



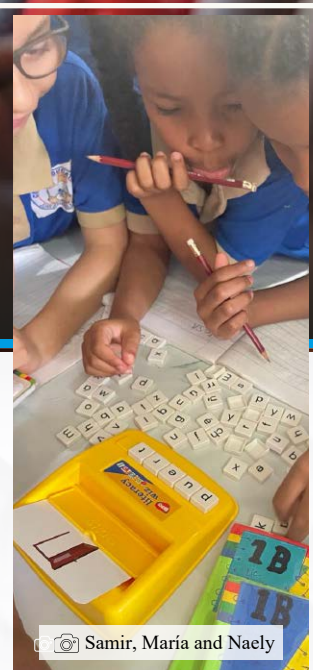
# ANNUAL REPORT

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

# 20 24



Quality Education in the Dominican Republic



📷 Samir, María and Naely



## Dear Friends of Yspaniola,

In the fiscal year of 2023-2024, Yspaniola has faced several challenges, but thanks to our resilient character, we have emerged more potent than ever. Our incredible team of local teachers and administrative personnel have worked together to achieve the results in the following pages.



Day by day, we put in our best efforts to support the children and young people of our communities through our preschool and literacy classes, as well as our ongoing community development projects. We also tirelessly support those struggling with documentation issues and access to basic human needs.

Seeing the strengthening of Yspaniola as an organization has been an immense privilege. In this annual report, you will be able to appreciate the growth of our educational programs in Batey Libertad and Los Mina Sur, the enriching experiences of cultural exchange for university students and other volunteers, and the impact of our documentation project led by Odner Joseph. You will also be able to read about the inspiring stories of our scholarship recipients, Samuel, Rosa, and Odaly, as well as our new staff members.

Furthermore, we have been encouraged to see that Yspaniola's educational model is sustainable and replicable. We have found this to be true in our administration of resources, the continuity of our programs, and perhaps most importantly, as we have seen a new generation of classroom teaching assistants emerge from our educational programs. Guerdy, Wily, and Ketri-na were each students in our Learning Center and are now working to educate and mentor the next generation of Batey Libertad youth. Finally, we see sustainability enacted more literally through our environmental clean-up and educational programming.

There are not enough words to thank you for your trust, support, and commitment to Yspaniola's work.

Thank you for believing in us. Thank you for being part of our family.

*Alejandra García Pérez*  
**Executive Director**





Wilson Wisline and Samuel



Guerdy Ketrina Wily Johnny Mayra and Mariela

# We are Yspaniola

## Our Values

### Equity:

We believe in equitable access to education for all, regardless of socioeconomic background, identity, or status.

### Inclusivity:

We embrace and celebrate the diversity of the communities we serve, focusing on intersectionality.

### Sustainability:

We are committed to creating long-term, community-driven solutions that foster self-reliance and local leadership.

### Empowerment:

We nurture individuals' abilities to achieve academic success and become agents of change in their communities.

### Human Rights:

We advocate for education as a fundamental human right, driving social and economic equity.



Mirian and Toututa



Juan and Odner Joseph



Ana Maria, Danny, and Ingris (Los Mina Sur Team)



# Our University Scholars

## Samuel: New Operations Assistant

Samuel began his journey as an Yspaniola University scholar in 2019. He will be graduating shortly with a degree in Business Administration at the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago (UTESA).

Today, we are very pleased to have him join our local Yspaniola team, supporting the development of projects in Batey Libertad and helping host our intercultural exchange programs. The experience he will gain as our Operations Assistant will complement the final stage of his university education as he prepares to graduate.



Samuel Joseph  
in the Yspaniola Office



## Rosalinda was awarded a Yspaniola scholarship in 2019.

After overcoming various health issues, she has now been able to continue her studies in Foreign Languages. This year, she is also a program coordinator for Blue Missions, a non-profit organization based in Santiago.

We are excited to see Rosa taking off in her career, and we wish her much success in finishing her classes while getting settled into this new role!

## New Scholar: Odaly Soliste

Odaly Soliste is an outstanding fifth (5th) semester university student pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Nursing at the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago (UTESA) in Mao. Her good grades and moving application earned her a spot in our University Scholarship program. **We wish Odaly the most tremendous success.**



Odaly



# Our Educational Impact



## Inauguration of our Montessori Classroom

On March 6th, 2024, with the presence of The Dream Project and Cigar Country, we officially inaugurated our Montessori classroom in Batey Libertad. During the 2023-2024 school year, Yspaniola had a preschool enrollment of 43 students between the ages of 3-6, and this year, we have seen that number grow to 51. We are proud of successfully incorporating the Montessori philosophy into our preschool program, promoting curiosity and autonomous learning.

**43**  
students  
between the  
ages of 3-6

## Promise for the Future:

### Guerdy, Wily, and Ketrina

One of Yspaniola's most significant accomplishments has been witnessing the long-term impact of its efforts. Students who once participated in the organization's literacy program have grown into capable young leaders and now contribute to its mission as educational assistants.

Among them are Guerdy, Wily, and Ketrina, whose journeys embody the transformative power of education and community investment.

They are a living example of the transformative power of education. We are very proud of them and we know that their commitment to their community and the betterment of themselves will set them up for very bright futures.



Left Photo: Miguel Angel, Alma, Alaisha, Hailey, Isleily, Anyelo and Guerdy, supporting the Food Program in the Preschool. Middle Photo: Yefrie, Mairo, Fritzderjhi, Karina and Wily teaching a literacy class in the Learning Center. Right Photo: Bianca, Elvis, Bikolson, Ronalson and Ketrina supporting the preschool teachers as a classroom assistant.



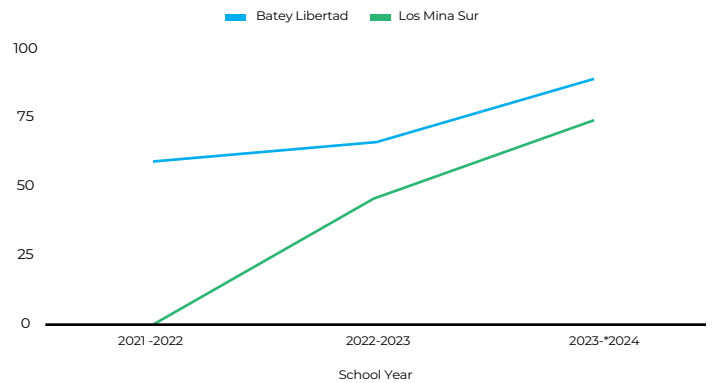
# Educational Programs and Nutritional Support: The Data

📷 Nazli, Biverlande, Elvis, Darienson, Aisha and Roslande eating a healthy snack

The following graph demonstrates the growth of the population served in Batey Libertad and Los Mina Sur in the last three years.

School Year	Batey Libertad	Los Mina Sur
2021-2022	59	0
2022-2023	66	45
2023-2024	69	74

Population Served



In Batey Libertad:

**123** days of class  
**89** students receiving a daily snack

In Los Minas Sur

**118** days of class  
**74** students receiving a daily snack

## Literacy Program in Batey Libertad

In the 2023-2024 school year, our Batey Libertad Learning Center had 32 students in three different classes: Introduction to Reading, Basic Reading, and Reading and Grammar.

## Average reading levels per class

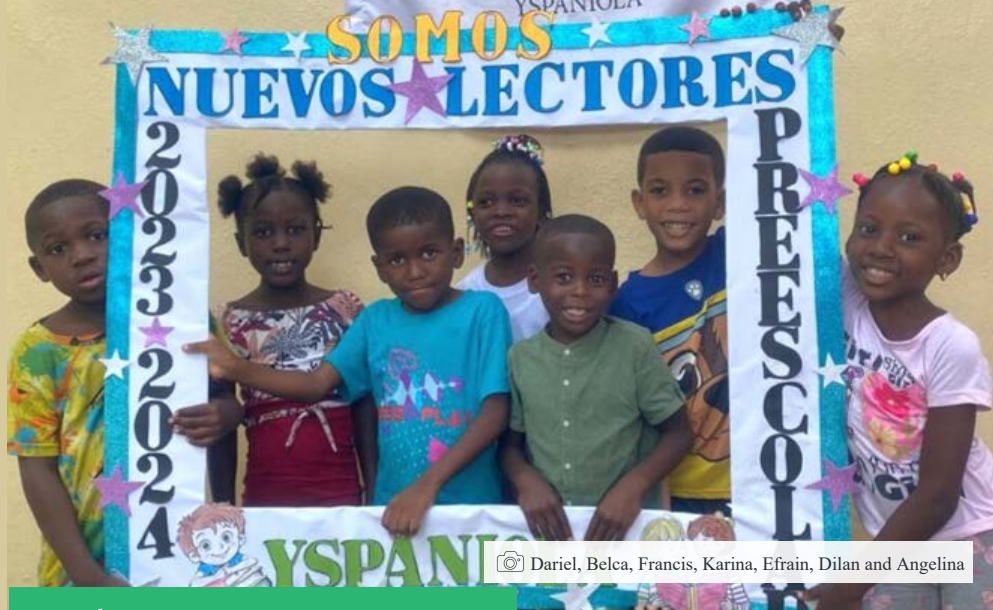
Class	Sept 2023	Jan 2024	Jun 2024
Star reading o Beginners	0	AA-B	A-F
Reading tutoring	AA-A	AA-B	A-F
Reading and grammar	A-F	D-H	F-J

As can be seen in the table above, all groups advanced on the Reading A-Z scale, with the lowest reading level being AA and the highest being Z.

For the first time in Yspaniola's history,

**9 out of 11 children in our 6-7 age group**

became readers between January 2024 to June 2024.







Daniel, Belca, Francis, Karina, Efrain, Dilan and Angelina

## Literacy Program in Los Mina Sur

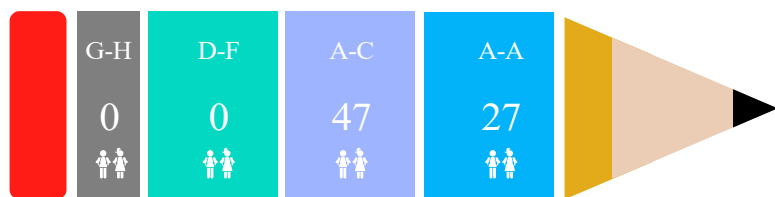
For the second consecutive year, 3rd graders at Juan Bautista Zafra School significantly improved their reading skills. See the comparative results from October 2023 to April 2024 in the graphics below.



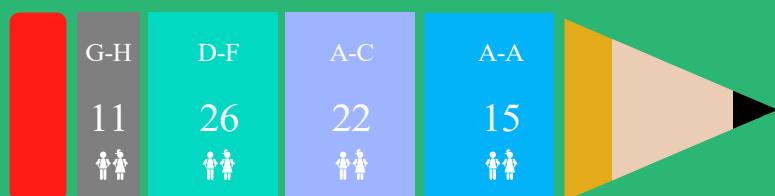
Yeico

Reading Levels	Oct 23	Apr 24
 <b>Kinder garden • Level AA</b>	27	15
 <b>First grade • A- C Level</b>	47	22
 <b>Secon grade • D-F</b>	0	26
 <b>Third Grade • G-H</b>	0	11

### Reading Levels Oct 23



### Reading Levels Apr 24



Dylan, Aaron, Elian (front line), Keuris, Angel and Aidel (back line).





# Experiential and Intercultural Learning:

## Building Bonds of Friendship with B3

The visits from volunteers and students, particularly the cultural exchange which defines these visits, is incredibly impactful for both the participants and the members of the Batey Libertad community. This year, thanks to the support of Builders Beyond Borders (B3), a group of volunteer high school students were able to build toilets in the garden where our new Montessori preschool operates.

For 10 days, the host mothers of Batey Libertad prepared meals and beds for the volunteers. Furthermore, many young people from the Batey joined the construction efforts. The teamwork of the community and B3 was essential to completing this project effectively.



Cooper Schleaf



Elianny and Bella Baltierra

## Getting to Know the Dominican Republic Through Community Service

In March, April, and May, we received visits from students from Yale University, St. John's University, and Georgetown University, respectively. During their stays, they were able to spend time with the residents of Batey Libertad and Los Mina Sur, visit historical sites in Santiago de los Caballeros and Santo Domingo, as well as learn about the challenges that Dominicans of Haitian descent are facing in the current political climate.

In addition, Trinity School students joined us for their third consecutive virtual workshop, where we discussed what life is like in Batey Libertad with presentations from the local Yspaniola team.



Students from Yale are preparing to work on the Preschool Garden.



Students from Georgetown line up in teams for Sports Day.



Students from St. John's celebrate the Dominican Republic's independence day in Esperanza.







Yale Student and Robert



Nataly, Beatrice, and Samanta

## Environmental Sustainability

### Environmental Sanitation Day

On May 10th, we hosted a community clean-up day in which members of the Batey Libertad community collaborated with the Maizal City Council and the Environmental Department to help remove litter from the community's streets.

The following month, in June, a community committee was formed to help maintain the cleanliness of the environment and work towards improved waste management systems in the community.

At the same time, Yale University students who visited Batey Libertad led a project to implement new community gardens in the preschool and next door to Yspaniola's administrative office.



Bianca

## Summer Camp

In July, we hosted a summer camp for the children of Batey Libertad. This year, we decided to focus specifically on raising awareness among children about the importance of recycling and caring for the environment.

To do so, the children learned how to care for the new community gardens, participated in the Environmental Sanitation Day, and did readings and other activities related to the topic.



Rubends, Belca and Angelina



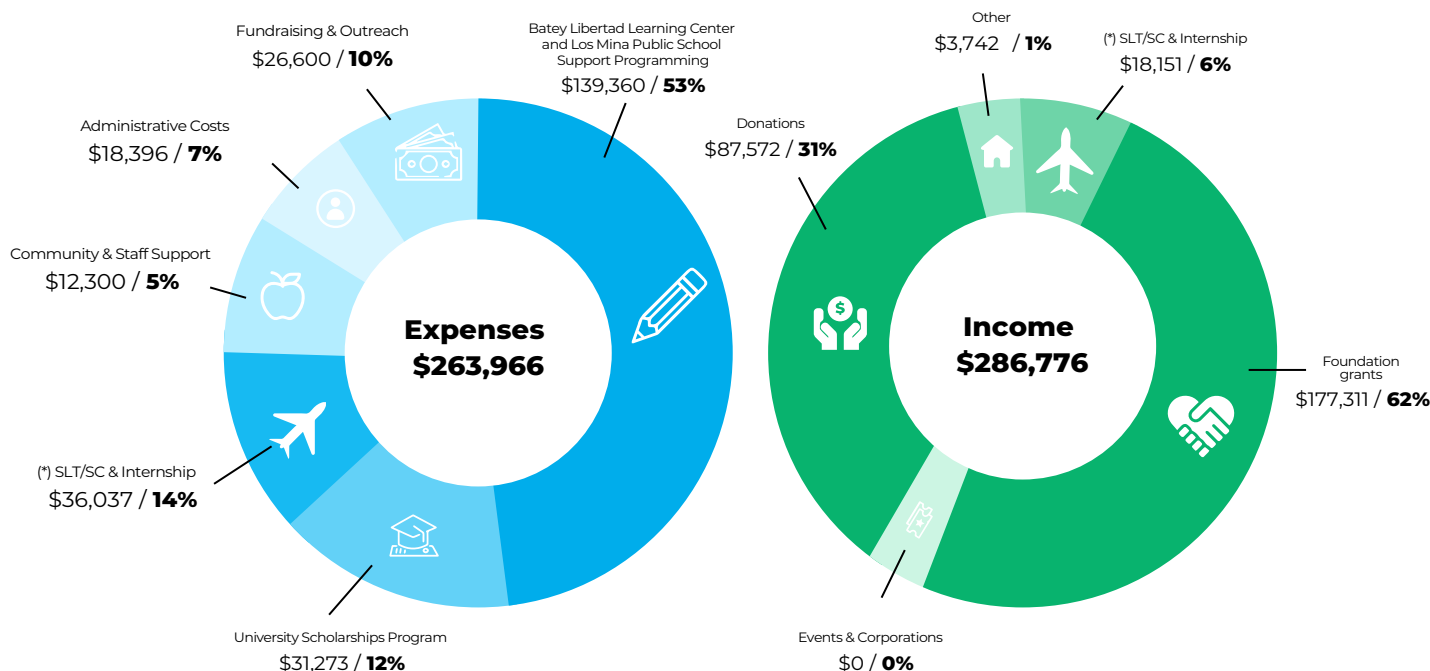
David







# Financials



Fiscal year October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024

## Thank you for making our work possible!

### The Yspaniola Circle (\$10,000+)

Anonymous  
Builders Beyond Borders  
Essex Avenue Foundation  
Kuehn Davis Family Fund of the Ayco  
Charitable Foundation  
Stephen Wirth

### The Learning Center Circle (\$2000-\$9000)

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Charlotte Castillo  
Drs. Cynthia and Kaku So-Armah  
Daniel Horowitz and Brigitte  
Reisman Moreno  
Humberstone International, Inc.  
Jonathan DiMaio and Cory Fox  
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St. John's University  
Tanya Martinez  
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Shelton, Scott, Amma, and Gabriel  
Oakley Hersey  
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Sophia De La Cruz  
Drs. Simeon Kimmel and Davida  
Schiff  
Stephanie Hoos  
Stephen Pilcher





Tamzen Flanders and Karl Kirchwey  
The Ithaca Alumni Chapter of Delta  
Sigma Theta Sorority  
Trinity School  
Wendy Reynoso

### **The Esperanza Circle (\$1-\$199)**

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Thomas Auflick  
Troy Elder  
Vivian Lord  
W. Gerald McElroy and Family  
Yolanda Leon  
Zachary Denton

### **VOLUNTEER AND IN-KIND SUPPORTERS**

Eliza Patterson, Katie Ahern, Roger Berry Boden Impresos R&R, Morel Supermarket.

### **Special thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors:**

Cynthia So-Armah (Chairwoman), Charlotte Castillo, Cory Anne Fox, Diego Cuesy, Elisa Istueta, Gerald McElroy, Jonathan DiMaio, Lucas Alvarez, Maria Lopez-Bresnahan, Sarah Kabay, Silvio Torres-Saillant (Honorary Chairman), Stephen Wirth, Tanya Martinez-Gallinucci.

Your generosity makes  
our work possible



Hailey, Miguel Ángel, and Isaías

