Overview

We’ve spent an amazing 5 years working towards our mission to support the Yantalo community and its volunteers in the construction of our volunteer house.

All of our hard work, inspired by Dr. Luis Vasquez and the Yantalo Foundation, is especially rewarding due to the grand opening of the hospital and first completed surgeries in March 2015! Our collaborative construction efforts are months away from being complete and we are looking forward to relaxing in the volunteer house in the near future!

We are excited to highlight some of our 2014 accomplishments as well as goals for 2015. Below you’ll find information on our: latest visit to the construction site, partnership with a team of architecture students, launch of a volunteer project database, new informational travel brochure for future volunteers, successful fundraiser in San Diego and finally a quick construction update.

2014 Progress

JANUARY 2014 TRIP TO YANTALO

Four Board Members traveled to Yantalo with a team of architecture students from the City College School of Architecture in New York to help with house construction. With the help of local workers and craftsmen, the team was able to prep the house for the construction of the second story.

PARTNERSHIPS

- City College Spitzer School of Architecture’s student group, led by faculty advisor Christian Volkmaan, designed a unique split butterfly roof for rainwater collection.
- DR Pilla and Associates provided engineering consulting for structural design
VOLUNTEER DATABASE
To help track the great volunteer work in Yantalo, we launched the Volunteer Project Database. This blog-style catalog allows past, current and future volunteers to consolidate project efforts into one resource. The hope is for all volunteers to connect and share with each other while maintaining the ability to revisit projects over time.

TRAVEL BROCHURE
We created a one-stop informational guide to support volunteers in Yantalo. The brochure highlights the “where, when, what, how, who” considerations for planning your trip. It even includes Yantalo’s best lunch spots! The brochure can be found on our website here.

SAN DIEGO GOLF FUNDRAISER
In October 2014 we hosted a golf tournament fundraiser with the gracious support of Larry Higgins and the Eagle Crest Country Club in Escondido, California. More than 50 players participated, successfully raising over $5,000! With all proceeds appropriated towards the volunteer house, we look forward to making this a recurring fundraiser event!

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Participation in the Holcim Foundation Awards Competition – a sustainable construction contest in New York City.
- Printed press in the City College and Plataforma Arquitectura/Arch Daily
- Presented at Dwell on Design’s “Design Like You Give a Damn” in NYC

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
Despite significant construction delays due to an extended rainy season, we were still able to complete the 2-story frame of the house. Now ready for the roof, we will be dedicating the majority of our monthly board calls to finalizing the roof and discussing next steps for finalizing the interior of the house. Travis Higgins, our Board member in Yantalo, continues to serve as our coordinator to oversee construction on the ground in Yantalo.
The Yantalo Foundation and Medical Volunteers

In 2014, 138 volunteers traveled to Peru to work with the Yantalo Foundation. They included physicians from Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Methodist Hospital for Surgery of Texas, Universidad de San Martin Peru, and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. To date, volunteers have visited Yantalo from over 14 countries!

We expect more volunteers and ongoing visits as the clinic prepares to become fully operational. Surgery and routine care have just begun this past month (March 2015)! The Yantalo Foundation has also formed agreements with universities and hospitals around the world to ensure ongoing volunteer participation and collaboration. Yale University, Johns Hopkins, University of Lund in Sweden and Brighton University are a few of the institutions with this type of agreement.

The board...

Erin Black
Erin lives in St. Louis working in public health. Her efforts focus on supporting the legal and governance aspects of the organization.

Michele Flournoy, Secretary
Michele recently earned her M.Arch and is currently working for Spacesmith Architects & living in Brooklyn. She coordinates the design development & construction for YIVO.

Josh Gibson
Josh is a freelance cameraman living in LA and maintains the YIVO website, archives, and the volunteer project database. He is also the YIVO photographer & videographer.

Travis Higgins
Travis is a former high school teacher, with experience in construction, real estate, state-politics, photography, and music. He lives in Yantalo, growing cacao, coffee and bamboo, and overseesing YIVO construction.

Laura Jay, President
Laura lives in New York working in international sustainable development and serves as Chair of the Board. She has been supporting efforts around fundraiser planning and organization.

Angela Snow
Living in New York. Angela works in TV and makes films. As a board member she has been working on efforts around fundraising and the volunteer project database.

Margaret Van Bakerman, Treasurer
Margaret lives in Nashville doing public health research at Vanderbilt University. She serves Treasurer, supporting in the tracking our finances and spending as well as working on fundraising documents.

Fundraising Summary

So many of our donations have come from our amazing friends and family, especially during our online campaign in 2013. This support along with a generous matching grant of $10,000 jumpstarted breaking ground for house construction! Our most recent fundraiser, a golf tournament in 2014, provided considerable support and will be a promising annual fundraiser. All funds raised to date have gone to construction and minimal fees such as operating expenses and money transfer costs.

IN 2014

138 FROM 14

# of volunteers # of Countries
What’s next...

Our primary 2015 goal is to finish construction of the house. We’d also like to be fully operational and accepting reservations for rooms in the volunteer house! The Yantalo community and their considerations and involvement are at the forefront of all of our goals, concepts, strategies and wishes. We also hope to:

- Accept volunteers to help finish the house interior (paint, tile work, carpentry, etc)
- Set up a local group of Yantalinos to support the ongoing operations of the house ensuring a strong connection of the volunteers and house activities to the community.
- Create a sustainable operation plan for house maintenance
- Collect in-kind donations for furniture and appliances
- Continue developing the volunteer project database
- Pursue improved internet/WiFi solutions
- Plan a Board Member trip to Yantalo
- Buy hammocks!!

THANK YOU!

A giant THANK YOU to all of our donors who have supported us financially, emotionally, creatively! We would not be a roof away from completing this ambitious goal without your support!

Finally, we have received crucial support from the Yantalo Foundation with onsite supervision from engineer Seclen, Wuilman & Mery.

The Yantalo Volunteer House is a project of Yantalo International Volunteer Organization (YIVO), a 501(c)3 organization.