



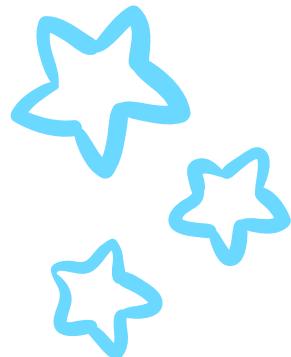
# BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

## THE BATEY LIBERTAD LEARNING CENTER

As the community of Batey Libertad grows and **its needs evolve**, Yspaniola lacks the resources and space to respond. We previously delivered classes in a rented community building with two rudimentary classrooms, but this is now in a state of disrepair.

**We are fundraising \$100,000 to build a brand new, purpose-built and fully equipped Learning Center.**

Your investment in the young minds of Batey Libertad will ensure the future of our literacy programs and **build brighter futures**.





## BATEY LIBERTAD NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Since our inception, Yspaniola has strived to reach as many students as possible. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we served 165 students on a weekly basis. Since the outbreak, we have worked directly with 60 students, and provided other forms of community support.

Now, we are eager to get our operations back to full capacity, and provide in-person classes for all of Batey Libertad's students. This vision can become a reality with the creation of our new Learning Center!

In 2015, we purchased and renovated the building that now houses our preschool, and in 2020 we refurbished a small community home which is now a mini classroom and library. To expand our operations once again, we want to create a new Learning Center! This will be a brand new space for our teachers like Johnny to continue their work - read on for Johnny's inspiring personal story.

# THE CHALLENGE

Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent face a multitude of challenges in the Dominican Republic:

- **Systemic racial discrimination** following decades of state sponsored-migration from Haiti.
- **Issues accessing basic civil and human rights** including the right to education, to travel, to vote, and the right to citizenship.
- **Limited employment opportunities**, mainly non-contracted agricultural and construction work.

The result: a deep-rooted cycle of **intergenerational poverty** prevails, affecting most Batey Libertad families.

Yspaniola **empowers youth** in Batey Libertad to **unlock their full academic potential** and set in motion a future where they can support their families, **advocate for their rights and effect positive social change**.

62.3% of the Dominican population has not acquired basic reading proficiency by the age of 10. This is even higher in rural settings with exacerbated levels of poverty. (MEPyD, 2021)

Since 2013, Yspaniola has helped over 300 children to learn how to read and write!

## THE COMMUNITY : EDUCATING BATEY LIBERTAD

- Located in the rural province of Valverde, Batey Libertad is one of the many bateys where **access to education is an everyday challenge**.
- Yspaniola works with and for the community, to **deliver** high-quality **high-quality literacy classes** to students from kindergarten through high school, and provide **university scholarships**.
- On estimation, around 1,100 people live in the Batey. **Over 300 children are part of our community**, with at least half of them going to public school in a poorly-resourced, **discriminatory environment**.
- This year, children at Batey Libertad's primary school attend just **two half-days of school per week**.



# OUR PROJECT: LEARNING IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

When the construction is completed, our two-story center at the **heart of the community** will have everything our students need to learn. **Let's dream a little!**

The first floor will be occupied by a **classroom**, a **meeting space for tutoring sessions**, and **office space for our teachers and admin team**. A **kitchen** and a **bathroom** will complete this floor.

Upstairs, **two multi-use classrooms** will allow us to teach many more students, while a **computer lab** for local students and our university scholars to accomplish personal work and build their digital literacy.



## ADAPTING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS

The classrooms will be adaptable to different kinds of activities. With the community's numerous and diverse needs, Yspaniola will organize **classes, book clubs, community workshops, extra-curricular activities** and help **engage the families of the Batey in their children's educational journey**.

It is safe to say we want our center to a **welcoming home away from home** for Batey Libertad's youth.

65

Number of students currently enrolled in Yspaniola's programs

170

Number of students that could be enrolled in the New Center through our various activities



# "POSITIVELY IMPACTING MY COMMUNITY"



## JOHNNY'S STORY

When Johnny was just 13 years old, his father left their home, and his Mom began to care for Johnny and his five siblings alone. Relying on an informal job in agriculture, she struggled to pay the bills. Johnny was aware of how hard his mom worked to try and give her family a better future.

Johnny's mom has always been his biggest supporter in his studies, knowing they could change his life.

Johnny loved school, but faced many obstacles, from learning in Spanish while speaking Haitian Creole at home, to being subjected to racist remarks from peers and teachers, and often having to hitch rides to school or walk an hour to get to class when he didn't have bus money.

"I have always wanted to be a part of Yspaniola, so I could play my role in the growth and the development of my community."

- Johnny

In 2021, Johnny became the first member of his family to graduate from university, achieving his dream of a degree in Education.

Since 2018, he has worked as a Teaching Assistant with Yspaniola, and he hopes to continue impacting the youth of Batey Libertad by becoming a teacher.

Johnny feels that education is key to giving children the tools they need to believe in themselves and carve out successful futures!



Building a new Learning Center will allow us to continue working towards our vision where **high-quality education and respect for human rights are a reality for everyone.**

**Your** generosity will make the difference.

Yspaniola has already secured land, right next to our current office in Batey Libertad.

The funds will cover the **construction cost**, plus **some vital operations costs** for the first three months.

**OUR GOAL: \$100,000**

- **\$50,000:** Purchase all the materials we need to build the main structure of the Learning Center
- **\$25,000:** Fund the first three months of classes in our new Learning Center
- **\$17,500:** Pay the local construction workers for the duration of the build
- **\$13,000:** Promote Johnny as a newly qualified Teacher and fund a new Teaching Assistant to replace him in preschool
- **\$10,000:** Fully furnish our staff office and add all the essential final touches ready to welcome students into the classrooms
- **\$5,000:** Fully equip the computer lab in the new center



**Your donation will have a great impact on the youth of Batey Libertad.  
Please consider donating today!**