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William Jefferson Clinton, former US President, September 10, 2005.*

## **BATEY RELIEF ALLIANCE 2009 ANNUAL (WORK) REPORT**

*Toward human productivity and dignity. Hacia la productividad y dignidad humana.  
Vers la productivité et la dignité humaine.*



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## **THE BATEY RELIEF ALLIANCE**

[www.bateyrelief.org](http://www.bateyrelief.org)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Founded in 1997, the Batey Relief Alliance (BRA) works collaboratively to create a productive and self-sufficient environment, through humanitarian health and development programs, for children and their families severely affected by poverty, disease and hunger in the Caribbean.

### **VISION**

We strive to be a leader organization, with the capacity, transparency, and wisdom to confront the challenges facing humanity.

### **VALUES**

We bring people together, alleviate sufferings, and save lives, regardless of race, sex, creed, religion, national origin, social status, or political affiliation.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Our fundamental objectives are to 1) improve the conditions of those affected by marginality and neglect, 2) educate, train and organize about relevant issues affecting them in order to cause sustainable, positive and responsible changes in their lives, where the community, the government, and others involved internationally are bone fide partners, and 3) act boldly to preserve our existence.

### **REPORT CONTENTS**

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- Message from the Founder/CEO
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## **2009 HIGHLIGHT**

**Expanding our mission from the bateyes to the border regions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic**



## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER/CEO



Last year, my founder's message celebrated the successful completion of Project CONECTA, a three-year partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that strengthened the Batey Relief Alliance's capacity to fight HIV and AIDS inside vulnerable and impoverished batey communities—where the HIV/AIDS rate was considered the highest in the Dominican Republic.

This year, I would like to share with you a new beginning for the BRA: our expansion from the bateyes to the border regions of Haiti with the Dominican Republic.

In border communities of Anse-à-Pitres, Haiti and Pedernales, Dominican Republic where, as in the bateyes, the populations are isolated from most state support and live in extreme poverty, BRA has planted the seeds for a long-term bi-national healthcare and economic development intervention. We have mobilized new and current partners, including USAID, Vitamins Angels, Direct Relief International, United Natural Foods Inc., and Rotary International to expand our micronutrient/deworming and nutrition programs, build a new water purification center, and organize free dental and medical mission trips. We have also submitted proposals to develop a Women's Economic Empowerment Program providing microcredit loans and training and improving financial stability for 600 women in Haiti. And soon, we hope to sign a partnership agreement with Haiti's Ministry of Health to deliver improved and sustainable health services inside Anse-a-Pitres.

Expanding our mission from the bateyes to the border regions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic is a strategic necessity that implicates a new form of thinking and bona fide binational partnerships in order to address the dire need of people who are so different culturally and yet interconnected at a poverty level. This is just the first step toward bringing to the border the same socio-economic and health services that we already provide in the bateyes.

As we take on this new endeavor, however, more funding will be needed. The generous support of donors like you has allowed us to strengthen our base even as we expand our horizons. Your continued support is essential to our continued success.

I thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

Ulrick Gaillard, J.D.

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## PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

As we do each year, we share with you our Annual (Work) Report that summarizes our overall program accomplishments and activities during the year to fulfill our commitment to those we serve and that support us. A full Annual Report of the organization made of a summary of program and financial activities will be made available for your review the following year by visiting our website at <http://www.bateyrelief.org/about/financial-accountability>.

We hope you will be pleased with our work results and continue to contribute to our cause. Should you have any questions or need further information about this report, please do not hesitate to contact us at [bra@bateyrelief.org](mailto:bra@bateyrelief.org). To learn more about the Batey Relief Alliance, visit our website at [www.bateyrelief.org](http://www.bateyrelief.org).

### INTRODUCTION TO BRA'S HUMANITARIAN WORK

#### OVERVIEW OF A PROVEN MODEL—THE ORGANIZATION

THE BATEY RELIEF ALLIANCE (BRA) was founded and incorporated in 1997 in the state of New York, United States of America, under the Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c) (3), designating BRA as a tax-exempt, non-profit, humanitarian aid organization.

BRA's work addresses the difficult socio-economic and health conditions of children and their families severely affected by poverty, disease and hunger in the Caribbean – regardless of race, sex, creed, religion, national origin, social status, or political affiliations. Toward that end, BRA created in 2000 a regional project-based branch in the Dominican Republic (DR), BRA DOMINICANA, a legally-incorporated non-governmental organization (NGO) designed to support the BRA in carrying out its humanitarian mission inside the DR's most vulnerable and impoverished communities like the *bateyes*<sup>1</sup>, rural slums and urban *barrios*, as well as border localities with the Republic of Haiti. BRA has started the legal process to establish a second regional branch in Haiti, BRA HAITI, supporting further its humanitarian work inside the country's vulnerable border regions<sup>2</sup>.

BRA has a Board of Directors in the USA that meets at least three times a year to run the legal and policy affairs of the organization. BRA Dominicana has its own local Board of Directors and an Executive Director that work together to manage the programmatic, financial and administrative affairs of the local organization. BRA Dominicana runs the entire field operation for the BRA in the DR; this work includes raising local funds, operating and staffing our offices in Santo Domingo and two clinics in the province of Monte Plata, and implementing projects and carrying out mission trips in various communities. The BRA Board of Directors in the US, however, is the ultimate body deciding on policy affairs of the entire institution.

BRA has a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who is responsible for overseeing, mobilizing public resources for, and marketing the work of the institution.<sup>3</sup> He oversees the entire field operation and management, thus ensuring the sustainability and growth of the institution. BRA secures donations in the United States that are cash and/or in-kind donations. Most cash gifts are from individual donors, international organizations, foundations, and the US government. In-kind donations mainly are from international aid groups. When non-restricted cash is received, it is used to sustain the *virtual*<sup>4</sup> operation of the BRA in New York, sustain part of BRA Dominicana's programmatic expenses in the DR, and implement projects. All restricted funds are transferred entirely to BRA Dominicana to implement projects overseas. BRA Dominicana puts all funds received in bank accounts, registers them in its accounting books, implements the projects, and sends out reports to funders, donors, volunteers and supporters.

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<sup>1</sup> Sugar cane plantations rural enclaves where Haitian migrant sugar cane cutters and their Dominican descendants labor and live.

<sup>2</sup> BRA is currently working with Haiti's Ministry of Health and international partners to expand its humanitarian work at border community of Anse-a-Pitres.

<sup>3</sup> The institution includes the Batey Relief Alliance, BRA Dominicana, BRA Haiti, and US-based chapters.

<sup>4</sup> The Batey Relief Alliance does not have a physical office in New York, nor do we use much paper to do our work. Our system of operation is completely virtual, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly.



BRA Dominicana is BRA's principal consignee to receive containers of in-kind donations (medicines, medical supplies, and equipment) needed to deliver critical health care and essential medicines to the poor in the DR. All BRA's patients receive low-cost or free medical consultations, along with free donated medicines, eyeglasses, nutrition supplements and multivitamins. A portion of these donations, however, is sometimes distributed to key BRA local NGO and government partner organizations, including the Ministry of Health, helping to raise their capacity to deliver improved health services at various impoverished communities around the country – thus expanding BRA's humanitarian effort. BRA has a strict policy, however, of not selling or exchanging donated products that are designated for specific projects. BRA Dominicana's Board of Directors and Executive Director maintain a strict day-to-day control over the local organization's management of donated funds and in-kind gifts, accounting, and projects' implementation.

### THE BRA INTERVENTION

BRA's humanitarian intervention targets two countries in the Caribbean—the Dominican Republic (DR) and Haiti, which share the island of Hispaniola with distinct historical, socio-economic, cultural and political realities. While Haiti is considered the poorer nation, the DR struggles economically, despite its fast growing tourist industry, with approximately one third of the population living below the poverty line.<sup>5</sup> Like in many developing countries, the majority of the wealth lies in the hands of a small elite class, leaving the great majority of the population and the government facing serious economic challenges. 200,000 to 1 million people, or approximately 7-10% percent of the DR population, live in deep rural plantations communities called *bateyes* that were originally developed as Haitian migrant worker enclaves around the sugarcane industry. Today, these communities remain, although much of the sugarcane production has been drastically diminished in or removed from the country. The *bateyes* are some of the poorest and most vulnerable in the DR, with a long history of neglect and isolation from state resources. Many residents, who are mostly Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin, lack documentation and access to employment, clean water, sanitation, health care, education, and other social services.

Since 2000, BRA Dominicana worked directly within the *bateyes*, delivering critical health care and essential medicines and other social services from its two medical clinics located inside the impoverished communities. BRA's pioneer approach to health care, *bringing services home to the population inside their own communities*, is a system that has never before been implemented in DR's deep rural areas. Moreover, BRA's community-based health promoters make BRA's healthcare more accessible, utilizing residents as educators and health care providers. The promoters provide education, counseling and referrals to BRA's health services; as well as making home visits and providing follow-up care to patients.

BRA Dominicana's staff includes 37 full-time and part-time employees and more than 75 volunteers (visiting annually) who work at the two clinics in Monte Plata providing primary and specialty care, maintain a running operation at the central office in Santo Domingo, and carry out numerous community projects in preventive health and health care. BRA's main programs work in HIV/AIDS, blindness prevention, nutrition, maternal-infant health, water/sanitation, multivitamin/deworming, microcredit, agricultural development, and disaster relief, extending outside of the *bateyes* into urban slums, rural impoverished communities, and border localities.

BRA is making preparations to open a new office and already implementing new projects (water/sanitation, multivitamin/nutrition, Health and HIV/AIDS care) in the Dominican southeastern province of Pedernales, along the border with Haiti, which is a region with critical needs due to its isolation from main city centers of the country. Together, Haiti and the DR comprise three quarters of all cases of HIV infection in the Caribbean.<sup>6</sup> Just across the border from Pedernales is Anse-a-Pitres—a Haitian commune similarly marginalized from state resources.

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, with over 80% of the population living on less than two (2) US dollars a day.<sup>7</sup> Haiti and the DR share a reality of poverty that cannot improve without major interventions on both sides of the border. In 2008, BRA also expanded into Anse-a-Pitres, and has the support of Haiti's Ministry of Health to potentially renovate and equip an existing medical clinic with highly-trained and dedicated health care professionals, including a network of health promoters that will expand BRA's work into the greater region of Anse-a-Pitres and Pedernales.

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<sup>5</sup> USAID 2000, [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)

<sup>6</sup> "AIDS epidemic update" Dec. 2007. UNAIDS and World Health Organization.

<sup>7</sup> "Food riots turn deadly in Haiti," BBC News, 5 Apr. 2008, <[news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/americas/7331921.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/americas/7331921.stm)>



## WHERE BRA WORKS

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** Monte Cristi, Puerto Plata, Independencia, Hato Mayor, San Pedro de Macorís, Dajabón, Jimaní, Monte Plata, La Romana, Pedernales, Elias Piña, Barahona and Santo Domingo.

**REPUBLIC OF HAITI:** Southeastern Department, District of Grande Anse, Commune of Anse-a-Pitres.

**UNITED STATES:** Brooklyn, New York



## BRA'S INTERVENTION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### SUMMARY RESULTS OF HEALTH CARE INTERVENTION: JULY 2008-JUNE 2009

- 35,307 individuals received direct medical, eye and dental care, medical donations, counseling and education, vocational training.
- 71,106 individuals benefited from awareness raising and community improvement programs.
- 56,500 children (2-12 years of age) received micronutrients and anti-parasite medications.
- 19,600 educational flyers, posters and other educational media were distributed.
- 1,500 people benefited from water and sanitation projects (received water filters, personal hygiene products, school and home supplies)
- 418 HIV-positive patients received antiretroviral treatment and medical follow-up at through BRA's Comprehensive Attention Service.
- 525 workshops and educational meetings were carried out in rural communities and bateyes.
- 9,833 HIV tests with pre- and post-test counseling.
- 10,200 condoms were distributed to young people and adults.
- 8,235 children, elderly people, pregnant women, and HIV/AIDS patients were reached by nutritional aid.

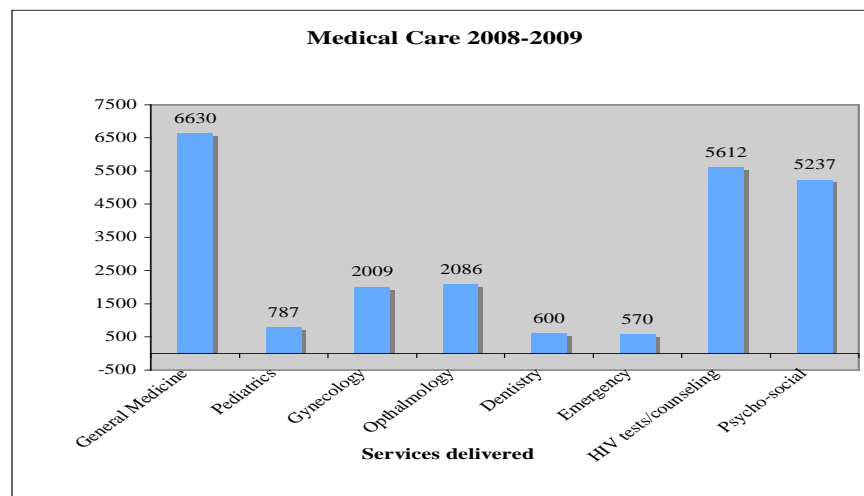
### HEALTHCARE SERVICES (Province of Monte Plata)

**BRA's Medical Clinic** has been relocated from Batey Cojobal to Batey Las Taranas in the deep rural municipality of Sabana Grande de Boyá. The clinic now functions as an extension of the BRA Medical Center providing medical support to a wider population. The Clinic delivers health services in primary and specialty care, including pediatrics, gynecology, optometry, and HIV/AIDS prevention. Individuals pay a nominal or no fee for consultations and receive all medications, glasses, and supplementary nutrition free of charge. The clinic is open year-round, five days a week, with a full-time staff of two medical doctors, an HIV counselor, one administrative assistant, and two health promoters. Pap smears are performed on Wednesdays, while optometry care is provided on Thursdays. All laboratory tests are sent to the fully-equipped laboratory at



BRA's Medical Center, located approximately one hour away from the Clinic. Doctors at the Clinic attend to a wide variety of medical conditions, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, sexually-transmitted infections, fungal infections, diabetes, hypertension, malnutrition, parasites, chronic headaches, bronchitis, skin sores, back pain, colds, and fever. They also provide prenatal care and counseling for pregnant women, including multivitamins and nutritional supplements. BRA is soliciting funds to expand the Clinic's capacity to include several additional consult rooms, a waiting room, bathrooms, and a reception area. This expansion is greatly needed as services have grown tremendously since the clinic's opening in 2003.

**BRA's Medical Center** was opened for full service in 2006, located inside Batey Cinco Casas of the Municipal District of Don Juan. The Center is the most modern medical facility in the region of Monte Plata and inside any batey since the creation of the sugar plantations in the 1800s. The facility includes a main medical building with six consultation rooms, a fully-equipped laboratory, a reception and registration center, administrative offices, and an emergency ward. Off of the main building is a large warehouse for storage of donations, a fully stocked pharmacy, a volunteer/medical dormitory, a playground and garden, as well as a building for education and training seminars. The center employs a staff of 21<sup>8</sup>, including several physicians, a psychologist, an ophthalmologist, two dentists, several nurses, bioanalysts, technical assistants, receptionists, pharmacy workers, volunteers, community health promoters, and a clinic administrator. The center is open year-round, five days a week, providing services in general medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, ophthalmology, dentistry, emergency medicine, laboratory testing, and counseling. Medical consults are provided for a nominal fee, which can be waived for individuals who are unable to pay. All medications, glasses, and supplementary nutrition are supplied free. BRA also maintains a Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Unit within the Center, which provides free confidential testing, counseling, and treatment services for impoverished batey residents. In 2008, new electrocardiogram machines were installed and are currently providing EKG tests to patients. And in June 2009, an ultrasound machine was also installed, which is currently one of the few machines available in the region.

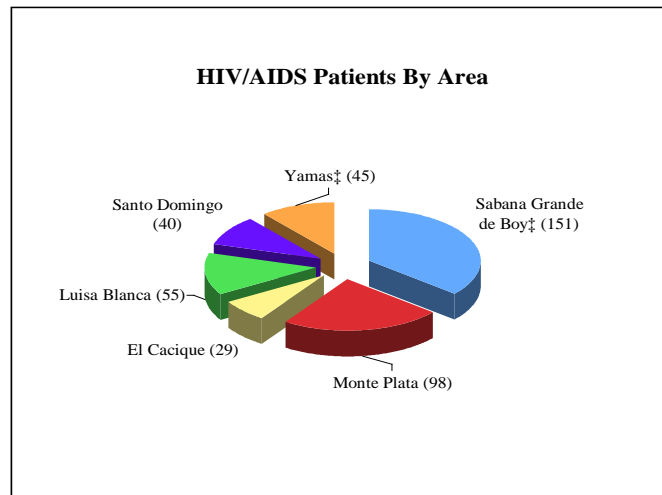


#### OTHER ASPECTS OF BRA'S HEALTH CARE INTERVENTION

##### HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment

BRA receives funding and technical assistance from the Clinton Foundation's HIV/AIDS Initiative as well as support from the Dominican's Ministry of Health-Directorate for the Control of Sexually-transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS (DIGECITTS) to provide free HIV counseling, testing, antiretroviral (ARV) treatment, and follow-up care for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Such intervention takes place through BRA's HIV Care and Treatment Unit based at its medical center inside batey Cinco Casas in the province of Monte Plata. Currently, 418 PLWHA are receiving at BRA's medical center ARV treatment, medications to fight opportunistic infections and follow-up care. As part of this program, approximately 900 home visits were carried out by 60 BRA health promoters who work closely with patients to ensure treatment adherence and healthy living conditions. This large increase in home visits is part of a new and ongoing intensive support program—carried out by BRA health promoters and physicians—to ensure the survival of the patients in the most vulnerable state.

<sup>8</sup> More than half of the personal comes from or lives in the bateyes.



#### **Protection against of HIV/AIDS and STDs**

This program provides information, education, and access to low-cost condoms for those living in the bateyes or at most risk of contraction, and utilizes the youth and community-based health promoters to do so. At the center of these education effort is an educational soap opera “Love at the Batey,” which was produced by BRA partner, The Population Services International (PSI). It is a series composed of 12 episodes, each of which deals with various issues surrounding health, sanitation, condom use, and HIV/AIDS prevention. BRA has done showing nights throughout 32 bateyes, and at the end of each session, a question and answer period follows to ensure the message is clearly understood. Over 200 people have been reached.

#### **Community Capacity Building to Stop HIV/AIDS**

This program is part of the Dominican National Plan to fight and control HIV/AIDS, for which, the Presidential Council on AIDS (COPRESIDA) is the beneficiary of a Global Fund grant to coordinate strategies to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the DR. Thus, the creation of Alianza Bateyes, of which BRA is a member, is an effort coordinated by COPRESIDA to address the critical AIDS situation inside the bateyes from a community-based standpoint, where NGOs, like BRA, are key players in the fight against AIDS and HIV. BRA health promoters raised awareness with posters and fliers, stocked local corner stores with condoms, and conducted workshops, educational lectures, and community gatherings. More than 10,000 individuals have been reached through 3,746 home visits, 396 HIV tests, counseling for 11 HIV-positive patients, 120 educational talks, 5 workshops for health workers, 500 pre-packaged therapies for sexually transmitted diseases, and the free distribution of 9,000 condoms.

#### **Strengthen DR response to HIV/AIDS**

In partnership with the IDCP (Insituto Dermatológico y Cirugía del Piel), BRA Dominicana is now involved in a new five-year (2009-2015) health initiative, funded by the Global Fund, to strengthen the country’s prevention-oriented response to fight HIV and AIDS among the poorest of the population. The objective is to reduce morbidity and mortality among people living with HIV/AIDS.

#### **HIV/AIDS Preventive Health Education for immigrants (US)**

The New York State Department of Health—AIDS Institute (DOH) funded the Batey Relief Alliance (BRA) to carry out HIV/AIDS awareness and education for immigrant populations living in Brooklyn’s impoverished sections of Flatbush. Information is transmitted through radio air waves, and after each session, listeners are provided with phone numbers and referrals to receive HIV/AIDS-related materials, testing, condoms or treatment. This year, BRA has partnered with DIASPORA COMMUNITY SERVICES to improve its community health initiative in New York.

#### **Increased Support for HIV/AIDS Intervention**

With the end of the 3-year CONECTA project in HIV/AIDS supported by the USAID, BRA is in a difficult to continue this project without adequate financial support. Ongoing collaboration with the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative and the Dominican’s Ministry of Health support BRA in providing free antiretroviral therapy and medicines to people living with HIV/AIDS, while BRA continues to provide free counseling, medical care, medications, vitamins, and supplementary nutrition. Moreover,

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*Bill J. Clinton, former US President, September 10, 2005.*



many of BRA's promoters are capacitated in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, allowing them to provide better care to patients. However, BRA cannot continue providing community workshops and training on prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and TB, nor can we support monthly home visits to the beneficiaries. Furthermore, BRA's staff in HIV/AIDS and TB faces financial cut-backs and loss of incentives when funding is insufficient. HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis continue to be of serious concerns affecting the health of individuals living in the bateyes. BRA cannot afford to lose these programs when its beneficiary communities need them so much.

### Child Healthcare and Deworming

With the support of Vitamin Angel Alliance (VAA), BRA is distributing multivitamins and anti-parasitic medications to over 55,000 children in twenty-one municipalities in the DR, located throughout the provinces of Hato Mayor, La Romana, Santo Domingo, Barahona, San Pedro de Macoris, Monte Plata, Sánchez Ramírez, Sabana Grande de Boyá, Puerto Plata, Monte Cristi, Samaná, Santiago, Dajabón, Elías Piña, Jimaní, Independencia, and Pedernales and the commune of Anse-à-Pitres, Haiti. The project began in 2007 and will continue for at least three more years. The goal is to maintain the health of children by first de-worming them through bi-annual anti-parasite treatments, and then providing them with consistent micro-nutrition through multivitamins. Many of the children and their families are also receiving food rations from the BRA-USAID Food Distribution Program. BRA distributes vitamins and anti-parasite medications to 3,100 children in the provinces of Monte Plata and Sánchez Ramírez. Through its collaborations with various local partner NGOs and governmental institutions (including El Buen Samaritano, Fundación Salud y Bienestar (Fusabi), Colectivo de Salud Popular (COSALUP), and Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID), Fundación Génesis, Templo Bíblico, Fundación Apoyo Nuevo Crecer, Centro Integral de Salud y Desarrollo (CISADE), Hogar del Niño, the Department of Public Health of Hato Mayor Province, Dominican Secretary of Health (SESPAS), and the Municipality of Sabana Grande de Boyá) BRA is supporting the distribution of vitamins and medicines to 54,400 additional children, to reach a total of 56,500 beneficiaries.

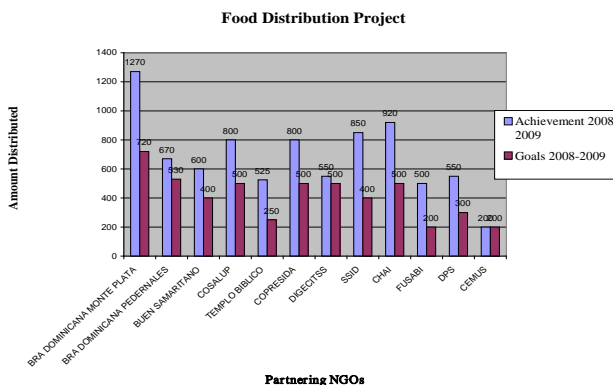
### Food Distribution

BRA distributed 75 metric tons of a Breedlove dehydrated vegetable product, which beneficiaries use to supplement their diets. BRA's Food Distribution Program is in its third year and fully funded by USAID under the Food for Peace-International Food Relief Program. BRA distributed food to the most at-risk individuals for malnutrition and disease, including people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), elderly, pregnant women, and individuals suffering from TB and other diseases. The IFRP also provided 1000 bags of dehydrated high-nutrient food product to support BRA's emergency relief efforts in the wake of hurricanes Hannah, Gustave, and Ike. Sixty of BRA's community health promoters participated in 16-20 hours of nutrition workshops in order to establish a solid foundation of nutrition knowledge. The network of health promoters has since been able to impart what they learned to the community. Through talks and workshops, health promoters provided nutrition education to 1200 community members in Monte Plata and Sabana Grande de Boyá. BRA also brought the USAID food supplements to the most vulnerable families and the schools in Pedernales—DR's poorest province. The 1,940 beneficiaries reached by BRA together with the 6,295 reached by our partners added to a total of 8,235 beneficiaries that were reached under the program.

### BRA PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS

#### Vaccination

In March 2009, BRA partnered with the Dominican Ministry of Public Health (SESPAS) to start a new vaccination program at BRA's Medical Center. The program reached 147 patients and continues to grow. A population ranging from newborns to people over 50 years of age have been vaccinated for diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, rubella, influenza, tetanus, and hepatitis B.



#### Family Planning

Also in March 2009, BRA and SESPAS began a new family planning education program to educate women and men on family planning issues and unplanned pregnancies. As of now, the following three family planning options are available through BRA: condoms, birth control pills, and injectable contraceptive hormones.



### **Prevention of Cervical-Uterine Cancer**

In May of 2009, BRA Dominicana, with the funding of ADEMI and the technical support of the LIGA DOMINICANA CONTRA EL CANCER, signed an agreement to continue the Prevention of Cervical-Uterine Cancer Program. This coming year, it is projected to reach 1000 men and women and orient them on the prevention of cervical-uterine cancer, and 300 women will receive pap smears. The project includes a four-month period of after-care where all women receive medical checkups and support. Those women who test positive will receive extended medical attention. In the project educational component, 20 members of the health community within Monte Plata will provide training on the prevention of cervical and uterine cancer. The goal is for them to hold 20 meetings and distribute 1600 educational fliers and posters four times a year regarding the prevention of cervical-uterine cancer.

### **Prevention of parasitic/intestinal-related infections**

In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases among the batey populations caused by the consumption of contaminated water, BRA, with funding from and collaboration with the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-USA, installed in July three new water systems in three bateyes in Monte Plata, and worked with families to educate about environmental issues related to clean water. This project is expected to benefit 1,500 community members. A key component of this project is the creation of batey-based committees working in conjunction with health promoters to disseminate information on the use of clean water, hygiene and other preventive health issues. Twenty-five (25) people have participated in workshops, 150 people participated in teach-in days and some families even received lessons in their homes lead by BRA. The technical team for this project met four times with the local government in Don Juan, the Provincial Director of Health for Monte Plata, Pro-Comunidad, and the senator of Monte Plata to solidify collaboration for this project. BRA received donations of informational material on the water system, which has helped in the maintenance of this project. The humanitarian aid organization, WATER FOR PEOPLE, also made a grant of \$5000 to BRA to improve the new water system within the bateyes.

### **Water Purification in Haiti**

With funding from the United Natural Foods Inc. (UNFI), BRA supported a local community organization, ASOSYASYON JENN PWOGRÈSIS ANSAPIT (AJPA, THE ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH FOR PROGRESS IN ANSE-A-PITRES) to complete a water purification center to make clean and drinkable water available in Anse-à-Pitres at an affordable price for everyone. Currently, those who can afford to pay a higher price for water plus the cost of transport buy their water on the Dominican side, while the majority of the population is forced to drink infected water. The center is scheduled to be completed by October 2009.

### **Prevention of blindness and blindness-related diseases**

BRA's Blindness Prevention program continues to provide complete eye exams, eyeglasses, eye drops, and medicines to hundreds of patients who are often too poor to afford a pair of eyeglasses or basic eye care. BRA partners with the Dominican-based Club de Leones Arroyo Hondo Santo Domingo and the New Jersey Eyeglass Recycling Center.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **STRENGTHENING BRA'S ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

BRA is in the process of developing a 5-year strategic plan to strengthen the organization's capacity to build a stronger and more sustainable base for our projects and programs inside the bateyes, and to expand into the border regions. Technical support for this process and for the carrying out of the plan is offered by the University of Indiana. Raising BRA's staff professional capacity is also a priority, given the organization's rapid growth and leadership position. We judge the necessity to employ professionals that are highly skillful, sophisticated, knowledgeable, conscientious, and ready to perform complex tasks. And finally, starting 2010, we will establish a "Performance Measurement" system to constantly evaluate our mission, the performance of our staff and our boards of directors, the effectiveness of our programs, and establishing benchmarks to ensure accountability and that we meet the expected results from our stakeholders and those we serve.

In July 2009, all of BRA's personnel participated in training sessions led by Public Health experts from Indiana University-Bloomington on the improvement of the patient experience. BRA personnel then brought the same training to 22 more workers at its Medical Center, Medical Clinic and Offices.

## **VOLUNTEER MISSIONS**

### **Alliance for Youth Services (AYS)**

AYS, a non-profit associated with the Church of Latter-Day Saints, sent a group of 15 volunteer students to construct a wall around BRA's medical center. The students received brief training from local engineers to lay blocks and mix the cement, thereby taking an active and hands-on role in the project.



### **BRA Dental Mission Trip**

In April 2009, BRA hosted a five-day dental clinic called "*Reaching a New Frontier*" in Anse-à-Pitres, Haiti, where 414 patients received free dental care and toothbrushes. The BRA volunteer dental group scheduled another trip for next spring.

### **University of Minnesota**

A student from the University of Minnesota completed a research project that focused on the interfamilial violence towards women, many of whom are patients at BRA medical clinics. The research findings will help BRA better understand the social situation of these patients; thereby improve their quality of care.

### **University of Montreal School of Medicine**

Four medical students from the University of Montreal worked as volunteers during the months of June and July 2009 in the BRA Medical Center and the Clinic. The students worked together with BRA medical personnel in every area of medical care provided. They came through an association with the IMFISA (International Federation of Medical Student Associations) group, which been collaborating with BRA for the past 4 years.

### **Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales and Council International and Educational Exchange**

In February of 2009, BRA received one student from the exchange program hosted by FLACSO and CIEE. She completed a short internship assisting administratively in the Santo Domingo office.

### **Amitié Haïti Lévis (AHL)**

Amitié Haïti Lévis, a humanitarian aid group made up of members of the Haitian Diaspora in Canada, sent 11 students and 3 professors to assist with various BRA projects from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup> of 2009. This group also made a monetary donation to complete the wall at the BRA's medical center. AHL also preformed various theatrical pieces that focused on early pregnancies, HIV/AIDS prevention, violence prevention, and distributed condoms and informational fliers. Two activities were put on for the local children that attended to the issue of personal hygiene such as washing hands and brushing teeth. During these activities, soaps and toothbrushes were distributed. AHL also helped construct an overhang for the Medical Clinic at Batey Las Taranas so that patients would be able to wait under the shade instead of the burning sun.

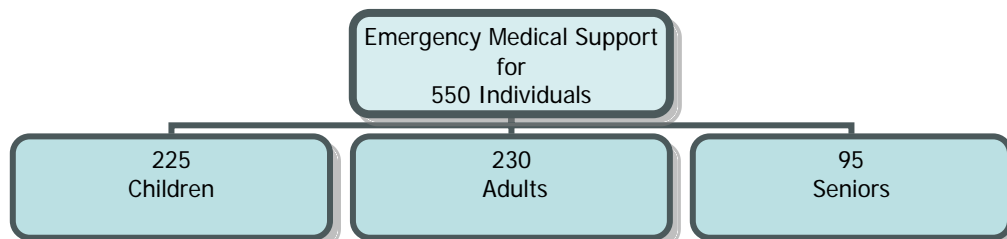
### **Catholic Medical Mission Board**

In November of 2008, BRA received two long-term American volunteers. One volunteer conducted a six-month diagnostic study of the community of Anse-a-Pitres, Haiti. The other continues to assist in developing BRA's presence in Pedernales and Anse-a-Pitres, by organizing vitamin and anti-parasite programs, food distribution, mobilizing resources, providing technical support to local community organizations and studying community dynamics. BRA also hosted numerous individual volunteers during the year, both short-term and long-term, who support in various capacities. All long-term volunteers are supported with a monthly living stipend from CMMB. Volunteers are also involved in projects such as attending clinical rotations, archiving patient files, writing grant proposals and reports, carrying out community diagnostic studies, assisting with medical missions, organizing and coordinating larger volunteer missions.

### **DISASTER RELIEF INTERVENTION**

#### **Tropical Storms Hannah, Gustav, and Ike**

In the fall of 2008, the Caribbean was hard hit by tropical storms Hannah, Gustav and Ike. The prevalence of contaminated and stagnant water only aggravated the situation. In response, BRA, in collaboration with partner COLECTIVO DE SALUD POPULAR (COSALUP) and CLUB DE LEONES ARROYO HONDO, provided aid to 1050 affected people and medical assistance to 550 more. Medicines, vitamins, antibiotics, clothes, food, eye drops, sanitary napkins, anti-parasitic medications, and ibuprofens were distributed to patients with illnesses such as pinkeye, contagious skin irritations, abdominal pains, vaginal infection, and bedbugs. These interventions were supported with 1000 bags of dehydrated high-nutrient food product from the USAID International Food Relief Program.



*"The Batey Relief Alliance is doing important and difficult work. They need our continued support."*  
Bill J. Clinton, former US President, September 10, 2005.



## COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

### **Agricultural Cooperative**

With the support of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), BRA has begun organizing the *Cooperativa BRAtayana*—a collection of 7 agricultural cooperatives based inside the bateyes in the province of Monte Plata. A first meeting was held in November of 2008 where more than 100 residents attended, including representatives from the Secretary of Agriculture, Dominican Agrarian Institute, Dominican Confederacy of Cooperatives and Vicini Group. The agricultural project will put 7,000 farmers to work the land and provide them with the training and resources they need to form and manage their own agricultural cooperatives. They will work under just conditions and, most importantly, know that the crops that they produce are providing food security and income to their families—thus creating economic self-sufficiency for their communities. We estimate that the benefits of these cooperatives will reach a total of 32,000 individuals.

### **Micro-Agriculture**

Since January of 2009, BRA partnered with the Dominican Secretary of Agriculture to provide vegetable seeds and agricultural training to 200 families interested in cultivation, allowing them to cultivate vegetable plots around their homes, growing eggplant, leafy greens, tomatoes, squash, cilantro, pineapple, and corn. As these plots develop, the food grown will be available to supplement the diets of the families, and to sell for a small income when the harvests are large. This project aims to empower individuals to learn the skills and techniques to become self-sufficient in their communities. This project will soon be extended border province of Pedernales.

### **Development in Gardening for people living with HIV/AIDS**

With support from the organization DEVELOPMENT IN GARDENING, BRA has helped establish 6 orchards in bateyes in Sabana Grande de Boyá, Gonzalo, La Pista, Cruz de Morrillo, Los Guineos, and Carmona. Of the many patients living with HIV/AIDS who are attended to by BRA, 10 are assisting with the development and maintenance of the orchards, and 35 benefit directly from the products grown. The produce includes carrots, potato, lettuce, radish, cucumber, coriander, and peppers, to name a few. This produce is used not only to feed those patients participating in the project and their families, but is also sold to other families at a reduced price, which helps maintain a steady income from the orchards. This project has great nutritional, economic, and even emotional benefits for those involved. It helps them feel part of the community and guarantees that they are able to eat. This project is carried out in collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture in Monte Plata, which donates seeds for the development of the orchards in the municipal district of Don Juan and is part of a larger venture, the Agricultural Development Project, which will be initiated in 2010 and will benefit more than 32,000 people.

### **Economic self-sufficiency/microcredit for people living with HIV/AIDS**

Through the support from ESPERANZA INTERNATIONAL, there are currently a select group of 68 people living with HIV/AIDS who are supported by micro-credit loans, technical support and training workshops that have allowed these individuals to begin small businesses ranging from beauty salons, clothing stores, mini food markets, and the sale of natural medicines. Using the income generated by their businesses, these individuals are able to pay back the loans and support their families. BRA and Esperanza International have provided second-stage, larger loans to 18 more beneficiaries who were successful with their first loans. These individuals have already expanded their projects significantly. One has expanded a fruit stand into a fruit market of three times the size. Another has expanded his rosary bead production business and is now selling to several retailers in addition to selling in his own store. There are many other successful entrepreneurs that have benefitted from this program. All recipients have paid back their loans on time.



## BRA'S INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

### INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

#### **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

In June 2009, BRA signed an important agreement with the USDA to develop an agricultural cooperative inside seven batey communities in the province of Monte Plata, whereby 7000 farmers will be put to work the land to produce food security for their families and economic self-sufficiency for their communities. More than 32,000 individuals are expected to benefit from this two-year agricultural development program. USDA will fund the program with a generous grant of \$2 million.

#### **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

In August 2009, BRA signed an agreement with USDA to distribute food in the DR. For the third consecutive year, BRA will be responsible for the distribution of 75 metric tons of high-nutrition dehydrated food as part of the USAID International Food Relief Program. Currently, BRA distributes food to the most at-risk individuals for malnutrition and disease, including people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), elderly, pregnant women, and individuals suffering from TB and other diseases.

#### **Major League Baseball-Dominican Development Alliance (MLB-DDA)**

In November 2008, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Major League Baseball (MLB) and the United States Peace Corps signed an historic alliance with six prominent Dominican-based non-profit organizations—The Batey Relief Alliance, World Vision, Save the Children, Plan International, Esperanza International, and the Dominican Institute for Integrated Development (IDDI). The purpose is to use baseball as a catalyst for improving the lives of the less fortunate in the Dominican Republic, through sound community development activities. USAID contributed \$1 million to the project to match funds donated by MLB players.

#### **United Nations' World Food Program**

In March 2009, BRA Dominicana and United Nations' World Food Program (WFP) signed a letter of intent to work together on a regional initiative to manage facts and knowledge about famine and malnutrition affecting Latin American and Caribbean countries. The main objective of the collaborative effort is to identify nutritional needs of children at the highest level and key strategies to reduce poverty and malnutrition in the region.

#### **National Cancer Coalition**

In May 2009, the National Cancer Coalition, Inc. (NCC) signed a MOU with the BRA to improve the healthcare and condition of children and adults in the Dominican Republic who suffer from critical illnesses and diseases, malnutrition, and extreme poverty, through the distribution of donated pharmaceuticals and other health-related supplies.

#### **Indiana University**

In April 2009, BRA and the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) at Indiana University Bloomington signed a letter of partnership agreement to build a network of volunteers, faculty and students to conduct research and perform public health and medical services in impoverished areas of the country, specifically in the bateyes and other underserved areas located near the Haitian/DR border.

#### **Penny Harvest Foundation**

On June 9<sup>th</sup> 2009, BRA's CEO Ulrick Gaillard attended an award ceremony organized by students from the W.E.B. Du Bois High School in Brooklyn where he received a check for \$250 to help the humanitarian work of his organization. Each year, the Penny Harvest Foundation organizes young people to do small-scale fundraising as they study charitable organizations and decide where to make their donations. This is the third year in a row the students have chosen BRA to receive their funding.



## Local Alliance

In order to effectively carry out our humanitarian mission in the DR, BRA creates strategic partnerships with well-established institutions working in the country to help advance its goals and objectives. These partners are donors and collaborators that work in strategic ways to help produce high impact program results. Some of the major partners are: SESPAS, COPRESIDA, DIGECITTS, USAID, MLB-DDA, CANADIAN FUNDS FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES, CLINTON HIV/AIDS INITIATIVE, PSI, and SERVICIO SOCIAL DE IGLESIAS DOMINICANAS.

BRA also forms alliances with local grassroots organizations and government agencies raising their capacity to deliver improved services in locations where BRA does not operate, thus expanding the organization's humanitarian effort. BRA's support to these groups is mainly the distribution of millions of dollars-worth donated medicines, medical supplies, food supplements and equipment. The purpose is to address the health and nutritional needs of other impoverished bateyes, urban slums, rural communities and border localities where the populations cannot afford basic medical care and medicines. Some of the recipient groups include the SESPAS, Buen Samaritano, Hogar de Niño, Templo Bíblico, Colectiva Mujer y Salud (CEMUS), Fundación Salud y Bienestar (Fusabi), Colectivo de Salud Popular (COSALUP), Fundación Génesis, Fundación de Apoyo Nuevo Crecer, Centro Integral de Salud y Desarrollo (CISADE), Dirección Provincial de Salud de Hato Mayor (DPS), Esperanza International, Church of God, Rescate de Niños en Riesgo, Hogar Crea (Monte Plata), Ministerio Didáctico Cristiano, and the Municipality of Sabana Grande de Boyá.

### **Secretariat of Public Health and Social Assistance (SESPAS)**

In January 2009, BRA renewed their agreement of collaboration with the Dominican Secretariat of Public Health and Social Assistance (SESPAS). BRA has been collaborating with SESPAS since 2000. SESPAS assists the work of the BRA with healthcare personnel, customs clearance for medical donations, and as an implementing partner in projects such as child malnutrition and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

### **Seguro Nacional de Salud (SENASA)**

BRA and the national health insurance agency, SENASA, have teamed up to provide subsidized medical services to qualified individuals living in bateyes and other areas of the country. This partnership ensures that BRA will receive double the cost for the services provided, which provides greater financial freedom for BRA to extend project resources. There is hope that 4,000 people will utilize SENASA insurance between June and December of 2009.

### **Espacios para Crecer (EPC)**

BRA became a member and participated on the board of directors of the consortium called *Espacios para Crecer*—an initiative created to address child labor throughout the country as well as re-enrolling drop-out students into school.

### **State Sugar Council (CEA), IAD, and Senatorial Office of Monte Plata—Agricultural Development**

BRA is expected to sign by the end of November collaborative agreements with the CEA and the IAD to make available 3,000 acres of fertile land in seven batey communities in the province of Monte Plata for BRA to put to work more than 7,000 unemployed farm workers – as a part of a new USDA-funded agricultural cooperative with the objective of creating food security and economic self-sufficiency for 35,000. BRA has already signed an agreement with the Senatorial Office of Monte Plata.

## GOALS FOR THE FUTURE—LOOKING FORWARD

### PROJECTS IN THE PLANNING-BI-NATIONAL INTERVENTION AT THE BORDER

#### **REPUBLIC OF HAITI**

Following a visit in March of 2008 in Santo Domingo by the then Haiti's Minister of Health, Dr. Robert Auguste, along with representatives from former Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis' Cabinet, BRA and Haiti's Ministry of Health agreed to sign an accord to give the organization full responsibility over the renovation, management and maintenance of the existing Anse-a-Pitres Medical Center. The Center will be refurbished in the design of BRA



Dominicana's Cinco Casas Medical Center in Monte Plata, with a central waiting area surrounded by medical consult rooms. BRA will bring quality specialty services to the clinic, including OB-GYN, pediatrics, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment, ophthalmology and dentistry. BRA's intervention at the border will be of a bi-national focus providing services to both populations of Pedernales and Anse-a-Pitres, but also creating a permanent platform for both countries to manage better the health and lives of both populations living so close to each other. The clinic would be the most modern in the region, with the most specialty services and the highest-quality care. Currently, residents in Pedernales must travel 2 to 3 hours to Barahona for specialty services.

#### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

BRA Dominicana initiated various community health initiatives in Pedernales. BRA has already received the support from USAID to expand the food distribution program into Pedernales, as well as the Micronutrient Project supported by the VAA. In collaboration with various networks of community health promoters, youth, and the Women's Collective in Pedernales, BRA will also expand its efforts in water/sanitations and HIV/AIDS to include the region of Pedernales. Pedernales, like Anse-a-Pitres, is an impoverished community, largely isolated from state and private resources. Thus, the presence of BRA in the region will be a significant addition to these communities.

#### **OUR CHALLENGES**

##### **Increased Financial Independence**

As BRA continues to grow rapidly, with additional projects along the Haitian-Dominican border, a major challenge is to cultivate a degree of financial independence in the organization to implement projects that are adequately funded, as well as maintain clinics that are well resourced. BRA receives in-kind donations; however does not have major sponsors to support its program expenses. A high percentage of the organization's total budget covers direct project delivery, yet its operation remains generally underfunded. We need additional funding to assure project continuity, employment security for technical and specialty staff, and the quality maintenance of BRA's health clinics. Moreover, with additional general funds, we would have more freedom to design and carry out projects that we deem necessary for the populations that we work for. An increase in our general budget would free us from constraints imposed by other institutions, allowing us to use our own expertise and experience to implement the most effective projects in the country.

BRA is supporting this financial challenge with several income-generating efforts within the organization. Promotional activities to attract additional patients to our clinics have been effective at increasing organizational revenues, since patients pay a minimal fee for medical consults, depending on their financial capacity. Furthermore, BRA is examining new projects such as starting a healthy food cafeteria on the premises of the Cinco Casas' Medical Center. "The Art of Saving Lives" is a BRA effort that has raised funds, through partnerships with local and international artists who have donated various artworks to be sold in direct benefit of the organization. Finally BRA is now part of 2009 CFC campaign to receive financial donations from US federal employees.

#### **SUPPORT FOR BRA'S WORK IN 2009**

##### **Cash Income and Expenses**

A copy of the Batey Relief Alliance's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the New York State Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. The same may be obtained from the Batey Relief Alliance's website at [www.bateyrelief.org](http://www.bateyrelief.org) (click on the *GuideStar* button) or (Financial Accountability sub-link).

##### **In-Kind Donations of Medical Supplies and Materials**

BRA mobilizes annually millions of dollars of in-kind donations, in medicines, medical supplies, equipment, and nutritional supplements, which support its medical clinics and health projects in Monte Plata. A portion of the donations is distributed to BRA's local partner organizations to strengthen their capacity to deliver improved health



services in other impoverished areas of the country.

#### Others who supported BRA in 2009

St. Joseph Hospital Exempla Foundation, International Foundation, Club de Leones Santo Domingo Arroyo Hondo, Direct Relief International, BRA's Boards of Directors, international volunteers and missionaries, and generous donors like you.

#### NEXT STEPS

##### **Prevention and Reduction of Morbidity and Mortality for People Living with HIV (new)**

BRA plans to begin a new series of community-based HIV programs that will benefit 85 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and 400 orphans and vulnerable children in 20 bateyes and poor communities in the municipalities of Yamasá, Monte Plata and Sabana Grande de Boyá in province of Monte Plata. The focus of this program will be to facilitate the social integration of PLWHAs. It will strengthen the community structures for palliative care, education for self efficacy, accompaniment to health services, follow-up for adherence, emotional support, and food/nutritional security, support in finding other social services, and support for schooling.

##### **Agricultural Development (new)**

With funding from USDA, BRA will help develop, through a new agricultural cooperative, more than 3000 acres of fertile land inside seven batey communities in the province of Monte Plata, where 7000 unemployed farmers will be put to work the land to produce food and raise animals, which will help create food security and economic self-sufficiency for more than 35,000 people. To carry out the program, BRA will partner with the DR's Agricultural Department, Senatorial Office of Monte Plata, and the State Sugar Council, among others.

##### **Water and Sanitation (new)**

In continued collaboration with the Presbyterian Church-USA, BRA is going to install another water system in Batey Cojobal in Monte Plata and is expected to benefit 750 people. BRA has worked with families to educate them on environmental issues related to clean water. A key component of this project has been the launch of community committees focused on water, health, and environmental cleanup. A new water system is also scheduled to be installed in Haiti's border commune of Anse-a-Pitres.

##### **Prevention of Malnutrition**

For the third consecutive year, Vitamin Angels Alliance (VAA) has approved the continuation of BRA's multivitamin distribution program, which will continue for at least three years providing multivitamins and antiparasitic medicines to 55,000 impoverished children. Starting in 2010 the multivitamins will be accompanied by a dose of vitamin A, and the program will be focused exclusively on now 60,000 children under 5 years of age. The goal is to maintain the health of children by first de-worming through bi-annual anti-parasite treatments, and then providing consistent micro-nutrition through multivitamins. This program is being implemented to strengthen BRA's Food Distribution Program funded by USAID. The project is being extended also into Haiti's border commune of Anse-a-Pitres.

#### THANK YOU!

The Boards of Directors, officials and staff of the BRA are thankful for your support enabling us to do important work on behalf of the poor. You are the partners we depend on continuously to serve those in desperate need. However, there is much more to be done, and we need your continued support. We look forward to a productive partnership with you in the years to come.



## BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF BATEY RELIEF ALLIANCE

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Batey Relief Alliance (BRA)

#### Officers

Carol King, Esq. - *President*  
Counsel, Wallace Law Office

Thomas Beague, O.D. - *Vice President*  
Elmont Dental Care

Sara Beague - *Treasurer*  
Elmont Dental care

Alice Fernley - *Secretary*  
Academy Community Music

#### Members

Raymond Thertulien, M.D., Ph.D  
Clinworks Cancer Research Center

Paul Nacier, M.D.  
Family Medical Care

Pierre Leger, M.D.  
Leger Health Center

#### Chief Executive Officer

Ulrick Gaillard, J.D.

### REPUBLICA DOMINICANA BRA Dominicana (BRA)

#### Officers

Lic. Miguel A. Puente H - *Presidente*  
Lic. Ramón Colombo - *Vice Presidente*  
Lic. Nexcy De León - *Secretaria*  
Lic. Edilgardo Peña - *Tesorero*

#### Miembros

Dr. Raymond Thertulien  
Dr. Ulrick Gaillard  
Lic. Juan Manuel García

#### Jefe Ejecutivo

Ulrick Gaillard

#### Directora Ejecutiva

Lic. Maria Virtudes Berroa

### RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI BRA Haiti (BRA)

#### Membres

Dr. Raymond Thertulien  
Dr. Thomas Beague  
Sara Beague

#### Director General

Ulrick Gaillard



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### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC OFFICE

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### REPUBLIC OF HAITI

**BRA Haiti, Inc.**  
Commune of Anse-a-Pitres  
District of Grande Anse  
Department du Sud-est  
République D'Haiti

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*The Batey Relief Alliance is a United States registered not-for-profit, non-political, tax-exempt 501(c) (3), humanitarian aid organization.*

*The Batey Relief Alliance is affiliated with the United Nations' Department of Public Information (UN/DPI) Section, registered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/PVO, registered with the Better Business Bureau, and is member of Global Health Council.*



## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR 2009 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, [CLICK HERE](#)