



YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Community(s): Rio Claro
Partner: Instituto Terra
Projects: Sustainability, reforestation, community gardens, school recycling, business, legal, environment, entrepreneurship, sanitation, public health
Volunteers: 2009 (12) Trip Producer: YAA

YASC's inaugural service trip to Brazil took place in 2009 in the community of Rio Claro located about two hours outside the city of Rio de Janeiro. Organized in collaboration with our key ground partner Instituto Terra whose mission is to spread awareness and knowledge of biodiversity conservation, agroforestry and sustainable development, our volunteers, along with a small group of Harvard alumni, engaged in service projects including planting trees to help reverse the degradation of the Atlantic Forest, working with local families to create community vegetable gardens, implementing entrepreneurial initiatives designed to economically empower local communities through their crafts, and educating the local community to improve sanitation, hygiene, and health among residents. They also met with local Yale and Harvard alumni, as well as leading private sector organizations active in sustainable development and governmental representatives in the Rio Claro region.

About the community:

Rio Claro is a former coffee-cultivating community located in the interior of Rio de Janeiro. It is now a trade and processing center for an agricultural region producing sugarcane, oranges, and other crops.