



## YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

### Nicaragua 2013 Newsletter # 4

February 5, 2013

Dear YASC & YSN Nicaragua volunteers:

Our group leaders are dedicated to making this year's trip a success. It has been a pleasure working with them; they inspire me and keep me on my toes. This newsletter has a special "Group Leader Spotlight" section to feature the leaders of our construction, education, and the athletics groups. Next week, medical, business, and music group leaders will be featured. This newsletter also has important updates about our book discussion in Leon, arts and education supplies, a pre-trip fundraising event in New Haven after orientation, and the village site plan.

### Group Leader Spotlight



Connie Spencer  
M. Arch '82  
Construction Leader

#### Construction

##### Group Projects

We have an excellent collection of construction projects lined up for the trip this March. The community has requested that we help them renovate an old school to become a community building, build an environmentally congruent compost latrine for the elementary school children, help build a fence around the playground, build book shelves for a new library, and build soccer goal posts.

##### About Connie Spencer

Connie Spencer is the chair of the Yale Alumni Service Corps, producer of the YASC West Virginia program and the leader of the Nicaragua 2013 construction group. This will be the sixth time that Connie has volunteered to lead a YASC construction group. Connie has worked as a contractor, a carpenter and is a practicing architect.



Peggy Moore,  
Education Leader

## Education

### Group Projects

The arts & education team is focusing on literacy and enrichment for about 250 children ages 3-12. We will lead the children through a series of games, crafts, music lessons, simple science experiments and problems using their math skills, all related to a particular theme selected for the day. We will put special emphasis on reading and work with the medical team to show mothers, even illiterate mothers, how to interact with their children using story books to create a foundation for literacy.

### About Peggy Moore

Peggy is a retired business executive who is the daughter, wife and mother of Yalies, but “alas too old to be one myself”, she says. This is Peggy’s third YASC trip with members of her family.



Stephen Griggs,  
Athletics Leader

## Athletics

### Group Projects

The athletics group will work with children on the sports field to develop skills in soccer and baseball. We will also introduce frisbee for the first time. Our goal is to identify local adults who will work with us to develop an ongoing sports program.

### About Stephen Griggs

Steve Griggs is an athlete and a linguist which makes the YASC program a perfect fit. He coached at Yale (soccer and tennis) from 1975-1997. He speaks several languages, most pertinently Spanish, which is an extremely valuable skill on YASC trips to Spanish-speaking countries.

## Arts & Education Supply Request

The arts and education group is looking for donations for the supplies listed on the following page. If you have supplies that you would like to donate, please bring them to Nicaragua. We just ask that you email Peggy Moore to let her know what you are bringing. Her email address is [peggymoore@optonline.net](mailto:peggymoore@optonline.net).



### Supplies Needed

- Pad of children's sketch/drawing paper
- Package of construction paper
- Package of white bonding glue (Elmer's or equivalent)
- 2 pair of children's scissors
- 2 rolls of adhesive tape
- 2 boxes of crayons
- 2 boxes of markers
- 2 boxes of glitter markers
- 1 box of a dozen #2 pencils
- 2 small pencil sharpeners
- 1 package of lined paper
- 200 stickers
- 5 rulers (metric if possible)
- 5 children's Paint boxes
- Wet wipes



### Book Discussion in León



During our trip, Jeff (AKA “Paco”) Sharp has agreed to lead a book discussion on one or both of the following books:

1. *Blood of Brothers: Life and War in Nicaragua*  
by Steven Kinzer
2. *The Country Under My Skin: A Memoir of Love and War*  
by Gioconda Belli

If you would like to participate in the discussion, please vote on Facebook and let us know which book you would like to read.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/288131231290964/>. If you are not on Facebook, send your preference to [crystal.astrachan@gmail.com](mailto:crystal.astrachan@gmail.com).

## Orientation in New Haven



If you have not already RSVP'd to the orientation session in New Haven on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, please do so at your earliest convenience at Evite.com:

[http://new.evite.com/#view\\_invite:eid=038CAARBSZI3CIJXQEPCLYCIZE5ACQ](http://new.evite.com/#view_invite:eid=038CAARBSZI3CIJXQEPCLYCIZE5ACQ)

This in-person time will help us to prepare for an outstanding experience in March.

## Fundraising Event in New Haven

Yale School of Nursing volunteers have organized a fundraiser to support YSN's perpetuation of global health projects in Nicaragua. It will take place the night before orientation.

**Date:** Friday, February 22, 2013

**Time:** 8pm-2am.

**Location:** GPSCY, 204 York St, New Haven, CT (On York, between Chapel and Elm, behind Willoughby's)



**Cost:** A \$5 donation at the door until midnight, then a \$2 donation from 12am-2am. \$2 well drinks will be served until 11pm. Pizza will be provided, as well as entertainment.

All proceeds will benefit the people of Nicaragua!



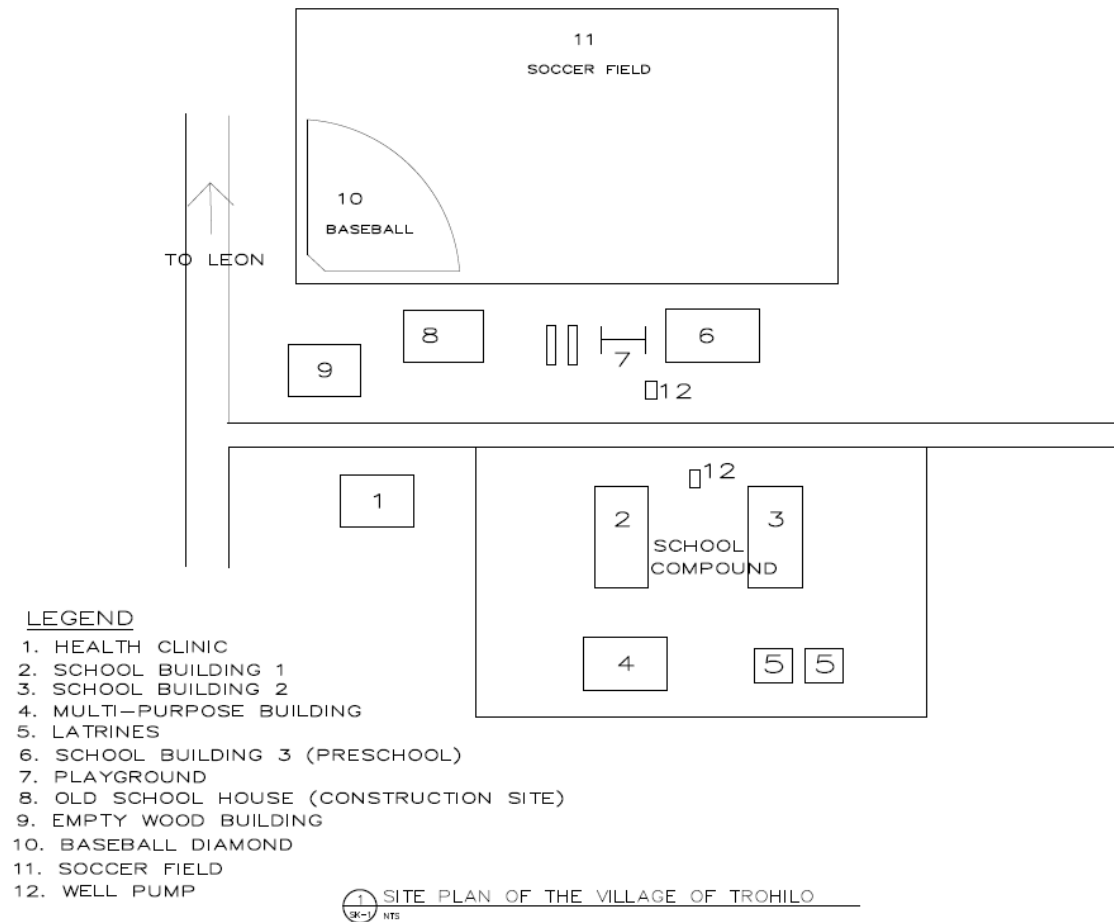
Trohilo Community Members



Fruit Stand in Trohilo

## Site Plan in Trohilo

The image below is the site plan of the center of Trohilo, the community we are serving. All groups (except for the business consulting group) will work in this location. Photos are included on the following page.



A SITE PLAN OF <b>VILLAGE OF TROHILO</b> NICARAGUA	<b>spencer architect</b> 11031 CATTAL BLUFF, TEGA CAY, SC 29708 803-802-8590 FAX 803-547-8204 spencer@scoll.com
	PROJECT DATE: 02/05/13
	PROJECT NUMBER: YALE
	SHEET NUMBER: OF S1



## Trohilo Worksite Photos



**School Building 1**



**School Building 2**



**Classroom Interior**



**Elementary School Classroom**



**Entrance to School Compound**



**Community Building Renovation Project**

### Last Week's Trivia Answer



YASC's first trip was to the Dominican Republic in 2008 with 88 volunteers!

Thank you for your time and dedication. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Crystal Astrachan, ES '04  
Nicaragua 2013 Trip Producer  
YASC Board Member