



# YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

## Monterrey, Mexico

Community(s):	Alianza Real, Unidad Piloto
Partner:	Tecnológico de Monterrey, Social Development Council (Secretaría de Desarrollo Social), Institute for Sustainable Social Development (IDeSS) of Monterrey
Projects:	Athletics, creative arts, business consulting, construction, educational enrichment, medical clinics, public health
# Volunteers:	2009 (54) Trip Producer: YAA 2010 (62) Trip Producer: YAA

YASC organized two service trips to Monterrey in the communities of Alianza Real and Unidad Piloto, which are located outside of the city of Monterrey. Yale has a partnership with the University Tecnológico de Monterrey and the Consejo de Desarrollo Social—the social services institute for the Mexican state of Nuevo León—enabling us to develop an array of tremendous volunteer opportunities. In these early YASC trips, there was great engagement for Yale alumni and students, and we worked side by side with Monterrey Tech students and local volunteers to provide assistance to these communities. The goal of these service trips was to provide crucial community development, enrichment programs, and medical care for two underserved communities in and around the city of Monterrey. Service projects ranged from athletics camps in soccer and other sports; education including an intensive children’s program and adult classes in areas such as music, dance, crafts, visual arts, literacy, creative writing, and theater; small business consulting services in marketing, accounting, design, asset building, and related fields with adults who were eager to learn small business management skills. Our business volunteers taught local client’s strategies to manage their finances and work competitively at selling their goods and services in the local marketplace. Clients in this program represented a wide range of businesses, from printing to craftsmanship, beauty salons, and entertainment; construction and public works to improve homes and public spaces in the neighborhood; medical clinics to provide clinical and diagnostic services to these communities who have little or no access to medical care. Our medical volunteers focused on community health education and clinical home/community assessment and support for specific families, as well as public health projects designed to increase the awareness of public health, hygiene, and basic first aid. Specialized volunteers assisted our local partners with data collection and assessment of family health needs.

## About the community(s):

Alianza Real and Unidad Piloto, located outside of the city of Monterrey, were eager for assistance with medical care, educational enrichment, small business consulting, and basic construction. Monterrey is one of Mexico’s wealthiest cities; it is a financial and manufacturing center, sometimes called the “Pittsburgh of Mexico” because of its steel industry. For this reason, it has attracted millions of migrant workers in search of jobs from the south and west of Mexico. The community centers we worked in are in some of the poorest neighborhoods around Monterrey—cut off from the prosperity that prevails in much of the city. Residents in these neighborhoods cherish the Consejo’s community centers and programs as a critical alternative to the threat of drugs, gang culture, and social evils that are typical for impoverished urban areas.