From the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of Yspaniola,

Since our beginnings as a student group in 2005, Yspaniola has worked to become an organization that addresses the widespread denial of civil and human rights to residents of bateys and other marginalized communities in the Dominican Republic. We believe — after years of learning, challenges, and growth — that by creating quality educational programs and encouraging civic participation, we can support the community action necessary for change.

Yspaniola’s short-term goal is to create access to quality education for all members of Batey Libertad, from pre-K classes to university scholarships to adult education. We began with our University Scholarship Program, which continues to provide full scholarships and extracurricular tutoring to four exceptional students from the community. Over the past year and a half, we have founded a Learning Center in the community, which provides literacy classes to 50 children between the ages of 5 and 14 and English classes to young adults. In the next year, Yspaniola will focus on building the Center’s capacity by hiring Dominican teachers, creating curricula that develop students' reading and writing skills and encourages critical thinking, and supporting healthy emotional development by hiring a social worker to help children who are behaviorally challenged.

As we develop educational programming in Batey Libertad, it is essential that we share our work through service-learning trips and volunteer programs to raise awareness about bateys and the situation their residents face in the Dominican Republic. Long-lasting, structural change will happen only by encouraging civic participation among Dominicans, residents of bateys, and international visitors.

In September, the Dominican Republic’s Supreme Court of Justice stripped citizenship from 200,000 people of Haitian descent. The decision was a blow to the movement for social justice and equal rights in the Dominican Republic. Nevertheless, the overwhelming response by students, the media, activists, and citizens demonstrates just how much potential the movement has. Yspaniola is part of this movement. By increasing access to quality education in Batey Libertad, we increase economic opportunities and social capital. Our long-term goal is to replicate these programs in other bateys and marginalized communities across the country to create a network of communities with access to quality education and social and economic capital, so that individuals can advocate and act on their own behalf to petition their government for change. Concurrently, we will continue to work to strengthen the Dominican and international coalition that supports civil and human rights for these communities.

We thank you for your support and generosity thus far. Our work is possible only because of your encouragement, and we are very grateful. We also need your help moving forward. As you read through these pages, we ask that you share with us a vision for what is possible in Batey Libertad and other communities in the Dominican Republic and consider what you can do to be part of this change.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Sincerely,
Jonathan DiMaio
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The education system in the Dominican Republic is one of the worst in Latin America. Despite significant advances, only 4.5% of the government budget dedicated to education is spent directly on activities to improve the quality of education. This lack of investment is evidenced in the results of a study completed by the Ministry of Education, in which fourth graders answered correctly only 38.2% of mathematics questions and only 34% of reading comprehension questions.
Yspaniola: Quality Education, Community Action

OUR VISION

Yspaniola’s short-term goal is to create vertical access to quality education in Batey Libertad, from pre-K classes to university scholarships to adult education. Our long-term goal is to replicate these programs in other bateys and marginalized communities across the country to create a network of communities with access to quality education and social and economic capital, so that individuals can advocate and act on their own behalf to petition their government for change. At the same time, we will continue to work, through service-learning trips and volunteer programs for Dominicans, to strengthen the Dominican and international coalition that supports civil and human rights for these communities.

Values + Programs

Quality Education + Civic Participation

- Pre-school
- Learning Center
- Teen Mentoring
- College Scholarships
- Service-Learning

Goals

- Bateys and marginalized communities with access to quality education
- Increased social capital and economic opportunity
- Systematic support for residents of bateys and other marginalized communities as they advocate and act for change
Founded in the summer of 2012, our learning center provides classes to youth aged 5-14 who have limited access to quality education in Batey Libertad. Our classes focus on building Spanish literacy skills, with an emphasis on reading comprehension, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and problem solving. For young people and adults, the center offers English classes two days per week.

**30.2%** of children from bateys complete primary school

**21%** of youth in bateys attend secondary school, compared to the national average of **51%**

**Assessment**

The Learning Center staff has implemented the internationally recognized Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA), administered once yearly, to assess the ongoing progress of children attending classes at the center.

We also evaluate student reading levels using the Reading A to Z system, helping students to recognize books at their reading level and track their own improvement over time.
Program Highlights

Learning Center

Summer Camp
Yspaniola facilitated an eight-day Youth Summer Camp in Batey Libertad with over 100 children in attendance, 20 local camp counselors, and 10 international volunteers. Camp activities included instruction in art, cultural exchange, sexual health, interactive games, and a community beautification project. In addition to engaging the youngest members of the community, the camp allowed older youth to take leadership roles as counselors, providing valuable employment experiences and skills in project management.

Book Drives
Yspaniola held two book drives in 2012 and 2013 with the help of numerous volunteers and our partners from Fundación HHS and Casa de Cultura in Santiago. We collected over 1,000 books, which have been cataloged and graded by reading level, allowing us to maintain a robust lending library for the community at the Learning Center.

In Numbers
• 50 children attend classes at the center.
• 4 classes a day; 4 days a week.
• Over 700 hours of hands-on classroom time.
• Two full-time teaching staff.
• Four part-time Teaching Assistants from the batey.
• 15 adults attend English classes.
In 2012, the University Scholarship Program expanded to support four scholars with full-ride scholarships to the Technological University of Santiago (UTESA). The two new scholars, Ramón Sanchez Gomez and Julio Louis, are studying medicine and tourism, respectively. The first scholars to enter the program, Mayra Rodriguez and Federico Charle, continue to excel in their studies of education and modern languages. Students are required to maintain excellent grades and attend weekly sessions with a tutor who works with scholars on reading comprehension, English proficiency, Spanish writing, research skills, and critical thinking.

"Yspaniola has been fundamental in supporting my intelectual development and contributions as a citizen; they help me advocate for my community and encourage me to participate in extra-curricular activities in Santiago." - Julio Louis

**Significant Achievements**

In 2012, Julio Louis graduated from the International Association of American Language, finishing second in his class of more than 200 students. In addition, Mayra Rodriguez began an extracurricular course in pharmacy in which she tends to customers and assists pharmacists in organizing prescriptions.
Service Learning

Student service-learning trips create spaces for dialogue, intercultural exchange and reflection about marginalized communities in the Dominican Republic, and are an integral part of Yspaniola’s fundraising strategy to support our educational programming. Every year, Yspaniola hosts around 50 students from prominent U.S. and international universities.

Summer Interns

This summer, Yspaniola hosted an extended internship program with a group of students from four prestigious universities in Mexico. Over the course of seven weeks, the interns traveled and attended meetings in various cities across the country, helped organize three conferences on behalf of Yspaniola, directed a successful book drive, and participated in service projects in Batey Libertad.

In Numbers

- **More than 25** meetings with leaders of local civil society organizations.
- **More than 50** hours of tutoring and volunteering by trip participants.
- **20 hours** of community beautification projects in Batey Libertad.
- **55 students** from 6 universities in Mexico and the United States.
In January of 2013, Yspaniola participated in the development of a Women’s Savings Group in Batey Libertad with the support of the UNDP.

In addition, Yspaniola supported young leaders in Batey Libertad as they promoted sexual health through a program called Deportes Para la Vida. The program was implemented with middle- and high-school-aged youth in Batey Libertad and the neighboring community of Maizal.

Finally, Yspaniola supported the Community Council throughout their arduous campaign to bring potable water to the community.

Yspaniola continues to promote open dialogue and spaces for reflexion in the Dominican Republic. In the summer of 2013 we participated in the third annual Yale Day of Service at the Saint George School in Santo Domingo. The Association of Yale Alumni awarded Yspaniola with the “Best Day of Service” award. In addition, and in collaboration with the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUNGLODE), we organized a conference called “Challenges to Development in the Dominican Republic and Haiti,” which received attention from the national media.
Voices of the Community

“I feel good when I go to the Center because I learn to write better, and we play games. I like to read Curious George.”

Yordi Jose student

“I love to work with Yspaniola because I get to help promote education in my community while gaining new leadership skills.”

María González
Teaching Assistant

“In the Center we do fun things, We learn words and write stories. My favorite book is The Little Bulldozer.”

Rashel González
student

“I have learned to have patience and empathy towards the children and to support them so they are motivated to continue their education in the future, which the community deserves.”

Santa Yan
Teaching Assistant
Looking Forward

The Learning Center

As the Learning Center grows, we continue to strengthen literacy and critical-thinking curricula, keeping in mind the unique challenges that many of our students face. This year, we will hire an additional teacher and a social worker from the Dominican Republic to support learning in the Center. We are also moving into a larger space, which will allow us to have more classes targeted to students' reading and learning levels.

University Scholars

Julio Louis will become our first scholar to graduate when he completes his program in tourism this spring. Yspaniola provides individualized mentoring to help our scholars find stimulating jobs after graduation, and we are working closely with Julio to make this happen. We are also excited to welcome Ariana Maria Fernanda Núñez into the program for the 2014 fall semester.

Dominican Volunteer Program

Yspaniola will pilot a new program this year to recruit highly motivated and civically engaged students from Dominican universities to work in the Batey Libertad Learning Center and serve as big-sib mentors for youth in the batey. In addition to supporting our work in the Learning Center, the program will contribute to a growing social-justice movement within the Dominican Republic, encouraging young people from all walks of life to get involved and have their voices heard.
Yspaniola Financials
Where Your Contributions Go

Total Expenses = $76,895.69

- University Scholarship Program: $18,484.6
- Literacy Center, Summer Camp and Supporting Operations: $8,306.65
- Staff Salary and Health Benefits: $11,229.8
- House Rent and Maintenance: $7,139.16
- Administrative: $3,252.87
- Intern Program: $8,393.05
- Service-Learning Trips: $19,830.44

2012-2013 Fiscal Year

Yspaniola's fiscal year begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. Our Federal ID Number is: 27-0697706

- Education program expenses and supporting operational expenses were 59% of total expenses
- Administrative costs are primarily insurance, media, and fundraising related, and were 4% of total expenses
- Revenue generating programs, which generated $48,933.84 (or 64% of our total budget), were 37% of total expenses

Total Income = $74,932.55

- $39,759.46 - Service-learning trip fees
- $9,174.38 - Intern program fees
- $14,221.23 - Donations
- $11,788.53 - Donations through fundraisers and events

Yspaniola's income comes from two sources: fees for service-learning trips and internships, and private donations. To the left is a breakdown of income for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year.
Thank you to ALL those who have helped us make a difference!

Local Team
Cory Fox, Director of Community Education Programs
Dana Henderson, Local Program Manager
Paul Eligene, Local Program Coordinator
Diego Cuesy Edgar, Local Outreach Coordinator
Christina Perkins, Local Program Director (through May 2013)

Board of Directors
Jonathan DiMaio, Executive Director
Julie Gladnick, Member of the Board
Gerald McElroy, Director of Development
Cynthia So-Armah, Director of the Board
Luis Vásquez, Director of Public Relations
Stephen Wirth, Member of the Board

Advisory Committee
Carmelle Bonhometre, Association of Haitian Women in Boston
Rosalinda García, Dean, Yale University
Sarah Kabay, Innovations for Poverty Action
Anna Pancheshnikov, Harvard Medical School

Recent Interns
Tabitha Austin
Mariana Butrón
James Degar
Allegra Chen-Carrel
Susannah Genty-Waksberg
Joel Hilario
Rebecca Leisher
Yumiko Locussol
Aranzazú Martínez
Allyson Moeller
Paloma Ricaño
Julián Rojo
Felipe Sánchez
Marcela Saucedo
Shamicka Smith
Naomi Sussman
Katie Thompson
Rodrigo Valdés

Service-Learning Leaders
Victoria Adewale
Gary Baker & Dani Makia
Marissa Caan & Jake Amatruda
Dianne Cipriani Wikso
Jessica Kradjel & Maggie Stohler
Marymagdalene Onyango & Angel Calvin
Paola Severino & Gracia Vargas
Thank you to ALL those who have helped us make a difference!

### Our Donors
*January 2012 - September 2013*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation Range</th>
<th>Donor Names</th>
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| $1000 +        | Allison O'Brient  
Bulldog Ventures, Ltd  
Miriam & Daniel DiMaio  
Tara and Jerry McElroy |
| $500-$999      | Bob & Jane Gleason  
John McClymont  
Tess McNulty  
Felipe Auffant |
| $100-$499      | Laurie Agama  
Richa Agarwal  
Jaime Alvarez  
Kathryn Anastos  
Rebecca Anastos-Wallen  
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& Michael Lavalle  
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Mark Lieberwitz  
Mark Lippolt  
Michael Manavdjian  
Prasad Manian  
Jeanne & Michael McElroy |

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- Saint George School  
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- Fundación HHS  
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- Susan Permut  
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- Zachary Porter  
- Shelly Rivas  
- Andrea Rubenstein  
- Megan & Drew Rzezutko  
- Joseph Sadden  
- Amanda Sciacchitano  
- Andrew, Steph, & Brandon So  
- Samson & Alice So  
- Susan & Yuen So  
- Dr. Martha Ann Terry  
- Joel Amilcar Vargas  
- Sherman & Angela Wang  
- Manfred & Amy Wiegandt

Thank you to all who have supported us with donations less than $100!

### Volunteers and Local Partners

- Ileana Abreu  
- Dany Baez  
- Polo Brice  
- Anthony Bruno  
- Flora Cabili  
- Ayamahil Francisco  
- Hernández  
- Diana Caba  
- Manuel Meccariello  
- Cadiz  
- Itzel Casillas  
- Elías Castillo  
- CEFASA  
- Cementos Cibao  
- Le Chen  
- Columbia SIPA  
- Iván Cruz  
- C72 New York  
- Chloé Debyster  
- Earth Institute  
- Fundación HHS  
- Gran Teatro del Cibao  
- Graciano Gaillard  
- Jordi Gassó  
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- Chávez  
- Jessica Hernández  
- Jong Hyon-Shin  
- Francina Jiménez  
- Patty Yunen Latour  
- Dr. Yolanda León  
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- Olivia Snarksi  
- Debi Spindelman  
- St. George School  
- Marissa Sterniste  
- Edison Suero  
- Roberto Tolentino  
- Andrew Wilson  
- Jennifer Zapa
Contact Us

At Yspaniola, we are always looking for ways to get people involved. If you are interested in planning a trip, donating, or if you have other ideas, please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you!

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Your support makes a difference

$10 buys a book for a student
$50 funds one university course
$250 funds tuition for one trimester
$2000 supports 10 kids at the Learning Center for one year