholars, Mayra Rodriguez and Federico Charle, dove into their academics as they adjusted to life in Santiago. The scholars participated in numerous leadership development activities, such as collaborating with Un Techo Para Mi País to construct

houses with other young leaders in the country, and partaking in development strategy sessions with the organization, Recrear. The scholars helped lead the Yale Day of Service at Jackie's House orphanage, and contributed during our first conference about race relations on Hispaniola.

Our Scholarship Coordinator worked closely with Mayra and Fede to ensure their academic success; we have seen marked improvement in their writing skills. The scholars have bank accounts, and by giving them financial responsibility along with oversight, we are creating fiscally responsible young adults who budget their expenses in the city and help their families in the batey during times of need. We make sure the scholars remain connected to Batey Libertad and their families, and we are preparing them to consider designing projects in their home community.

We are excited to announce that in 2012, as we continue to work with Mayra and Fede, we will select two new scholars to enter the University Scholarship Program! Applicants will undergo a rigorous selection process: an impartial committee will assess applicants' grades and test scores, and qualified candidates will be asked to write essays and interview with the committee. The two new scholars will enroll in University and join Fede and Mayra in Santiago in May.



What Fede Says:

My experience with Yspaniola has been great. I really like the program and how it is run. I receive unconditional support and my academic skills have improved a lot as a result. I also think that I have matured. I look forward to further developing my potential with Yspaniola. I owe all of this to the University Scholarship Program, which gives me the opportunity to receive a university education and prepares me for the future.

What Mayra Says:

Yspaniola has been incredible. It is one of the best things to happen to me. My academic skills have improved greatly, and now I have more opportunity to study and work with my community to help it develop. Most important is to see how I've grown as a person, because even though I had goals before entering the scholarship program, now they have expanded. I want to help my community thanks to God and Yspaniola.

The Local Program:



The Leadership Institute

In April, Yspaniola began a Leadership Institute (Instituto de Liderazgo) to provide Haitian and Dominican women living in Batey Libertad with the tools to be community leaders. The first cycle of the workshops culminated with a microenterprise artisan project, in which the women learned artisan skills and became active participants in community development by raising money for projects of their collective choosing.

The project has brought together women of differing cultural and linguistic backgrounds to collaborate in ways they have never done before. Haitian artist Paul Eligene came to Batey Libertad to teach the women how to design, construct, and paint the houses. Since June, the women have worked together to create paper-maché houses that they will sell in craft markets; future projects include learning how to make other crafts, such as paper maché bowls. Yspaniola began the second phase of the Leadership Institute in November, partnering with Dominican organizations that work to empower women.

Research

Yspaniola has begun to partner with a community between Esperanza and Mao called Batey Boca de Mao (also known as Batey 3). Yspaniola's Researcher, Susannah Genty-Waksberg, has been traveling to Batey Boca de Mao on a regular basis to learn about the community, and to carry out a preliminary assessment of the community's access to education and the barriers that children must overcome to excel in school. In the coming year, we will outline prospective research guidelines and begin a comprehensive needs assessment, both of which will serve as the foundation for future research.

Partnership with Recrear



In July, Yspaniola partnered with Recrear, an organization that supports capacity building and works to empower youth to engage in their communities. Together, we facilitated two weeks of workshops with youth and young professionals from Batey Libertad, Esperanza, and Santiago to identify community-based needs, brainstorm project ideas, and set a timeline for completing projects. Yspaniola scholars Federico Charle and Mayra Rodríguez participated in the sessions, using the workshops to begin thinking about their role in local development.

Conference: Puntos de Encuentro

In July, Yspaniola coordinated the conference, “Puntos de Encuentro: República Dominicana y Haití,” at the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo. The event highlighted the similarities between the two neighboring countries and focused on the Dominican-Haitian experience in the Dominican Republic.

INTEC Professors Fátima Portorreal and Yolanda León gave presentations, along with Fulbright Scholar Hank González, members of Batey Libertad including Wilson Sefo Michel, María Sánchez Gomez, and our scholars, as well as Professor Wilfredo Lozano of UNIBE and FLACSO, a renowned scholar on Dominico-Haitian relations. The conference included panels of Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent discussing a variety of topics followed by a question and answer session from the audience.

Members of the City College-FUNGLODE/InterDom Service learning trip participated in the conference. Yspaniola is especially grateful to Professor Yolanda León, INTEC and Grupo Jaragua, for their support of the conference and assistance with coordinating it.



Service-Learning Trips



In July, a group of students from City College in New York participated in a month-long internship with our Local Program Team in Esperanza through the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUNGLODE). The students worked closely with Yspaniola on our microenterprise and latrine projects in Batey Libertad, in addition to our conference in the capital. We are especially grateful to Alicia Alonzo and Sarah Romero for their support and we look forward to working with them as we continue our collaboration with InterDom in the future.



A group of 14 Yale students participated in the annual Yale Spring Break trip through Reach Out at Yale. During their 10-day stay in the Dominican Republic, the students lived with host families in Batey Libertad to begin to understand the community, learn about development and Dominico-Haitian realities, teach English, and visit the primary school. They also visited the Esperanza Free Trade Zone, the border market at Dajabón, Santiago and Santo Domingo. The group fundraised a significant amount of money to support the Yspaniola scholarship program before the trip. One trip participant, Marissa Caan, returned to Batey Libertad in June and July for our summer internship program and will lead Yale's March 2012 trip.

A Special Project

In response to concern about cholera in the area around Batey Libertad, a member of the Yale Spring Break trip approached potential donors about funding the construction of latrines in the batey. John and Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis generously financed the construction of 10 latrines. Community leaders and our scholars, Fede and Mayra, were involved in the process, which included conducting a census to determine where to build the latrines and which families needed access. Another latrine was donated by the members of the Yale trip. The 11 families who benefited from the project are extremely grateful for the support of our donors and the Yale group; their construction has ensured more sanitary conditions in the batey.



Yale Day of Service



On May 14th, eleven Yale alumni and friends participated in the Dominican Republic's first Yale Day of Service at Jackie's House orphanage in Villa Mella. The group spent the day painting the facility, building donated furniture, and playing games with the children at the orphanage. Yspaniola staff and scholars traveled to the capital to help host the event. Other participants included representatives from: "Mestizaje," a Danish-Dominican children's foundation; "Un Techo Para Mi País," an organization dedicated to constructing houses and raising awareness about extreme poverty in the country; and the U.S. Department of State.

Chrisneidine

This year Yspaniola faced a tragic situation. In May, we learned about a young girl from Batey Libertad, Chrisneidine Joseph, who had been diagnosed with Retinoblastoma, usually a treatable cancer when discovered early. Structural inequality in the Dominican healthcare system prevented Chrisneidine from getting proper care, and by the time we learned of her condition and fundraised to provide care, the disease was advanced. Chrisneidine died on December 21st, 2011. She was three. Until her death, Gerald McElroy and the local team facilitated Chrisneidine's care and provided support to her mother, Julianus.

Yspaniola fundraised specifically to pay for Chrisneidine's care, and no donation made toward the scholarship fund was used to pay for Chrisneidine. Helping Chrisneidine became an integral part of Yspaniola's work in the second half of 2011, but even with generous financial support, caring for Chrisneidine and managing our in-country operations was challenging. Chrisneidine inspired us and strengthened our resolve to empower marginalized communities, but we also learned about the importance of using our networks and resources to collaborate with health care organizations to manage future acute health crises.

We are discussing how best to memorialize Chrisneidine and her bravery, and to not forget the circumstances that lead to her death.

Thank you to our 2011 supporters!

(≥\$1000)

Anonymous
Anonymous
Jewish Communal Fund
John and Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis

(\$500-\$999)

Anonymous
Daniel and Miriam DiMaio
Tara and Jerry McElroy
Pavithra Samarasinghe

(\$250-\$499)

Thomas Amatruda and
Lynne Morishita
Reverend Andrew Blume
Oscar Cordovez Novoa
Steve and Jane Deutsch
Michael and Laura Dockterman
Martin Feinman
David and Elaine Gould
Robert Handler
Fabienne Hudicourt
John Lamb
Christine Monroe
Carol Petschek
Susan and Yuen So
Sheryl Sokoloff
Alan Staab
Mary Ann Staab
Donna Tremmel
Amy and Manfred Wiegandt
Zelle Hofmann Voelbel & Mason LLP
Joe Zysman

Yspaniola would like to extend a special thank you to our friends and family for supporting us and our work, as well as the following individuals who provided in-kind support in 2011.

Ike Colbert
Alexandra DiMaio
Lizzie Fulton
Vincent Granata
Brad Hann
Lilly Janney
Catherine Osborn

(\$100-\$249)

Alicia Tejada Abreu
Christine Amatruda
James Amatruda
Rebecca Anastos-Wallen
Mary Bildsten
Ellen Bob
Rebekah Bob-Waksberg
Frank and Carol Brock
(Brock Farms)
Eliot Butler
Steven Cohen
Ike Colbert and Tom Bassette
Jeanne and John Conboy
Landis Coutzoukis
Ellen Crump
Barbara Degar
Antonina Dyk
George Edmonson
Bill and Helen Gleason
Lillian Guerra

(≤\$99)

Anonymous
Allen Adamson
Adenike Adeyeye
Marina Agapakis
Minuri Amarasuriya
Barbara Amatruda
Sarah Armitage
Kristen Benson
Kenneth Bob
Shirley Bob
Raphael Bob-Waksberg
Niko Bowie
Thomas and Diane Brady-Leighton
Andrew Brannan
Rebecca Briggs
Michael Cecil
Gananath Chandratilleke
Kurt Clemenzen
Rabbi Fredda Cohen and
Mr. Eric Nussbaum
Gabriela Cordovez
Reny Diaz
Gregory Donoho
Mary Jane Dubner
Carrie Duffield
Charitha Dumbarage
Jarvis Fernandez
Emily Finn
Mary FitzPatrick
Lewis and Barbara Foxhall
Cathy and Paul Fulton

John Hertzner
Claire Hunt
Peter and Mary Hurley
Mary Janney
Kay Kohler
Beverly Lacey
William and
Elizabeth Lacey
Jody and Marc Van der
Hout Lewitter
Katherine Low
Charles McElroy
Tess McNulty
Ella Mitchell
Catherine Osborn
Susan Permut
Nancy Petschek
Dear Mr. Potter
Chelsea Purvis
Robin Rattner

Abraham Gafni
Rachel Ginzberg
Michael Goodman
Namali Goonetillake
Matther Heuss
Fran Heyman
Rebecca Peter Higgins
Karen and Michael Hill
Kerry Hirasuna
Krissy Hudgins
Fabienne Hudicourt
Patrick Hurley
Paul and Mary Hurley
Vincent and Phyllis Jensen
Jill Johansen
Jamie Kallestad
Asa Karén Persson
Robert Kessler
Mary King
Helen Kivnick
Rebecca Kornblatt
Ellen and Michael Lamb
Alan Lazar
Sarah Lebedoff
Jonathan Leonard
Robert Leventer
Robert Levers
Catherine Little
Ruben Lopez
Molly Ma
Lynn McGregor
Robert and Lucy Mitchell

Leslie Salzman
William Schechter
Lisa Schmidt
Mandy Sciacchitano
John and Kerry Brock
Seigenthaler
Dushika Setukavala
Marc Seville
Winifred Smith
Louisa Stegman
Howard and Rebecca
Taylor
Martha Ann Terry
Mary and Brett
Thorstad
Daniel Wald
Judith Waksberg
Sherry A Weinman
Ellen Gersh Widess
Eleanor Winston

Barry N Knishkowsky and Mitzi
Knishkowsky
Sarah Nardella
Khang Nguyen
Jen Nyambura-Cooper
Peck (DBA), Laura of Claros
Consulting
Charles Peters
Martine Powers
Yehan Ranasinghe
April Robertson
Susan Roth
Patricia Schmidt
Todd Schongalla
Ilene Semiati
Barbara Steiner
Pam and
Charles Swearingen
Savindri Talgodapitiya
Steve Taylor
Margherita Tortora
Ohad Tsamir
Jane Turk
Julio Vazquez
Tara Walton
Sherman Wang
Ranga Wimalasuriya
Jamie Yood
Laura Zatz
Susie Zeiger

Board of Directors

Jonathan DiMaio

Executive Director

Gerald McElroy

Local Program Director

Cynthia So

Chairwoman of the Board

Luis Vasquez

Director of Development

Stephen Wirth

Director of Public Affairs



left to right: Luis, Cynthia, Jonathan, Gerald (not pictured: Stephen)

The Board of Directors' Advisory Committee

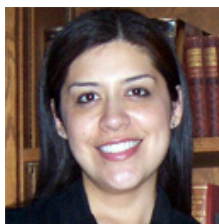
We are excited to announce that four new board members will join our Board of Directors. Carmelle Bonhometre, Rosalinda Garcia, Sarah Kabay, and Anna Pancheshnikov will sit on the newly created Advisory Committee, whose responsibility will be to oversee the Executive Director and help support and develop our programs.



Carmelle Bonhometre

is the Director of the Domestic Violence Program

at the Association of Haitian Women in Boston. She provides counseling and helps DV victims access support programs and justice; for this work, she has won citywide and statewide recognition.



Rosalinda Garcia

is an Assistant Dean at Yale College and Director of Yale's Latino Cultural Center.

She also oversees the work of nineteen Latino based student groups affiliated with the center and directs the STARS (Science, Technology and Research Scholars) Program. She oversaw Yspaniola's founding as a student group in 2005.



Anna Pancheshnikov

is a medical student at Harvard Medical School. She

graduated from Brandeis in 2010, after which she received a Fulbright Fellowship to research the knowledge of prenatal HIV transmission and prevention among pregnant women and their access and utilization of prevention resources in Santiago, Dominican Republic.



Sarah Kabay

first visited Batey Libertad in 2005, and subsequently joined the Yspaniola student group at Yale,

participating in and leading trips to the community. In 2007, she won a "Projects for Peace" grant to install a water system in Batey Libertad. She works for Innovations for Poverty Action in Uganda, where she manages an education research project.

Thank you to our Local Team!

Volunteer of the Year

Julie Gladnick



Julie is our new Local Program Director



Alyssa Orrantia
Scholarship Coordinator



Jake Amatruda
Summer Intern



Marissa Caan
Summer Intern



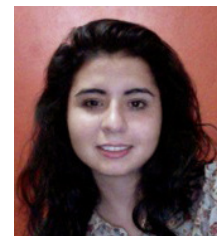
Paola Cordovez Cereceda
Intern



Aquiles Damiron
Intern



Susannah Genty-Waksberg
Researcher



Paola Villaseñor
Intern

Financial Statements

Profit and Loss Sheet

January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011

Income

Individual Donations	\$14,462
Service-Learning Trip Fees	\$7,017
Fundraised for Chrisneidine	\$2,795
Fundraising Events	\$2,552
Latrine Donation	\$2,200
Corporate Donations	\$750
Total Income	\$29,776

Net Income

\$3,325

Expenses

Scholarship Program	\$10,969
Service-Learning Trips	\$6,047
Chrisneidine's care	\$2,654 ^a
Latrine Project	\$2,555
Local Program	\$1,576 ^b
Administrative	\$1,358 ^c
Stipends	\$997 ^d
Bank Fees	\$223
Board Retreat	\$72
Total Expenses	\$26,451

a) We fundraised specifically to support Chrisneidine's care. Only donations explicitly designated to support Chrisneidine went toward her care, and all other donations supported our primary programs.

b) Expenses to support the local program include the start up costs of the Leadership Institute and the Microenterprise Project, as well as costs necessary to prepare the house in Esperanza for the local team (washer and drier, furniture, locks).

c) This includes \$800 for the registration fees and legal costs associated with registering as a non-profit organization with the Dominican government. The registration process should be completed by the summer of 2012.

d) Yspaniola staffers and interns receive stipends that are a percentage of the money they fundraise for Yspaniola.

Looking Forward

In 2011, Yspaniola grew immensely, developing a Local Program in Esperanza to complement our University Scholarship Program through community development projects and research. As we begin 2012, we have solidified a four-pronged strategy to empower marginalized communities and individuals: 1) research about quality of and access to education in the Dominican Republic; 2) direct action based on our research, including our University Scholarship Program, which will accept two new scholars in May; 3) building solidarity across communities, national and international, through service learning, conferences, and an intern program; and 4) community development projects that address local problems through accountable and responsible projects. In the coming year, we are committed to developing our current programs, focusing on strengthening what we already do before moving on to bigger challenges.



SUPPORT YSPANIOLA

\$10 buys a textbook for a scholar

\$50 funds one university course

\$100 provides a month's rent, allowing our students to study in the city

\$250 funds one trimester's tuition at the Technological University of Santiago

\$1000 pays for over half a year's food costs for one scholar

\$6,000 sponsors a full-ride university scholarship for one year. This includes

room and board, tuition, extracurricular activities, tutoring, English lessons,

lessons fiscal responsibility and leadership, reading and writing lessons,

and other necessities



YSPANIOLA INCORPORATED

www.yspaniola.org

203.623.1805

info@yspaniola.org