



BATEY 35

Batey 35 is located about 25 miles north of La Romana and about five miles outside the city of El Seibo. The six classroom building was originally built to serve as an early education facility.

In 1999 it was converted to a high school prep school for the communities in the northern regions of the La Romana Province.

The primary motivation to change the mission of the school was to increase the enrollment of batey students in the high school located in El Seibo.

This strategy is working but it has increased the cost of operating the school by more than 60%. The increased cost are driven by transportation necessary to bring the students from bateyes as far as ten miles away.

Enrollment in the school is only eighty to one hundred students. This is an amazingly small number considering there are more than 30,000 school age children in the bateyes. About half this number have a school close enough to where they live that they could attend.

The enrollment of only 1 student for every 1,000 that started school highlights the gauntlet facing those that are looking to escape the tomb of abject slavery.

Sugar Cane Kids, a social services program administrated through the Good Sam Hospital, is aimed at parents of young children. It works with them to explain the life giving benefits an education will provide their child.

To attend school all students are required to wear a uniform, including shoes. The cost of a uniform creates a hardship for the family, especially when they have several children. The Sugar Cane Kids program provides uniforms when needed as well as caring for the nutrition of students.

The education received in a batey school varies from very poor to poor. In order to keep children in school and to help them develop good study skills, as well as offering them a broader education, the 'ASK', After School Kids, program was introduced several years ago.

Children are sent to the cane fields as soon as possible to bring more money into the family budget, greatly thinning the numbers continuing their studies.

The final obstacle they must overcome is obtaining the proper documentation necessary to enrol in 8th grade. They must produce a 'legal' birth certificate verifying they are a 'Dominican' citizen. These certificates can sometimes become available for a fee of \$600.00, roughly \$24,000 pesos, about the total earned for 30 weeks of labor.



THE BATEYES

In addition to the Mobile Medical Clinics short term teams work on many short and long term projects with the communities throughout the sugar cane plantation.

Of the 125+ communities in the region the majority of them are owned by a large sugar cane refinery. These bateyes are fairly well defined communities with churches and in some there are single room schools. None of them have running water, electricity, or sanitary waste facilities. They cook on charcoal or wood fires.

There are about 12 - 15 bateyes that are on private land. Living conditions there well below what we would say are normal, normal for the bateyes that is.

Some of these bateyes have been 'adopted' by American teams and they direct their resources towards improving the living conditions for these people.

One example is Batey 50, located about 20 miles north of La Romana. For the past several years we have been working with these people and

have built them a church, improved their drinking water supply, installed latrines, and are building a school for their children.

We are also building new homes to replace the most decrepit ones. Our plan is to replace 50 of the existing ramshackle rusted corrugated buildings with cement block buildings.

Our plans for this place span several years with a large financial commitment. Most projects are much smaller and are accomplished by a single team in 1 or 2 trips. Completing a school in Batey Brador is an example of an average project.

We are prohibited from improving the conditions by the owners of some private bateyes. In those situations we provide as much support as we can through frequent food and clothing distributions.

The families in batey 50 have renamed their community 'Esperanza' - Hope. Hope is the most precious thing we can bring to these families.



GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL

Construction of the Good Samaritan Hospital began in 1990 as a walk in clinic for people living in La Romana, Dominican Republic. From the start it became the hub for multiple services extending into the many sugar cane farmer communities (Bateyes) throughout the region.

Today it is a full service general hospital providing health care from family practice through general surgery. The thirty departments, including Dialysis, CT Tomography, Ultrasound, and Arthroscopy treat 50,000 patients annually.

Building continues today on the third and fourth floors. The third floor will be dedicated to overnight care, expanding the thirty beds currently available to more than fifty.

Social services provided through a network of organizations in American communities are not available in the Dominican Republic.

To fill this void the hospital has stepped forward. Many programs have been created through the efforts of American volunteers with continued support being provided by the hospital.

The oldest and most beneficial is a network of community health providers. These people monitor the public health of the bateyes providing the first line of defense against dreaded diseases such as cholera.

Woman's Health and Family Planning education have helped improve the overall standard of living.

Supplemental educational programs such as the 'Sugar Cane Kids' and the 'After School Kids' are improving the success of early education resulting in more students continuing beyond the fourth grade and higher high school and university graduations.

The hospital has partnered with many US health and Service organizations such as Rotary International, University of Massachusetts Medical School, and the Yale University School of Nursing among them.



HAITIAN MISSION BAPTIST CHURCH

The central church of the Haitian cane farmers was planted in 1933 by the Haitian Baptist Association to provide for the spiritual needs of the Haitians that were bought to the region to harvest the cane. The relationship with the HBA has long vanished but the name of the church continues to carry on the history.

The current church was the first major project of US work teams. Construction began in 1985 and was completed by 1989. During this time the vision of the hospital was being cast to the American teams as they worked on the church.

Under the leadership of the late Jean Luc Phanord over 20 churches were established in the bateyes. Pastors and church leaders were trained by Pastor Phanord and a strong community of Haitians was established.

Today the church stands as the largest church in the region offering services to the Haitian speaking community. It is the host church for US Mission teams.

The management and operation of the living and facilities used by many of the visiting teams from the United States, Haiti, and other countries.

The church oversees the interpreters that accompany the mission teams to the bateyes and around the city. It also oversees a scholarship program for students attending the universities in La Romana and San Pedro de Macoris.

The Maranatha Orchestra, a merengue style worship band, has travel to the United States annually to raise awareness of the work supported by the American churches.



MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

The first mission trip to La Romana was a medical team that arrived in April of 1985. The 33 doctors, nurses, dentists, and support staff visited ten bateyes and provided care to more than 10,000 people. When in La Romana the leaders of this team assured the late Jean Luc Phenord that they would return, and many other teams from the US would be willing to come, but there would not be a significant improvement in health in the cane farmer communities unless a clinic or hospital was established in the region.

From this advice the vision of the hospital was developed and we have continued mobile medical clinics to this day.

We started with visits to only 20 communities. Through the years, as the number of teams increased, this has grown to more than 125 today. Each year we add more communities as they are created by the sugar cane company.

Each team consists of Doctors, dentists, and nurses from the hospital along with American volunteers. These teams of about 20 professionals visit one batey a day and will deliver health care to 100 - 150 children, women, and men.

For many of those that come to a clinic a health check up, 30 days of vitamins or prenatal vitamins, and AIDS or TB scanning is all they need. For children we include a treatment of Piperazine medication to rid them of intestinal worms. Teens receive consultations on teen age pregnancy and mothers are offered family planning information.

Mobile clinics also support Batey Health Promoters in approximately half of the communities we visit. These Promoters are trained in basic 1st aid and are qualified to administer some medications for hypertension or insulin for diabetics.

From time to time early clinics would see babies and young children with illnesses that could lead to death. At that time there was little that they could do. Today, with the water filter program and Promoters it is unusual for this to happen. If a critically ill person (baby or adult) is found they are transported to the hospital where they receive life saving care.

Mobile clinics provide care to more than 125,000 people living in bateyes and rural communities.



SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS

The need for education cannot be understated in any culture. What places a higher priority on schools in the bateyes and barrios of the Dominican Republic is it provides the only path out of poverty and paves the roadway to a better life.

The early education school in San Pedro de Macoris the first of the six schools we have built or have under construction.

Opened in 1994 with just a couple of classrooms it grew to six classrooms over the next several years and taught grades K - 4. With double sessions grades 5 - 8 were added in 1998.

Providing classroom space for a growing student demand and the need to teach through grade 12 a second level was completed in 2010.

Students receive excellent training as National Standard Testing has verified.

Instruction is provided by a team of University trained educators and skilled classroom monitors. Approximately half of the teaching and administration is performed by community volunteers.

Construction of the facility was accomplished through financial and volunteer labor by American work teams. The biggest challenge faced by the school is continuing financial support.

The cost per student for a full year is \$350 - \$450 depending on their grade. Each student is charged tuition of about \$15.00 per week.