Dear Friends and Supporters of Yspaniola,

The events and experiences of the past several years—reduced citizenship rights for Dominicans of Haitian descent, mass denationalization in 2013, a complex and exclusive registration processes for Dominicans who had their citizenship stripped, military raids and deportations, and mounting pressure from international organizations and the media—have shaped our understanding of how Yspaniola can work toward long-term solutions to include Dominicans of Haitian descent in Dominican society.

First, we seek to improve access to education at a local level to help batey residents overcome the barriers that keep them from participating in the formal workforce. This is why we are creating high-quality education programs from pre-school through university in Batey Libertad, to empower our programs’ graduates to get degrees, find jobs, support their families, and advocate for their community. Once we create a successful model in Batey Libertad, we will replicate our educational pipeline in other bateys and marginalized communities, connecting program graduates from across the country to the civil society network already advocating for national reforms.

As we build and strengthen our education programs in Batey Libertad, we will replicate our educational pipeline in other bateys and marginalized communities, connecting program graduates from across the country to the civil society network already advocating for national reforms.

As we build and strengthen our education programs in Batey Libertad, we recognize that improving educational access, particularly for Dominicans of Haitian descent, is crucial to our larger goal of equal citizenship for all Dominicans regardless of race or heritage. As an inclusive education organization, we must also create successful outreach programs to educate Dominicans and the international community about our work and the systematic disenfranchisement suffered by Dominicans of Haitian ancestry. Like our education programs, these outreach initiatives will be rigorous, culturally aware, and outcome-oriented. And we plan to collaborate with Dominican civil society organizations who have already begun this challenging and essential work. Our hope is that through educational programs in marginalized communities and outreach initiatives in the Dominican Republic and abroad, we can empower Dominicans and Dominicans of Haitian descent to contribute to the growing coalition that demands equal citizenship for all Dominicans.

This report details our programs, our vision, and our plan for the near future as we build our programs in Batey Libertad. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have ideas, suggestions, or would like to learn about ways to be involved.

Sincerely,

Jonathan DiMaio
President of the Board
Director of Strategy

Cynthia So-Armah, MD
Chair of the Board

Dear Yspaniola Friends, Family, and Supporters,

I am deeply honored to serve as the new Executive Director of Yspaniola. For more than five years I have worked directly with several education non-profit organizations in the Dominican Republic, but the energy and perseverance I have found within Yspaniola has motivated me as never before.

I am lucky to be joined by a talented team of staff, volunteers, community members, and the board of directors, and I am excited to continue partnering with organizations that are providing support during this exciting transition. I am proud to share that today we have over 120 students enrolled in literacy classes in Yspaniola’s Learning Center.

Other priorities for 2016 are to provide more academic support to our university scholars and increase ongoing support to recent graduates as they enter the workforce. We also hope to design and implement a program to support students as they graduate primary school and continue on to secondary school.

As you can see, our work is multifaceted, and we are doing a lot given our size and resources. I feel very fortunate for this opportunity, and I am excited to expand our efforts. From the Yspaniola team, I would like to send a big thank you to everyone that is making this work possible!

Sincerely,

Ani Yanachkova
Executive Director

A note from Ani Yanachkova, Yspaniola’s new Executive Director
WHAT IS AT STAKE

What are the challenges and barriers to full citizenship for Dominicans of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic?

On February 19, 2015, soldiers of the Dominican military entered Batey Libertad and arrested Wilson Sentimo, an Yspaniola employee. Wilson was born in the Dominican Republic and has a Dominican birth certificate, but he didn’t have it with him. The soldiers wouldn’t let him retrieve his documentation and, because Wilson was unable to pay the $5 bribe the soldiers demanded, he was deported to Haiti, a country he had never been to before. Although Yspaniola was able to leverage its network to rally the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Amnesty International, the International Organization of Migration, and local human rights organizations to get Wilson safely back to Batey Libertad the next day, Wilson’s experience was a vivid example of how being undocumented or underdocumented makes Dominicans of Haitian descent vulnerable. Along with being at risk to police and military abuse, Dominicans of Haitian descent without documentation are unable to:

• vote
• graduate high school or enter university
• receive a pension
• unionize
• travel in some parts of the country without being arrested or extorted
• be put on payroll, and can therefore find only non-contracted work, like in agricultural or construction

Although Yspaniola is developing an education model in Batey Libertad and focusing its efforts on education, our work—and the community at large—has been deeply affected by the ongoing documentation crisis stemming from the 2013’s mass denationalization. Consequently, we developed partnerships with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, and local human rights organizations to get Wilson safely back to Batey Libertad the next day, Wilson’s experience was a vivid example of how being undocumented or underdocumented makes Dominicans of Haitian descent vulnerable. Along with being at risk to police and military abuse, Dominicans of Haitian descent without documentation are unable to:

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Without access to education and documentation, almost all Dominicans of Haitian descent become trapped in a cycle of poverty tied to non-contracted agriculture and construction work, and cannot access higher education, support their families, or advocate for their rights and positive change.

WHAT THE PROGRAMS

In Batey Libertad, Yspaniola is creating high quality Education Programs from pre-K through university. We will scale our education initiatives and tailor to each community where we work to overcome barriers to quality education, using:

• Learning centers, monitoring and evaluation, and teacher training
• High school and university scholarship programs
• Professional development and teacher training for public schools

THE STRATEGY

Outreach and legal initiatives for all of the communities where we have education programs, providing bateys with systematic support through:

• Education
• Inclusive Outreach
• Legal Support

Yspaniola’s education programs ensure that young adults have the skills and degrees they need to get jobs outside of non-contracted manual work. After we scale to communities beyond Batey Libertad, we will open our scholarship program—which offers co-curricular support, writing tutoring, and internships—to the nation’s best students committed to social justice in the Dominican Republic.

Inclusive Outreach

Yspaniola is committed to inclusive outreach programs to educate everyone—Dominicans, North Americans, and beyond—about bateys and the challenges their residents face. A short-term goal is to collaborate with civil society organizations to connect students in our Learning Center with young adults from the surrounding area. We will replicate these programs in all communities where we have education programs.

Legal Support

One of the biggest barriers to higher education for Dominicans of Haitian descent is documentation. By working with local human rights non-profits, the government, and developing our own legal team once we have the resources, Yspaniola will both ensure that our students have access to higher education, and that we document and challenge denial of citizenship at local, national, and international levels.

QUALITY EDUCATION AND FULL CITIZENSHIP

By scaling up our programs to communities across the Dominican Republic, the country’s most marginalized residents will have access to quality education, increased social capital, and economic opportunity. This increased access combined with legal and outreach initiatives will provide systematic support so bateys and other marginalized communities can join the Dominican civil society coalition advocating for change, in particular:

• ensuring that the Dominican government, the Ministry of Education, school districts and local schools do not deny access to education based on documentation or nationality
• supporting the coalition for education reform in the Dominican Republic
• and ultimately reforming documentation issuance to be fair, consistent, and transparent, without discrimination based on race

We believe that with these programs and strategy, Dominicans and the international community can work together to make the Dominican Republic a country where everyone has access to quality education and full citizenship.
The Learning Center is the cornerstone of our education programs in Batey Libertad. As of December 2015, the Center had 124 students enrolled, who are split into seven classes. Each class meets Monday through Wednesday, and children attend reading hours on Thursday. Our primary goal for the 2015–2016 academic year is increasing class time for students through more days of classes per week.

Highlights from the 2014 - 2015 school year:

- Over 550 hours of classes and reading hours, serving over 125 children total
- Adding a 7th class for four and five year-olds and a weekly “homework help” hour
- Regular monitoring and evaluation with in-house phonics assessments, Reading A–Z, and Early Grade Reading Assessments in June
- Creating a food program that has provided over 3500 hearty snacks to students before they enter their Learning Center classes
- Winning a Better World Books grant to incorporate music into our literacy curriculum and purchase learning materials
- Hiring two new teachers from Batey Libertad: Willy Estache started in January, and Marisela Peña Marte started in October
- Receiving a capital gift to purchase land in Batey Libertad, allowing us to begin the planning process to build our own multi-story, multi-classroom Learning Center
- Using the capital gift to purchase a generator, giving the Learning Center and other Yspaniola properties in Batey Libertad 24-hour electricity

In spring 2015, we received a three-year grant to hire a full-time Executive Director based in the Dominican Republic

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

- Dariana Liranzo became Yspaniola’s fifth University Scholar, and Federico Charle became Yspaniola’s second University Scholar Graduate
- Internships with Yspaniola programs for University Scholars Mayra and Federico, and writing workshops and individual tutoring for all scholars

SERVICE-LEARNING AND SUMMER CAMP

- Successful service-learning trips with Yale, the University of Delaware, and Brookside Community Health Center
- Over 120 Dominican and international volunteers with service-learning opportunities in Batey Libertad
- Summer Camp for over 90 children in Batey Libertad, with local youth and international volunteers leading health, sports, dance, and theater activities

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

- Formalizing a partnership with CEFASA, and coordinating a training with them for teachers in the Batey Libertad public school
- Cementing our partnership with Princeton in Latin America with four fellows for the 2014 - 2015 school year, and four more fellows through summer 2016
- Collaborating with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the International Organization of Migration, and Dominican Jesuit organizations to document human rights abuses in the Dominican Republic and register over 125 residents of Batey Libertad in the country’s Naturalization and Regularization Plan, which helped protect them from deportation
- Welcoming a Peace Corps Volunteer to Batey Libertad to work with Yspaniola and the local public school
- Conducting media outreach, which resulted in coverage in the Miami Herald, USA Today, the Huffington Post, Al Jazeera, and Acento
- Establishing a Santo Domingo-based advisory committee of prominent businesspeople, activists, academics, and journalists
- Winning second place in a Global Giving writing contest

For me, the Learning Center is more than a workplace; it is where I proudly contribute to a better education for my family and community. — Willy José Estache

I had a great time in Summer Camp. I could do many things that I couldn’t do during the year, and more than anything sports was a lot of fun. — Samuel José

I deeply appreciate the support I have received from the foundation, and there are not adequate words to express all that Yspaniola has done for me during my time in the University. — Federico Charle

My experience has been marvelous. My teaching skills have developed a lot and I like my work. Every day that I come to the Learning Center I am happy to be here. — Marisela Peña Marte

Princeton in Latin America fellows Isaac, Chelsea, Eduardo, and Keara with Rosalinda, a member of the Youth Committee, and Media and Communications Assistant Alex

Yspaniola has built and maintained relationships with Batey Libertad residents for many years, and the collaborative effort shows it’s empowering to see an entire community come together around literacy and access to higher education. — Isaac Bloch
YSPANIOLA’S FIVE YEAR PLAN

Our goals for the next five years are simple: create high quality education programs in Batey Libertad from pre-kindergarten through university; work with Dominican organizations to create constructive community involvement programs for Dominicans; and be ready to begin scaling up to other communities.

OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS

Here is what we envision our operational and programmatic structure to look like in five years. Once we reach this capacity, we will be ready to begin the process to scale to other communities. Read on the opposite page about when and why we will implement these additions.

A SYSTEM OF HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FROM PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH UNIVERSITY

Our Learning Center provides food and high quality literacy programs focused on reading comprehension, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and problem solving to over 120 children ages 4 to 15, with pre-school for younger children. We will design a High School Scholarship Program to help students stay in school and continue developing the skills learned in our Learning Center through tutoring.

Our University Scholarship Program gives Batey Libertad’s best students access to higher education and provides extracurricular opportunities, tutoring, and job placement support.

Our education programs integrate rigorous monitoring and evaluation plans to analyze outcomes and adjust programming to best serve students’ needs. All children will have access to social-emotional support provided by a team of qualified social workers and behavioral experts and counselors.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

By collaborating with civil society organizations to include Dominicans in our work, we will connect Batey Libertad to people and organizations that can help the community access basic resources and documentation outside of education, and we will promote community outreach to create awareness about education and citizenship.

This structure, based on a Learning Center and scholarships, will provide high quality academic programs and social-emotional support to all children in Batey Libertad, and give the best students access to high school, college, and job readiness support.

IMPLEMENTATION AND GROWTH

Key to our growth will be hiring talented staff to manage new and growing programs. In the following timeline, we detail key steps and our reasoning.

2015-2016

GOALS: improve quality of instruction, maximize class time, and create education programs from pre-school through university.

In spring 2015, we received a three year grant to fund a full-time Executive Director based in the Dominican Republic starting in October of 2015. We also received a grant to bring on a part-time strategy and development officer based in the United States. These key steps have allowed us to fill out our administrative structure without taking funds away from current programming.

With a full-time in country Executive Director and more local teachers, we will improve the quality of instruction and have the capacity to run seven classes four days a week. As we grow, we will continue building our library to ensure that all children in Batey Libertad have access to age appropriate learning materials and books. More Learning Center staff, including an assistant director and more local teachers and assistants, will allow us to have classes five days a week with simultaneous classes once we have a larger space. A scholarship director will allow us to better support and expand our University Scholarship Program, and create a high school scholarship program that would connect our Learning Center with our university scholarships, thereby completing the basic structure of educational support from pre-kindergarten through university. Hiring a scholarship director is our primary goal in the beginning of 2016.

2016-2017

OUTREACH GOALS: work with Dominican organizations to support inclusive programming about citizenship and race

Currently, our Local Program Manager oversees and integrates interns, volunteers, and Service-Learning Trips into our programs. Along with our Executive Director, the LPM also is our point person for our collaborations with local civil society organizations that support our work to help Batey Libertad residents with documentation issues. Over the next two years, the LPM and Executive Director will work with Dominican civil society organizations to develop outreach programs to include Dominicans from nearby communities in our work to educate about education and citizenship. As our programs grow and our outreach programs become larger, we will bring on an Outreach Program Manager and Outreach Assistants to help oversee these programs and supervise volunteers.

2016-2017 EDUCATION GOALS: a professional support system for Yspaniola and public school teachers; non-academic behavior support from social workers and behavior experts

In 2016, we will begin a capital campaign to raise funds to build our own multi-story, multi-classroom Learning Center in Batey Libertad (on land we have already purchased). This will allow us to have simultaneous classes and increase the on-task learning hours for the children we serve.

We want to provide high quality professional support for all of the educators who are working with our students, both the teachers who work in our Learning Center and those who work in Batey Libertad’s public school. Over the next two years, our staff will research and develop—with support from the board’s Education Committee—a teaching and learning professional development program to benefit all of these educators. Simultaneously, we are cultivating relationships with local civil society organizations who could be potential collaborators to implement teacher training in Batey Libertad and beyond. We hope to have a dedicated teaching and learning coach for the 2016 - 2017 school year.

The students in our Learning Center grow up in an environment of extreme stress, which interferes with their efforts to achieve academic and personal success. Our students and their families need the support of qualified counselors who can help create healthy learning environments in the Learning Center and at home so students can overcome non-academic challenges. By the end of 2016, we hope to have at least one full-time social worker working with the children in the Learning Center, and in the following few years we hope to bring together a team of behavioral experts and social workers so we are prepared to work with more students and families when we scale up.

2018-2020

PREPARATION to scale our education programs to marginalized communities across the country

Before we scale our education and outreach programs to communities beyond Batey Libertad, we need to bolster and support our academic administrative team, which will allow us to replicate our educational programs using an efficient, centralized system. Bringing on an Academic Director will be one of the final steps before we prepare our programs. After developing our Learning Center, scholarship programs, outreach initiatives, and administrative structure, we will spend two years identifying, researching, and designing a vertical education model to implement in at least one other marginalized community in the Dominican Republic.
The 2015 Batey Libertad Summer Camp

Ronny asks Luigi a vocabulary question

The 2015 Batey Libertad Summer Camp

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<th>2014–2015 FINANCES</th>
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<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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**INCOME**
- **Foundations**: $19,000; 10%
- **Donations**: $60,924; 32%
- **Events**: $10,610; 6%
- **Leaves per trip**: related expenses: $30,000; 16%
- **Service-learning trip & Intern program revenue**: $29,092; 16%
- **Corporate Donations**: $7,378; 4%
- **Gift for capital expenses**: $25,000; 13%
- **Grants for documentation work**: $6,543; 3%
- **Miscellaneous income**: $185

**EXPENSES**
- **6% Funding and Administrative Costs**
- **15% Capital purchases**
- **79% Direct Program Expenditures**

**6% Funding and Administrative Costs**
- a) The Learning Center: $75,959; 41%
- b) University Scholarships: $24,539; 13%
- c) Service-learning trips and internships: $13,167; 7%
- d) Outreach: $13,307; 7%
- e) Documentation work: $7,114; 4%
- f) International travel: $1,743; 1%
- g) Capital purchases: a mini-van and three properties in Batey Libertad: $27,313; 15%
- h) Fundraising: $7,330; 4%
- i) Administrative costs: $4,325; 2%

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**A special thank you to all the participants on our service-learning trips from Yale, the University of Delaware, and Brown/Community Health Center**
On November 4th, in collaboration with Peace Corps, Yspaniola welcomed over 40 sixth graders from The Community for Learning, a private school in Santo Domingo. The students spent the afternoon getting to know children from Batey Libertad and learning about life in the community for their fellow Dominicans. We believe that these types of outreach and service-learning initiatives—along with creating access to education for marginalized communities—are essential for sharing an inclusive vision of Dominican citizenship, and will be instrumental for helping bring about long-term and lasting change.

For more information, visit www.yspaniola.org or contact info@yspaniola.org