



YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

San Juan de Maguana, Dominican Republic

Community(s):	Las Charcas de Gabarito
Partner:	Cambiando Vidas
Projects:	Athletics, business consulting, construction and public works, creative arts, educational enrichment, medical clinics
# Volunteers:	2011 (91) Trip Producer: Connie Spencer '82 MArch

YASC organized its second service trip to the Dominican Republic in 2011 in the small satellite community of Las Charcas de Gabarito, which is located outside of the city of San Juan de Maguana. The program was organized in collaboration with Cambiando Vidas, a U.S.-based organization building international partnerships through the construction of houses for financially troubled families in the Dominican Republic. Cambiando Vidas is dedicated to the belief that every human being should have access to all of life's essentials – shelter, food, clothing, education, and the opportunity to realize one's full potential and ambitions. The goal of the service trip was to build a new house in only five days and offer a wide array of service projects in medical care (clinical and preventative), dance, sports, the arts, education, and business consulting to this community and others nearby. We set up programs in the existing clinic, nearby open pavilions, the community center, a computer lab, and the elementary school. Our sports clinics were located in the school's basketball court and a large baseball/soccer field within walking distance of the town square.

About the community:

The small satellite community of Las Charcas de Gabarito is a marginal community located in a beautiful valley bordered by the Cordillera Central Mountain range and only a short bus ride from San Juan de Maguana. The residents of Las Charcas were in need of the basics of life that we take for granted – education, clean water, medical care, and safe shelter.