



# YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

## León, Matagalpa, Nicaragua

Community(s):	El Trohilo (León), El Castillo (Matagalpa)
Partner:	CEPAD, Yale School of Nursing
Projects:	Athletics, arts and education, construction and water filters, business consulting, medical and public health
# Volunteers:	2012 (60) Trip Producer: Connie Spencer '82 MArch 2013 (58) Trip Producer: Crystal Astrachan '04 2014 (56) Trip Producer: Nadya Zawrocki

YASC organized three service trips to Nicaragua in the communities of El Castillo and El Trohilo, which are located outside the cities of León and Matagalpa. The goal of these service trips was to enhance the Yale School of Nursing's public health activities while offering support in education and construction. The trips were organized in collaboration with CEPAD, an organization that works with poor communities in situations of risk, promoting justice, peace, and equitable solidarity. We also partnered with the Yale School of Nursing to provide a comprehensive health evaluation including growth monitoring, family, social, and medical histories, a complete physical examination and vision and developmental screening. Classes were conducted for the teachers and parents about management of common health conditions such as asthma, GI issues and skin problems. Health promotion activities focused on hygiene, nutrition, and safety. Significant health problems identified during these visits such as heart defects, respiratory conditions, severe growth problems and visual deficits were then referred to local health care providers for evaluation and follow-up. These activities were complemented by medical clinics consisting of nurses, physicians, physician assistants and pharmacists to provide clinical and diagnostic services to these communities which have limited access to medical care. Medical volunteers focused on preventative health education, clinical home/community assessment and support for specific families. YASC also organized projects in educational and creative arts enrichment, construction and installation of water filters, and athletics.

### About the community(s):

El Castillo (2012), is an under-served community in the mountains surrounding the vibrant town of Matagalpa in the coffee district. These small remote villages lack clean water, medical care, and educational opportunities. El Trohilo (2013, 2014), is a small marginal community located on the outskirts of the city of León, which is surrounded by sugar cane fields.