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

**BATEY RELIEF ALLIANCE  
2008 ANNUAL 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

- Highlight of the Year
- Message from the Founder/CEO
- Program Service Accomplishments
- Officers/Members of Board of Directors
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## **2008 HIGHLIGHT**

*"...With the execution of this project, BRA has strengthened itself as an organization and as a service-delivery provider...developed a comprehensive program in the fight against AIDS, focusing on counseling and voluntary testing, educational workshops, and support for HIV+ individuals with the donations of medicines, multivitamins, home supplies, clean water, nutrition, and health services offered at its medical clinics..."*

*"...BRA has utilized a local team that is highly committed, with great initiatives...demonstrated a wide capacity in offering services, above all, the capacity in mobilizing resources from governmental entities, other NGOs, churches, private companies, and institutions nationally as well as internationally..."*

*"...BRA has strengthened its position as an NGO on a local, national, and international level..."*

*"This organization is a model example of timeliness, commitment, and responsibility. Support of this NGO is a useful investment for any donor..."*

**PROJECT USAID/CONECTA (2005-2008)**  
**Community and Domiciliary Assistance Program**  
**For People Living with HIV/AIDS/affected and Vulnerable/orphaned Children**  
*Excerpts from USAID/Conecta final evaluation of Batey Relief Alliance*  
*(BRA) Dominicana's performance in the program*  
*Dated May 31, 2007*



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## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER/CEO



Today, we celebrate another milestone—the success of BRA’s partnership intervention with the USAID in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Dominican Republic (DR), particularly inside the batey communities (bateyes).

But as you know, the end of the USAID’s Project Conecta—providing community and domiciliary assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) - does not necessarily mean we are packing our bags. The needs are and remain too great for us not to maintain our engagement. We are simply closing one chapter to start another using the wisdom and lessons learned to better serve the populations in need.

During the three-year program implementation, 2005-2008, BRA clearly demonstrated its capacity as a viable, committed, and competitive NGO with great creativity and initiative. The DR Ministry of Health’s Directorate for the Control of Sexually-transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS (DIGECITTS) has already asked our organization to lead its HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment program for the entire region of Monte Plata. We are indeed honored!

BRA will continue to enhance its proven HIV/AIDS comprehensive intervention model providing to PLWHA, OVC and their families culturally-oriented services in counseling and voluntary testing, educational workshops, antiretroviral therapy and medicines to fight opportunistic infections, multivitamins, clean water, nutrition, and comprehensive healthcare offered at our medical clinics.

USAID’s evaluation of our performance as an NGO partner in the Conecta project is indeed highly positive. I am proud of our dedicated staff and volunteers for an incredible job performance. Our organization, in such a short time, has positioned itself as a true warrior in the fight against AIDS.

We still have much to learn and do to make a real difference in the fight against HIV and AIDS globally. However, we are clearly making a positive impact on a local scale within vulnerable communities like the bateyes. We can do much more to save more lives. We must proceed with the same vision, responsibility, and discipline. However, more funding will be needed to ensure continued success in the fight against this pandemic that, in one way or another, affects us all. Therefore, I implore you to remain engaged with the BRA.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go out to the DR Ministry of Health, USAID/Project Conecta, and all of our other strategic partners and donors for making the eradication of HIV and AIDS a priority in the DR and in the bateyes.

Respectfully,

*"...We still have much to learn and do to make a real difference in the fight against HIV and AIDS globally. However, we are clearly making a positive impact on a local scale within vulnerable communities like the bateyes..."*

ULRICK GAILLARD,  
J.D.  
FOUNDER/CEO



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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 formal Annual Report of the organization, made of a summary of program and financial activities, will be made available 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 (917) 627-5026, [bra@bateyrelief.org](mailto:bra@bateyrelief.org), or [bateyrelief@mindspring.com](mailto:bateyrelief@mindspring.com). To learn more about BRA, 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 in 1997 in the state of New York in the United States of America (USA), 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 local non-governmental organization (NGO) designed to support the BRA in carrying out its humanitarian mission inside the DR's most vulnerable communities like the *bateyes*<sup>1</sup>, rural slums and urban *barrios*, as well as border localities with the Republic of Haiti. This year, BRA started the legal process to establish a second regional branch, BRA HAITI, supporting further its work inside the country's vulnerable communities<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, and a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who is responsible for mobilizing public resources for and marketing the work of the institution.<sup>3</sup>

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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.*



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BRA Dominicana runs the entire field operation for the BRA in the DR; this work includes raising local funds, operating and staffing an office in Santo Domingo and two clinics in the province of Monte Plata, and implementing projects and carrying out mission trips in various communities.

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’s CEO, however, oversees the entire field operation and management, thus ensuring the sustainability and growth of the institution. The BRA Board of Directors is the ultimate body deciding on policy affairs of the entire institution.

BRA’s CEO mobilizes public resources 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, uses them for the projects, and sends to BRA regularly reports that are then submitted to funders, donors, volunteers, and supporters.

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 medicines, eyeglasses, nutrition supplements and multivitamins, thanks to the generous donations of our donors and supporters. A portion of the donations, however, is 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 of not selling or exchanging donated products that are designated for specific projects.

BRA Dominicana’s Board of Directors maintains a strict day-to-day control over the organization’s management of donated funds and in-kind donations, accounting, and projects’ implementation.

#### HEALTH INTERVENTION

BRA’s humanitarian health intervention currently targets two countries in the Caribbean—the Dominican Republic (DR) and Haiti. Both countries 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 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

<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.

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



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million people, or approximately 7-10% percent of the DR population, live in deep rural communities called *bateyes* that were originally developed as Haitian migrant worker enclaves around the sugarcane plantations industry. Today these communities remain, although much of the sugarcane production has been drastically diminished in or removed from the country. The batey communities (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 reality that has never before been implemented before in the DR. Moreover, community-based health promoters make BRA's work accessible to the community, utilizing community members as educators and health care providers. BRA's promoters work within the communities surrounding the clinics, providing education, counseling, and referrals to BRA's health services. The promoters make home visits and provide follow-up care for patients who visit the clinics.

BRA Dominicana's staff includes 44 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 programs also work in HIV/AIDS, blindness prevention, nutrition, maternal-infant health, potable water, multivitamin/deworming, microcredit, and disaster relief, extending outside of the bateyes into urban slums, rural impoverished communities, and border localities.

*From July 2007 to July 2008, BRA provided direct health care services to 22,129 individuals through medical consults and follow-ups, emotional support and counseling, health and HIV/AIDS care, dental care and eye care, and medical/dental/vision mission trips, providing all patients with donations of medicines, vitamins, eyeglasses and nutrition. An additional 7,746 individuals benefitted directly from educational activities in preventive health and vocational training. Thousands more benefitted from BRA's donations of multivitamins, antiparasitic medications, nutrition supplements, water filters, school and home supplies, personal hygiene products, condoms and clothing.*

Currently, BRA is making preparations to open an office and implement new projects (water/sanitation, multivitamin/nutrition, Health and HIV/AIDS care) in the Dominican southeastern town of Pedernales, along the border with Haiti, which is a region with critical needs due to its isolation from the main city centers of the country. Just across the border from Pedernales is Anse-a-Pitres—a Haitian town 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 US dollars a day.<sup>6</sup> Together, Haiti and the Dominican Republic comprise three quarters of all cases of HIV infection in the Caribbean.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> “Food riots turn deadly in Haiti,” BBC News, 5 Apr. 2008, <[news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/americas/7331921.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/americas/7331921.stm)>

<sup>7</sup> “AIDS epidemic update” Dec. 2007. UNAIDS and World Health Organization.



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Haiti and the Dominican Republic share a reality of poverty that cannot improve without major interventions on both sides of the border. The BRA will expand not only to Pedernales, but also to Anse-a-Pitres, opening a new branch of the institution called BRA Haiti. The BRA has support from Haiti’s Ministry of Health to renovate and equip an existing medical clinic in Anse-a-Pitres, which BRA Haiti will staff with highly-trained and dedicated health care personnel, including a network of community health promoters that will expand BRA’s work into the greater region of Anse-a-Pitres and Pedernales.

#### **BRA’S INTERVENTION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (PROVINCE OF MONTE PLATA)**

##### **SUMMARY RESULTS OF HEALTH CARE INTERVENTION IN 2007-2008**

- *22,129 individuals received health care services from the BRA Dominicana’s health facilities and medical mission trips, in the areas of general medicine, dentistry, pediatrics, gynecology, laboratory, optometry/ophthalmology, emergency medicine, testing, counseling and treatment in HIV/AIDS, referrals for tuberculosis, and health-related domestic violence.*
- *7,746 received educational training in preventive health, personal hygiene, and vocational training.*
- *27,652 additional received donations of educational materials, personal hygiene products, medicines, condoms, medical supplies, clothing, food supplements, and water filters.*
- *716 people living with HIV/AIDS were incorporated into the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Unit and are receiving continued follow-up care with antiretroviral medications.*
- *263 educational workshops and training sessions took place within the batey communities.*

#### **Services—Medical Clinic and Health Center**

**BRA’s Medical Clinic** is permanently located inside Batey Cojobal in the municipality of Sabana Grande de Boyá, and remains the only fully equipped and staffed medical facility in the province of Monte Plata’s deep rural batey areas. The Clinic provides complete health services in primary and specialty care, including pediatrics, gynecology, optometry, and HIV/AIDS testing and referrals. Individuals pay a nominal fee for a health consultation and receive all medications, glasses, and supplementary nutrition free of charge. But no one is turned away because of the money. The clinic is open year-round, five days a week, with a full-time staff of two medical doctors, one nurse, one administrative assistant, and three health promoters. Additionally, pap smears are performed on Wednesdays, an optometrist provides care on Thursdays, and EKG testing is done on Saturdays. All laboratory tests for the clinic’s patients are sent to the fully-equipped laboratory at BRA’s Health Center inside batey Cinco Casas, which is located approximately one hour away from the Medical Clinic. The 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. The doctors provide prenatal care and counseling for pregnant women, including multivitamins and nutritional supplements.

*Currently, BRA is soliciting funds to expand the Cojobal Clinic, to include several additional*



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*consult rooms, a waiting room, bathrooms, and a reception area. This expansion is greatly needed as the services provided at the Clinic have grown tremendously since its opening in 2003. The clinic is run out of a 30-foot trailer, which does not have a waiting area or bathrooms for patients. Patients must sometimes wait hours outside without protection from the strong sun or rain. Patient privacy is sometimes compromised as the consult rooms are too small and close together. BRA hopes to begin the construction of a permanent expansion to the clinic in 2009, if adequate funds are secured.*

**BRA's Health Center** was opened for service in 2005, located inside Batey Cinco Casas of the Municipal District of Don Juan. The Health Center is the most modern medical facility in the entire province of Monte Plata and inside any batey since the creation of the sugar plantations industry in the 1800s. The facility is state-of-the-art and 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-doctor's housing unit, a playground and garden, as well as a building for education and training seminars. The center employs a full-time staff of 32, including several physicians, a psychologist, an ophthalmologist, a dentist, several nurses, bio-analysts, technical assistants, receptionists, pharmacy workers, community health promoters, and a clinic administrator. Dozens of foreign volunteers visit the facility each year to conduct research, provide care, or engage in other social promotional activities. 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 is waived for individuals in extreme poverty. All medications, glasses, and supplementary nutrition are supplied free of charge. BRA also runs a Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Unit within the Health Center, which provides confidential testing, counseling, and treatment services for almost all of the Monte Plata's HIV/AIDS cases<sup>8</sup>. In 2008, two new electrocardiogram machines were installed at the center and are currently providing EKG tests to patients. Ultrasound and Dialysis machines will also be installed at the center early next year, which will be one of the very few machines available in the entire region. The Health Center owns a private ambulance that is available to provide emergency transport services when necessary.

In October of 2007, the BRA celebrated ten years of humanitarian services with the official inauguration of the Cinco Casas Health Center, an event with over one thousand people in attendance, including important functionaries from the Clinton Foundation, the Canadian Embassy, USAID, Dominican State Sugar Council, Dominican Presidential Council on AIDS (COPRESIDA), Dominican Directorate for Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS (DIGECITSS), and Haitian government. A new BRA dental clinic was also dedicated at the ceremony, a modern dental ward installed with the generous support of two members of the BRA Board of Directors, Dr. Thomas Beague and Mrs. Sara Beague. The clinic was opened for service the same week to attend to 85 patients from the community of Batey Payabo, who were transported to the clinic to receive dental fillings, extractions and consultations.

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

<sup>8</sup> BRA has been considered by the Dominican Ministry of Health/DIGECITSS to manage the entire province of Monte Plata's HIV/AIDS cases.



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### **Tuberculosis Prevention and Referral Campaign**

BRA's Tuberculosis Prevention and Referral Campaign began August 1, 2005 and ended September 30, 2007. Funded by the USAID to complete a two-year plan, the project reached a record 59 bateyes and rural communities in the province of Monte Plata, focusing on preventive education and the referral of individuals with respiratory symptoms to national centers for tuberculosis control. The project implemented the DOTS – *Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course* strategy of the World Health Organization's Stop TB campaign.



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Collaborating closely with the Dominican Secretary of Health (SESPAS) and its National Program for TB Control (PNCT), BRA succeeded in referring 642 individuals with respiratory symptoms to national centers for TB control<sup>9</sup>, with 549 individuals following up with the referral and obtaining a full tuberculosis exam and treatment as necessary. The project also trained 307 health care professionals and promoters in prevention, care and treatment of tuberculosis; carried out 49 community activities in prevention and referral; reached 11,887 individuals through educational activities in prevention and detection of TB; and distributed 18,313 educational materials. 16 women and 25 men were identified with TB/HIV co-infection, and were immediately administered the DOTS treatment program and incorporated into the BRA HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Unit. 73 of 80 individuals who tested positive for the TB bacteria were cured through extensive follow-up, home visits, and nutritional support. The program succeeded in significantly diminishing the stigma and discrimination associated with tuberculosis. Currently, BRA is soliciting funding and support to continue the tuberculosis project, which is an important aspect of BRA's comprehensive health intervention.

### **Arco Iris/ Rainbow Project Comprehensive Program in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment**

**AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE USAID/PROJECT CONECTA IN 2008, BRA received highest marks among local partner NGOs for its model intervention in the fight against HIV/AIDS inside the bateyes.**

The DR has a national HIV prevalence of 0.8% (2007). However, the prevalence rises dramatically in the bateyes to 3-5% of the sexually active adults.<sup>10</sup> In the Caribbean, the prevalence of HIV among women has been steadily rising, with women currently making up 43% of the adult population living with HIV – compared to 24% in 1990. Haiti and the DR together comprise three-quarters of all cases of HIV in the Caribbean.<sup>11</sup> The need to address HIV infection is great, particularly because those who are infected are generally in their prime productive years. Preventing the spread of the infection is crucial, but also treating individuals who are HIV-positive is important, such that they can remain productive members of their communities, and continue to provide for themselves and their families.

*The Arco Iris/Rainbow Project – BRA received three-year USAID-Project Conecta funding to carry out the Arco Iris Project in Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment, from July 2005 to February 2008. During the period, BRA served 1,430 orphaned and vulnerable children, and 1,489 people living with HIV/AIDS or their family members, reaching initial goals at a final level of 82% and 135%, respectively. These individuals were integrated into the program to receive follow-up care and support, as well as periodic health and psychosocial services, according to their needs. This includes complete medical attention, referrals, treatment for opportunistic infections, follow-up and home visits, nutritional, educational training and antiretroviral therapy. The project was implemented in conjunction with BRA's HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment*

<sup>9</sup> *The highest of any medical clinic in the province of Monte Plata.*

<sup>10</sup> *ENDESA 2007 – Encuesta Demográfica y de Salud.*

<sup>11</sup> *2007 AIDS epidemic update. UNAIDS and WHO.*



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*Unit, inaugurated in October 2007 with support from the Clinton Foundation’s HIV/AIDS Initiative, Dominican Directorate for the Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS (DIGECITSS) and the Presidential Commission on AIDS (COPRESIDA).*

*BRA trained and supported a network of 60 community health promoters in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, who worked in 37 bateyes in the province of Monte Plata. The promoters organized community educational activities and workshops, and carried out home visits to each of the families incorporated in the project. Since July 2007, 35 health talks and workshops were given in the provinces of Monte Plata and Sánchez Ramírez, and the promoters received 6 training workshops in topics ranging from care for HIV positive individuals, to stigma and discrimination, to various treatment regimens. Approximately 2,400 home visits were given during this time period.*

*BRA supports three HIV/AIDS Support Groups for PLWHA, which meet periodically during the year. Sometimes guest speakers and facilitators attend the meetings, providing insight into human rights, stigma and discrimination, self care and autonomy, among other issues. In December 2007, BRA supported the distribution of Christmas baskets to 40 individuals in the support groups, containing food products including rice, lentils, pasta, chocolate, oil, salami, and a special Christmas loaf of bread.*

<b>Services Offered Through Arco Iris</b>	<b>Accumulated Total</b>
<b>Emotional Support:</b> Visits with a psychologist, meetings of support groups, emotional support in the home.	5,810
<b>Nutritional Support:</b> Donated food and multivitamins.	9,451
<b>Follow-up Support:</b> Follow-up in the clinics of BRA, includes follow-up for adherence to treatment regimens.	7,931
<b>Referrals/Medical Attention:</b> Consults in general medicine and specialty services, laboratory tests, referrals to national centers for TB and HIV/AIDS units, donations of medications and glasses.	10,074
<b>Home Visits:</b> Periodic home visits carried out by the medical personnel of BRA (doctors, nurses, psychologists), and the community health promoters.	3,308
<b>Educational Activities:</b> Educational workshops on self-care and home-care support for PLWHA, stigma and discrimination, prevention methods, and treatment regimens.	6,139
<b>Economic Support:</b> Vocational training and support (design of curtains, sheets, candles, jewelry, baking, etc.) and referrals to microcredit loans.	4,533
<b>Clothing Donations:</b> Clothing for PLWHA and their families.	1,186
<b>Educational Support:</b> Donation of educational supplies.	2,429

*Total HIV tests: 4,301*

*Total PLWHA receiving ARV treatment: 297*

*Additional Support to PLWHA – Through BRA’s many partner organizations, it has connected PLWHA with various additional resources and support. Since May of 2007, BRA offered microcredit loans to PLWHA, supported by the organization ESPERANZA INTERNACIONAL. 20 individuals are in the first stage of the loan, having received 5,000 pesos (US\$150) to develop small-scale*



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*businesses ranging from beauty salons, bakeries, clothing shops, and the sale of natural medicine. 25 additional recipients are in the second stage of the loan, having received a second loan of 10,000 pesos (US\$300) to expand their businesses and their clientele.*



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*With support from the Rotary Clubs of New York and Santo Domingo Arroyo Hondo, BRA has also provided 26 PLWHA and their families with 30 Bio-Sand water filters, distributed in February of 2008. These filters were accompanied with training on the use of the filters and the proper management of potable water. The filters will allow the beneficiaries to avoid contracting parasitic infections, thereby threatening their already weakened immune system.*

#### BRA/Population Services International (PSI) Condom Project

From September 2007 to January 2008, BRA carried out activities with the support of Population Services International (PSI) in 18 bateyes of Monte Plata, directly benefitting 5,960 individuals with information about HIV prevention and condom use. The program focused on educating adults between 20 and 49 years old, utilizing the expertise of BRA's HIV/AIDS trained doctors and psychologists. Among the activities carried out were three educational theater productions, two educational posters, twelve health talks and workshops, four promotional giveaways to motivate condom sale and use, and the celebration of World AIDS Day.

#### BRA/USAID Food Distribution Program (IFRP)

*In June of 2007, the BRA was selected by the USAID to carry out a one-year rapid food distribution in the bateyes of the Dominican Republic, with the possibility to extend this program additional years if the program is successful. BRA was approved to continue the distribution into the 2008 fiscal year. BRA foresees the food distribution to become an integral part of BRA's health intervention.*

*From June 2007 to June 2008, BRA received 75 metric tons of a Breedlove dehydrated vegetable product, which beneficiaries use to supplement their diets, incorporating the product into soups, casseroles, drinks, and rice dishes. Currently, BRA is distributing weekly 2.5-lb rations to a select group of 100 of the most at-risk individuals for malnutrition and disease, including PLWHA, OVC, elderly, pregnant women, and individuals suffering from TB and other diseases. BRA distributes monthly rations to an additional group of 250 individuals at-risk for malnutrition. Furthermore, through BRA's collaborations with local NGO and government organizations – including the Dominican Secretary of Health (SESPAS), COPRESIDA, DIGECITSS, Buen Samaritano, Hogar de Niño, Acción Misionera, Fundación Génesis, Fundación Pringamosa, Templo Bíblico, Apoyo Nutricional Nuevo Crecer, Fundaprin, Fusabi, Cosalup, Servicio Social de Iglesias, and the Clinton Foundation – BRA is supporting the distribution of monthly and bi-monthly rations to an additional 6,423 beneficiaries in seven provinces: Monte Plata, Sánchez Ramírez, Hato Mayor, La Romana, Santo Domingo, Barahona, and San Pedro de Macorís.*

*For the most at-risk individuals, the food rations are supplemented by additional local food products, such as milk, oatmeal, rice, beans, oil, and vegetables. These supplementary products are supported by funds from the Disciples of Christ's Week of Compassion, the Presbyterian Church USA Hunger Program, and private sector donations. Since January of 2008, BRA partnered with the Dominican Secretary of Agriculture to provide vegetable seeds and agricultural training to thirty families interested in cultivation and at-risk for malnutrition, allowing them to cultivate vegetable plots around their home, 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.*



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*This project aims to empower individuals to learn the skills and techniques to become self-sufficient in their communities.*

#### BRA/ADEMI – Nutrition Project

*In conjunction with the BRA-USAID Food Distribution Project, the Dominican Foundation ADEMI has supported education workshops for BRA’s community health promoters, in nutrition and the promotion of ideal height and weight for children. Since September of 2007, ten workshops have been given in ten distinct communities participating in the food distribution. Furthermore, two day-long training sessions were given for the promoters, giving them a solid foundation from which to carry out the food distribution with adequate follow-up and care.*

#### BRA/Vitamin Angel Alliance (VAA) Nutrition and De-worming Campaign

With the support of the VAA, BRA is distributing multivitamins and anti-parasitic medications to over 56,500 children in thirteen provinces: Hato Mayor, La Romana, Santo Domingo, Barahona, San Pedro de Macorís, Monte Plata, Sánchez Ramírez, Puerto Plata, Monte Cristi, Dajabón, Elías Piña, Jimaní, and Independencia. The project began in May of 2007 and will continue for at least three years. The goal is to maintain the health of children by first de-worming through bi-annual deworming treatment, and then providing consistent micronutrients through multivitamins. Many of the children and families in the project are also receiving food rations from the BRA-USAID Food Distribution Project. BRA is distributing vitamins and anti-parasitic medication directly to 2,100 children in the provinces of Monte Plata and Sánchez Ramírez. Through BRA’s collaborations with various local NGOs and governmental institutions – including El Buen Samaritano, Fusabi, Fundación Génesis, Templo Bíblico, Fundaprin, Fundación Apoyo Nuevo Crecer, Cosalup, Servicio Social de Iglesias, Cisade, Hogar del Niño, SESPAS, DPS Hato Mayor, and the Municipality of Sabana Grande de Boyá – BRA is supporting the distribution of vitamins and medicines to 54,404 additional children, to reach a total of 56,500 beneficiaries. VAA has approved more distribution of new vitamins and supplements for older children and pregnant women not only within the DR, but also for those living at border communities with Haiti (Pedernales and Anse-a-Pitres).

#### BRA/Rotary Club Water Filter Distribution

*In February 2008, BRA distributed 30 Bio-Sand water filters to 30 families in the province of Monte Plata, benefitting approximately 740 individuals with the access to clean water in the bateyes of the region. Few families in the region have access to clean potable water, with most people relying on rivers, canals, and open wells for their drinking water. These sources are filled with water-borne pathogens, which seriously weaken individuals and lead to malnutrition. Based on a BRA study, approximately 14% of all the patients who visit its Clinic in Batey Cojobal are seeking treatment for parasitic infections.*

*26 of the water filters were distributed to families of people living with HIV, in order to protect the PLWHA already at greater risk due to their weakened immune systems. The remaining 4 filters were distributed to families severely affected by poverty and malnutrition. All the filters were distributed with training sessions on the proper maintenance and use of the filters, as well as the proper management of water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning. The project was supported by funds from the Rotary Clubs of New York and Arroyo Hondo Santo Domingo.*



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BRA's clean water/sanitation program is being expanded with a generous grant of \$126,728 from the Presbyterian Church USA's Committee on Self-Development of People to install four water systems in 4 Monte Plata bateyes, including Palmarejo, El Bosque, Cojobal and La Pista de Juan Sanchez.

BRA submitted this year to the Rotary Club of Long Island a proposal to install a water system in the border community of Anse-a-Pitres of Haiti, where access to clean and potable water is virtually absent. The project will be implemented in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Petion Ville, Plan International and Foundation for Peace.

#### The Art of Saving Lives

*Art of Saving Lives* is a fundraising initiative started in 2007 in collaboration with various local and international artists. The initiative publicizes the work of these artists in conjunction with the humanitarian work that BRA carries out. The artists donate several art pieces to BRA, which are then sold on behalf of BRA to support its continuing humanitarian mission.

#### DISASTER RELIEF INTERVENTION

##### Tropical Storms Noel and Olga

*During the months of November and December 2007, two tropical storms Noel and Olga hard hit the island of Hispaniola. Noel left more than 87 dead and 62,000 displaced by severe flooding; Olga left at least 24 dead and 49,170 displaced. The aftermath of these two storms saw an outbreak of numerous health problems, including water-borne pathogens and parasites, dengue, leptospirosis, and skin infections. In a response to the great need of the communities affected by the storms, BRA solicited additional financial and in-kind donations to benefit the affected communities.*

*USAID provided five hundred 2.5-lb bags of dehydrated food product that were donated directly to the storm victims (from the 2007 IFRP). The Presbyterian Church USA's Committee for the Development of People, along with the municipality of Sabana Grande de Boyá, Foundation for Peace, Week of Compassion, Red Cross, the Canadian Fund, Colectivo de Salud Popular, Church of the Latter-Day Saints, and Church World Service, also supported the relief effort with funds and donations. 11 relief activities were carried out during the months of December and January, in the communities of El Caño, Payabo, Guazumita, Fría II, Bajos del Yuna, La Barquita, Cojobal, and Cinco Casas. 1,693 individuals were reached through the interventions, with medical consults accompanied by free medicines and vitamins, along with educational materials. Mattresses, clothing, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, bleach, plastic containers, oral rehydration therapy, food supplements, and sanitary napkins were also distributed to the beneficiaries free of charge. During the activities, 80 HIV tests were carried out with pre-test counseling, and the results were made available at the nearby BRA clinics to be disclosed through post-test counseling. 5 individuals tested positive for HIV and were immediately incorporated into the BRA HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Unit. Additionally, with the generous support of the Canadian Embassy, BRA is supporting the reparation of 26 homes in the province of Monte Plata. 13 homes were repaired in the community of Yabaco in April of 2008. 13 more homes were repaired in the community of El Caño, in May of 2008.*



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*Hurricanes and Storms: Fay, Gustav, Hannah and Ike*

*In September 2008, BRA carried out collaboratively with its local partner COSALUP a disaster relief operation to provide relief to 1375 victims living in Santo Domingo’s slum neighborhoods of Vietnam, Barquita and Guandules. These inner city areas are extremely poor where residents live dangerously in shanties close to the river. And as the storms hard hit with heavy rain, the already fragile shanties were completely immersed under water causing a complete catastrophe for all. With the generous support of Week of Compassion, BRA responded rapidly with medical care, antiparasitic treatment, donations of medicines, vitamins, nutrition, antibiotics, sanitary towels, etc. BRA is currently carrying out fundraising appeals to help bring critical help to those affected in Haiti where the storms hurricanes killed more than 1000 and left 86,000 homeless and 800,000 others severely affected, including children.*



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#### **VOLUNTEER MISSION TRIPS**

##### *BRA/AMHE – Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad*

*In October of 2007, healthcare representatives from the AMHE, as well as members of the BRA Board traveled to the DR to conduct a week-long mobile care inside Batey Payabo in the province of Monte Plata. Services were provided in general medicine and dentistry with donations of medications to 800 patients depending on their conditions, and referrals to BRA’s healthcare facilities for follow-up care. During the last two days of the mission, the group of dentists and dental assistants utilized the newly inaugurated dental clinic in the Cinco Casas Medical Center to perform teeth fillings and extractions.*

##### *BRA/Amitié Haïti-Lévis*

*In January of 2008, 14 individuals from the Canadian organization, Amitié Haïti-Lévis, returned to work at the BRA’s Cinco Casas Medical Center Complex to repaint two housing structures in the community, and install electricity fixtures in the second building of the Medical Center. This building has been used primarily for workshops and special activities, but BRA hopes in the future to renovate it into an extension of the Medical Center to hold additional consultation rooms, a space for x-rays, etc.*

##### *BRA/VOSH-NECO*

*In March of 2008, a group of 16 optometry students and 4 attending optometrists and ophthalmologists completed a week-long mobile vision care in Barrio Santa Fe, San Pedro de Macoris. The group, in its third year of collaboration with the BRA, performed free eye exams, ophthalmologic consults, and provided free glasses, sun glasses, eye drops, and eye medications. 1,458 children, adults, and elderly were attended. Patients with glaucoma received counseling and a one-year supply of glaucoma medication. Patients with severe eye damage from cataracts, diabetes, and glaucoma received specialized-made glasses and are on a waiting list for surgery. The mission was planned in collaboration with the municipal government of San Pedro de Macoris, which provided space for the mission as well as transportation. 7 doctors in general medicine consulted with patients, offering free medications, including multivitamins, antibiotics, antiparasitic medications, and hypertension medicines.*

##### *BRA/University of Texas*

*In June of 2008, the University of Texas initiated a partnership with BRA by sending a group of 5 medical students to complete an International Health Elective over the period of two weeks. The group worked mainly at the Cinco Casas Medical Center, assisting doctors with medical histories, medical exams, and dispensing medications. The students gained a strong background in providing quality primary care in low-resource settings.*

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

*AYS, a non-profit organization associated with the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, sent a group of 10 students and 3 supervising adults to work with the Batey Relief Alliance at its Cinco Casas Medical Center. The group partially built a wall around the center to protect against vandalism. The students were trained by local foremen to lay the blocks and mix the cement, thereby taking an active and hands-on participation in the project.*



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#### BRA/University of Montreal, Quebec

*In June and July of 2008, four medical students from the University of Montreal arrived to complete four-week rotations at the Cinco Casas Medical Center and the Cojobal Medical Clinic, assisting doctors with medical consults and exams, and learning about the provision of care in rural settings with limited resources. BRA has maintained an ongoing partnership with the University of Montreal over the past few years, and expects to continue receiving student volunteers in the coming years.*

#### BRA mobile dental care

*From November 2-9, 2008, BRA will host 12 foreign dentists and assistants to deliver free dental care to 1000 impoverished residents living in batey Cojobal in the province of Monte Plata. Patients with serious dental problems will be referred to the dental clinic at BRA's medical center at batey Cinco Casas.*

#### Individual Volunteers

BRA hosts dozens of individual volunteers each year, both short-term and long-term, who support the organization in various capacities. All long-term volunteers (on year+) are supported with monthly living stipends, air fares and insurances from BRA partner, the Catholic Medical Missions Board. Volunteers are involved in projects ranging from 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, etc.

*This year, one public health student from the University of Minnesota completed a study on domestic violence against women in the bateyes and its relations to their reproductive health and HIV contraction. The study is sponsored by the BRA. The results of the study will be available in 2009 and used in designing new programs targeting women and their healthcare.*

#### BRA'S INTERVENTION IN THE UNITED STATES

##### HIV/AIDS Awareness and Education

BRA receives annual funding from the New York State Department of Health, through the generous support of Brooklyn's 42<sup>nd</sup> District Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs, to conduct HIV/AIDS awareness and education among the immigrant populations of Brooklyn, using radio airwaves. Experts and healthcare providers are invited to speak about various health and HIV/AIDS related issues. Listeners have the opportunity to ask questions and receive referrals for additional information, testing, counseling and treatment.

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

##### **Projects in the Planning**

##### BRA'S BI-NATIONAL INTERVENTION: BORDER OF HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*Following a visit in March of 2008 from the Haiti's Minister of Health, Dr. Robert Auguste, along with representatives from former Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis' Cabinet, BRA is in the*



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*final planning stages of founding a second field organization, BRA HAITI, to carry out its humanitarian mission along the Haitian-Dominican border in the Haitian district Belle-Anse, in the Southeast Department of Haiti. BRA plans to sign an accord with the Ministry of Health 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, 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. The renovation of the clinic is expected to be completed in 2012, when the clinic will be opened for full service to the surrounding communities in Anse-a-Pitres (Haiti) and Pedernales (Dominican Republic). Due to the extreme poverty of the residents of the region, BRA hopes to secure financial support for the clinic that enables the clinic to offer medical consults at very nominal fees for the beneficiaries. 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.*

#### *BRA Dominicana in Pedernales – A Binational Project*

*In conjunction with the founding of BRA Haiti and the opening of the clinic in Anse-a-Pitres, BRA Dominicana will begin working in the region of Pedernales, in the southwest province of the Dominican Republic. Pedernales is directly across the Haitian-Dominican border from Anse-a-Pitres, allowing residents in Pedernales to utilize the new medical clinic in Anse-a-Pitres. 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, the closest town with a medical center of a similar caliber. The BRA hopes to sign a binational accord between the two localities of Anse-a-Pitres and Pedernales, facilitating the fluid movement of individuals across the border to the Anse-a-Pitres Medical Center.*

*In addition to the presence of the Medical Center in Anse-a-Pitres, BRA Dominicana will initiate various community health initiatives in Pedernales, with the support of Plan International and other local and international NGOs. BRA hopes to expand the USAID food distribution project to include 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.*

#### *Expansion of Medical Clinic in Batey Cojobal*

*BRA Dominicana is in the initial planning stages of expanding the Medical Clinic in Batey Cojobal to include a permanent extension with a patient waiting area, bathrooms, and additional medical consult rooms. The project has been approved by Engineers Without Borders – USA, and is currently waiting for a EWB chapter to adopt the project. If adopted, Engineers Without Borders will provide technical assistance and labor to carry out the construction. BRA continues to solicit funds to support this project, which will be a significant addition to the Medical Clinic, considering that the patients who currently arrive to the clinic must often wait hours to be seen, without*



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*protection from the hot sun and rain. Since the inauguration of the clinic, the patient population has increased three-fold, severely stretching the resources and space of the clinic.*

#### Expansion of Medical Center in Batey Cinco Casas

*The Cinco Casas Medical Center, like the Batey Cojobal Medical Clinic, has reached maximum capacity for the number of patients that it can attend to in its current facilities. The center was built to attend to 10,000 patients yearly, however the number of patients has already reached almost 20,000 yearly.*

*A second locale, next to the original main building, is available for renovation, to create additional space for medical consults, including a second waiting area, an area for performing X-rays, a fully equipped ophthalmology clinic, sonogram testing, and a dialysis treatment unit. This locale is currently being used periodically for workshops and training sessions, however it requires significant renovations to be adequate for medical consults. BRA is soliciting funds to begin this important renovation.*

#### Increase self-sufficiency

*A major goal of BRA in the coming years is to increase the generation of funds for the organization, in order to establish financial self-sustainability at BRA's two clinics. An important initiative toward this goal is the creation of a healthy food establishment (Cafeteria) on the ground of the Cinco Casas Center complex, to sell inexpensive yet nutritious food items to patients, staff, and community members. The establishment will be run for profit, with all the revenues benefitting the operation of the clinics. Once funds are secured for the construction, BRA will move forward with the project.*

#### Education in Music and Art

*BRA is in discussion with Foundation IDEAL to create a new music and art program for the children of the bateyes. The goal is to stimulate creativity among children, and empower them to learn skills that they can develop and display. The project will utilize local instructors, as well as volunteer teachers from abroad. The children will be taught in classical music and art, as well as cultural forms from Dominican and Haitian traditions. A music/art space will be built on the grounds of the Cinco Casas complex. Space will be used for individual and group classes, as well as for the presentation of art works. The children will be provided with a full meal before classes in order to assure full energy and attention to the lesson.*

### BRA'S INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

#### Local Alliance Building

##### Local Strategic Partnership

In order to effectively carry out its humanitarian mission in the DR, BRA creates strategic collaboration with well-established institutions working in the country capable of helping to advance the organization's goals and objectives. These strategic collaborators that are mostly international aid organizations, the Dominican government, and foreign government agencies, are donors and collaborators that work in a strategic ways to produce high impact program results. The strategic partners are: SESPAS, COPRESIDA, DIGECITTS, USAID, USAID, CANADIAN



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FUNDS FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES, PLAN INTERNATIONAL, CLINTON HIV/AIDS INITIATIVE, PSI, and SERVICIO SOCIAL DE IGLESIAS DOMINICANAS.

#### Local Alliance

As part of its humanitarian health mission in the DR, BRA forms an alliance made of local grassroots organizations and government agencies raising their capacity to deliver improved services in locations where BRA organization does not operate, thus expanding the organization's humanitarian effort. BRA's support to the groups includes mainly the distribution of 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. *Since 2007, BRA donated large supplies of multivitamins, antiparasitic medicines, and dehydrated food supplements to 18 public and non-profit organizations.*

Each year, BRA mobilizes and collects more than \$2 million worth of donations from international organizations. The Dominican government and local partner NGOs sometimes contribute small funds to help BRA further its work in the community.

*BRA's 2007-2008 DISTRIBUTION OF DONATED ITEMS TO LOCAL PARTNERS*



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<b>Allied Organization</b>	<b>Type of Donation(s)</b>
<i>Colectivo de Salud Popular (COSALUP)</i>	<i>Medicines, materials, food supplements, multivitamins</i>
<i>Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID)</i>	<i>Medicines, materials, food supplements, multivitamins</i>
<i>Dirección Provincial de Salud de Hato Mayor (DPS)</i>	<i>Medicines, materials, food supplements, multivitamins</i>
<i>Dirección General de Control de ITS y SIDA (DIGECITSS)</i>	<i>Medicines, materials, food supplements</i>
<i>Club de Leones, Santo Domingo Arroyo Hondo</i>	<i>Medicines, materials</i>
<i>Hogar de Ancianos San Francisco de Asís</i>	<i>Medicines, materials</i>
<i>Hospital Provincial de Monte Plata</i>	<i>Medicines, materials</i>
<i>Hospital Municipal de Sabana Grande de Boyá</i>	<i>Medicines, materials</i>
<i>Clínica Rural, Distrito Municipal Don Juan</i>	<i>Medicines, materials</i>
<i>Clínica Rural El Cacique</i>	<i>Medicines, materials</i>
<i>Clínica Rural de Villa Jaragua</i>	<i>Medicines, beds, materials</i>
<i>Clínica Rural de las Clavellinas</i>	<i>Medicines, beds, materials</i>
<i>Acción Misionera</i>	<i>Food supplements</i>
<i>Ayuntamiento Sabana Grande de Boyá</i>	<i>Multivitamins, Anti-parasitic medications</i>
<i>Cisade</i>	<i>Multivitamins, Anti-parasitic medications</i>
<i>Fundación Génesis</i>	<i>Medicines, materials, food supplements, multivitamins</i>
<i>Hogar de Niño</i>	<i>Food supplements, multivitamins, anti-parasitic medications</i>
<i>Consejo Presidencial de SIDA (COPRESIDA)</i>	<i>Food supplements</i>
<i>Secretaría del Estado de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social (SESPAS)</i>	<i>Food supplements, multivitamins, anti-parasitic medications</i>
<i>Fundación Apoyo Nutricional Nuevo Crecer</i>	<i>Food supplements, multivitamins, anti-parasitic medications</i>
<i>Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative (CHAI), Clinton foundation</i>	<i>Food supplements</i>
<i>Buen Samaritano</i>	<i>Food supplements, multivitamins, anti-parasitic medications</i>
<i>Fundación Pringamosa</i>	<i>Food supplements, multivitamins, anti-parasitic medications</i>
<i>FUSABI</i>	<i>Food supplements, multivitamins, anti-parasitic medications</i>
<i>Templo Bíblico</i>	<i>Food supplements, multivitamins, anti-parasitic medications</i>



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### International Alliance Building<sup>12</sup> (2008)

#### University of Texas Medical Branch

Contributes medical residents to provide supervised care at BRA’s medical clinics

#### Ross University School of Medicine

Contributes medical residents to provide supervised care at BRA’s medical clinics

#### University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Contributes Public Health student to do field study on domestic violence against women in the bateyas as it relates to their reproductive health and HIV contraction

#### Clinton Foundation’s HIV/AIDS Initiative

Negotiates DR purchase and distribution of low-cost antiretroviral therapy and medicines, and assists in the provision of HIV/AIDS care PLWA at BRA’s HIV/AIDS Treatment Unit in Monte Plata

#### Presbyterian Church-USA’s Committee on Self-Development of People

Provides funds to create four clean water systems inside side four batey communities of Monte Plata

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

Provided Public Voluntary Organization (PVO) status to BRA to access federal funding in order to better do its work overseas

#### USAID/Major League Baseball Initiative

BRA has been asked to join a consortium of seven prominent NGOs working in the Dominican Republic with a legal presence in the US with the goal of encouraging Major League Baseball owners, managers and players to be more socially-conscious about and involved in social-economic issues affecting the Dominican society. The aim is to receive funding from the League to support projects implemented by the following organizations: Batey Relief Alliance (BRA) Dominicana, World Vision, Save the Children/Fudeco, Plan International, Nature Conservancy, Dominican Institute for Integral Development/IDDI, and Foundation Esperanza.

#### Better Business Bureau

Provided charity membership status to BRA to help promote its work and financial accountability

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<sup>12</sup> Also see list of organizations that supported BRA in 2008



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#### PROMOTION OF BRA'S WORK

#### Special Activities, Celebrations, and Honors

- *BRA celebrated its ten year anniversary on October 23, 2007, with the official inauguration of the Cinco Casas Medical Center. Over one thousand individuals were in attendance, including many of BRA's beneficiaries from the surrounding bateyes, members from the press, members of the BRA Boards of Directors and staff, and various distinguished guests from the Haitian government, Clinton Foundation, the Canadian Embassy, USAID, the Dominican State Sugar Council, the Dominican Presidential Council on AIDS (COPRESIDA), Dominican Directorate for Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS (DIGECITSS).*
- *On December 1, 2007, BRA Dominicana celebrated with 147 people World AIDS Day with an afternoon of activities in the BRA Cinco Casas Medical Center in Don Juan, Monte Plata. Poems were read and short theater productions were performed, with participation from PLWHA, health promoters, community leaders, and directors of various schools in Batey La Cerca and Don Juan. BRA's healthcare providers also participated, providing education and orientation surrounding the subject of HIV/AIDS and distributing flyers about condom use and HIV prevention.*
- *On January 30, 2008, BRA Dominicana participated together with the Provincial Department of Health in Monte Plata and with diverse non-governmental organizations, celebrating the National Year for Health Promotion in the Dominican Republic. BRA took part in the opening ceremony of the event and in a parade that was carried out through the town. The goal of the event was to motivate individuals to take responsibility for their health and to promote a community consciousness for healthy living.*
- *In March of 2008, BRA welcomed a special delegation from the Haitian Ministry of Health, including the Health Minister, Dr. Robert Auguste, members from his cabinet, as well as a representative from the Prime Minister's cabinet. The delegation met with BRA's strategic partners in the Dominican Republic, and visited the organization's Cinco Casas Medical Center as an example of the quality of BRA's work in the Dominican Republic and a model for BRA's future work in Haiti. A formal agreement will be signed between BRA and the Ministry, establishing the terms for BRA to renovate, equip and manage the Anse-a-Pitres Clinic in Haiti, currently run by the Haitian municipal government. Several members of the press publicized the delegation's visit and its achievements for the future.*
- *BRA Dominicana participated in the elaboration and presentation of the Dominican Republic's 8<sup>th</sup> Round Proposal to the World Fund for projects in HIV/AIDS, with COPRESIDA as the receptor organization. The elaboration workshops took place in Santo*



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*Domingo in May of 2008.*

- *In May of 2008, BRA participated in a weeklong workshop hosted by the Pan-American Health Organization and the Dominican Directorate for the Control of STIs and AIDS (DIGECITSS) in Boca Chica, in order to better the quality of care for patients with HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. At the event, DIGECITSS announced that BRA will be in charge of the care and treatment of all HIV positive patients living in the province of Monte Plata, coordinating between the regional HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Units, organizing community health promoters, and ensuring the consistent supply and distribution of antiretroviral medications to PLWHA. This appointment is a great honor and evidence to the high quality work of the BRA in the area of HIV/AIDS.*
- *In August 2008, BRA Dominicana was invited to exhibit its work to 25,000 people visiting the EXPO MONTE PLATA 2008 in Santo Domingo. The event was part of the province's goal to showcase its rich cultural, agricultural and eco-touristic values.*

*BRA honored prominent Dominican scholar, Dr. Ruben Silie Valdez, for his work as a historian, ambassador, professor and scholar. The event took place on August 14, 2008 at the Dominican's Academy of History.*

- *In September of 2008, BRA placed a giant double-sided billboard (funded by USAID and BRA) on the main highway's intersection leading to the medical center (batey Cinco Casas) with messages promoting health and nutrition. The billboards are clearly visible and seen daily by thousands of passengers and motorists crossing province lines through Monte Plata.*

## 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 significant in-kind donations; however BRA does not have major sponsors to support its program expenses. A high percentage of the organization's total budget covers direct project delivery, yet BRA's operation remains generally underfunded. BRA needs additional funding sources to assure project continuity, employment security for technical and specialty staff, and the quality maintenance of BRA's several health clinics. Moreover, with an additional general fund, BRA would have more freedom to design and carry out projects that it deems necessary for the populations that it works for. An increase in BRA's general budget would free the organization from constraints imposed by other institutions, allowing it to use its own expertise and experience to implement the most effective projects in the country.

BRA is supporting this financial initiative with several income-generating efforts within the organization. Promotional activities to attract additional patients to the clinic have been effective at increasing organizational revenue, since patients pay a minimal fee for medical consults,



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depending on their financial capacity. Furthermore, BRA is examining new projects such as starting a healthy food establishment on the premises of the Cinco Casas Medical Center, a project that would raise money for the organization. Nevertheless, BRA requires outside sponsors to support these initiatives, which would allow BRA to maintain some self-generating funds within the organization.

“The Art of Saving Lives” is a BRA initiative that has raised general funds for the organization, through partnerships with local and international artists. The artists have donated various art works to the organization, to be sold in direct benefit of the organization.

### Increased Organizational Capacity

*BRA is in the process of developing a 5-year strategic plan to strengthen the organizational capacity and build a sustainable infrastructure for the health clinics and projects of the organization. Technical support for this process and for the carrying out of the plan will be needed to support BRA’s staff as they work to strengthen the organization’s capacity to fulfill its humanitarian mission. This process will be crucial as the BRA expands into Haiti, and as its projects continue to grow and multiply.*

The two medical clinics of BRA will also require careful strategic planning to build a sustainable infrastructure in the coming years. The clinics attend to approximately 20,000 patients every year, which is an enormous task considering the small staff and resources. BRA needs a sustainable supply of in-kind donations of medicines to offer to its patients who cannot afford to buy medicines on their own. Since cuts from pharmaceutical companies to our donors, these medicines are in short supply. In order to assure a sustainable supply system, BRA must rely on monetary donations from donors to supplement in-kind donations with low-cost medicines bought locally.

Both the Medical Clinic in Batey Cojobal and the Medical Center in Batey Cinco Casas are facing space limitations that hinder the quality of care that can be provided. Due to the large number of patients that visit the clinics every year, patients must often wait long periods to see to a doctor, and when they do, their privacy is sometimes compromised by tight quarters. As part of BRA’s strategic plan to increase institutional capacity, expansion of the Clinic and Center will be vital to improve the daily delivery of service. Financial support for these expansions is in great need as BRA continues to grow.

Raising the staff professional capacity is another concern of utmost importance. Given the leadership position of BRA in the community, it is imperative that the organization grows with a staff that is highly skillful, sophisticated, knowledgeable, conscientious, and ready to perform complex tasks. BRA continues to devote time and resources to strengthen the professional capacity of the staff, utilizing training sessions and workshops that focus on cultural sensitivity, prevention of stigma and discrimination, quality patient care, and prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other diseases.

### Increased Support for HIV/AIDS and TB Interventions



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With the end of the 3-year programs in HIV/AIDS and TB supported by the USAID, BRA Dominicana is in a difficult position of attempting to continue these projects without adequate financial support. Ongoing collaborations with the Clinton Foundation and the Dominican Secretary for Public Health support BRA in providing antiretroviral medications to people living with HIV, and BRA's resources in medicines, vitamins, and supplementary nutrition are extremely helpful for this beneficiary group. Moreover, many of BRA's promoters are capacitated in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, allowing them to provide better care. However, without adequate funds, BRA cannot continue providing community workshops on prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and TB, nor can BRA 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 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. Financial support for these programs is greatly needed.



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## SUPPORT FOR BRA'S WORK IN 2008

### 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. All of BRA's patients receive free medicines, eye glasses, vitamins, supplemental nutrition, as well as affordable medical services.

### Who Supported BRA

*Clinton Foundation's HIV/AIDS Initiative, St. Joseph Hospital Exempla Foundation, Google Grant Program, New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, Club de Leones Arroyo Hondo Santo Domingo, Club Rotario Arroyo Hondo Santo Domingo, Club Rotario Mirador Santo Domingo, USAID Project CONECTA, USAID-IFRP, Catholic Medical Mission Board, Canadian Embassy, Direct Relief International, Disciples of Christ's Week of Compassion, Dominican Secretary of Public Health and Social Assistance (SESPAS), Presidential Council on AIDS (COPRESIDA), General Directorate for the Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS (DIGECITSS), Fundación ADEMI, New York State Department of Health, Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Church USA's SDOP, Foundation for Peace, Public Service International, International Foundation, Volunteer Optometric Services for Humanity – New England College of Optometry, Vitamin Angel Alliance, Amitié Haïti-Lévis, Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad, Alliance for Youth Services, international volunteers and missionaries, BRA's Boards of Directors, and generous individual donors like you.*

### THANK YOU!

The Boards of Directors, Officials and Staff of the Batey Relief Alliance are thankful for your support enabling us to do important work on behalf of the poor. You are the partners we depend on 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.



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## 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

##### 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

##### Membres

Dr. Raymond Thertulien

Dr. Thomas Beague

Sara Beague

##### Director General

Ulrick Gaillard

*Nota Bene: Batey Relief Alliance, BRA Dominicana and BRA Haiti combined have dozens of full-time staff and volunteers performing administrative, programmatic and field duties.*



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## LOCATIONS OF BATEY RELIEF ALLIANCE

### UNITED STATES HEADQUARTERS

#### **Batey Relief Alliance, Inc. (BRA)**

P.O. Box 300565  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230-0565 USA  
tel. 1.917.627.5026 New York  
Email: [bra@bateyrelief.org](mailto:bra@bateyrelief.org)  
Website: [www.bateyrelief.org](http://www.bateyrelief.org)

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC OFFICE

#### **BRA Dominicana, Inc.**

Max Henríquez Ureña No. 80  
Edificio Enca, Suite 302  
Ens. Piantini, Santo Domingo  
Republica Dominicana  
tel. 809.540.4947, fax. 809.540.0786

### REPUBLIC OF HAITI OFFICE

#### **BRA Haiti, Inc.**

Centre Medical BRA  
Anse-a-Pitres  
District de 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 member of Global Health Council.*



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## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR 2007 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, [CLICK HERE](#)

### SUPPORT

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#### INCOME

Contributions/Unrestricted	\$189,627.00
Contribution/Temporarily Restricted	\$79,850.00
Grant/cash	\$10,000.00
Medical Volunteer Services	\$119,000.00
Pharmaceuticals/medical supplies	\$1,562,398.00

#### TOTAL INCOME

**\$1,960,875.00**

#### EXPENDITURES

Administration	\$65,968.00
Fundraising	\$13,473.00
Programs	
Pharmaceutical/medical supplies	\$1,562,398.00
Medical Volunteer Services	\$119,000.00
Food Aid	\$152,402.00
Support for other projects/programs	\$62,944.00

**\$1,976,185.00**

#### Depreciation

**\$5,935.00**

#### TOTAL EXPENDITURES

**\$1,982,120.00**

#### DECREASE IN NET ASSETS

**(21,245.00)**

#### NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING

**172,230.00**

#### NET ASSETS AT END

**193,475.00**