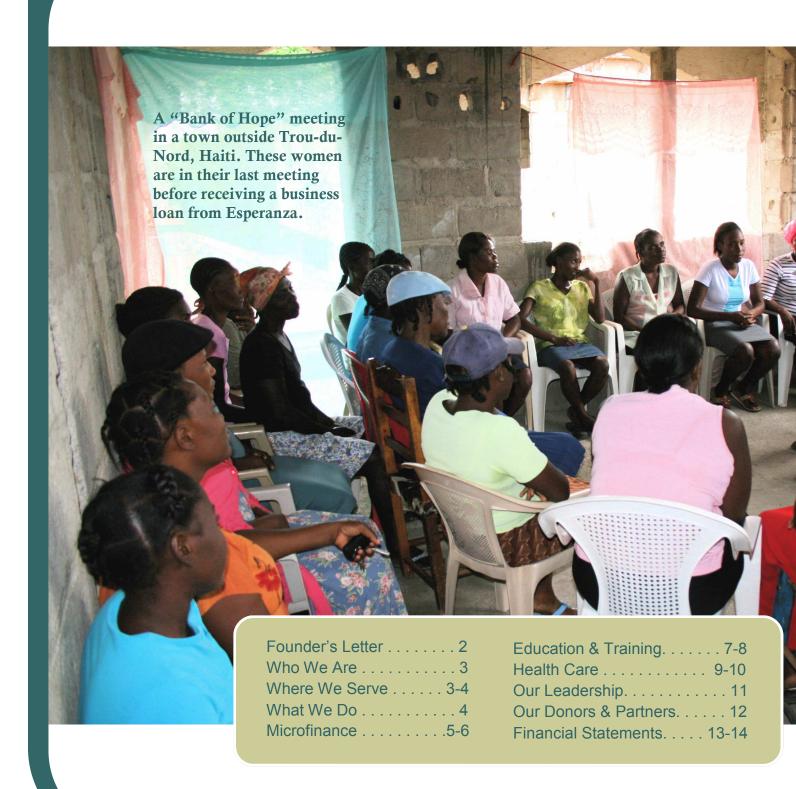


Leading the way to a future with hope



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## **FOUNDER'S LETTER**



In October of this past year, Tropical storm Noel hit the Caribbean and showed how vulnerable impoverished communities can be, but also how our programs build resiliency. Our clients were able to bounce back better than others because they had savings in a bank rather than stashed in their homes or none at all. They had insurance as a safety net as well as support from our staff and their community Banks of Hope. Another testament to the power of microfinance.

The microfinance movement has been gaining momentum as an effective and sustainable tool in the fight to end global poverty. Within this movement is the concept of Microcredit Plus – Esperanza's defining characteristic – which is the strategy of combining microfinance with other development services like health care and education.

In 2007 Esperanza surpassed the milestone of actively serving more than 10,000 clients with microfinance services – putting Esperanza among the top 25% largest microfinance institutions operating worldwide.

Two programs we want to highlight this year are our new microfinance operations that have extended our reach to Haiti and people living with HIV and AIDS. These and the rest of Esperanza's accomplishments are featured in the following pages of this annual report.

Thanks to your support, the dedication of our staff, and the hard work of the families in our program, Esperanza is bringing hope and opportunity to those in greatest need. Together we can continue to build on this success to reach more families throughout Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

We are grateful for your continued support.

David Valle

Co-Founder President & CEO Victoria Valle

Co-Founder Treasurer



#### **OUR MISSION**

Esperanza is a Christian development organization dedicated to freeing children and their families from poverty through initiatives that generate income, education and health, restoring dignity and self-worth to those who have lost hope.

#### **CORE VALUES**

We strive to follow Christ and living the Gospel in all of our relationships by honoring the worth, dignity and potential of every person. We work to foster a sense of community wherever we serve, strengthen families and develop the entire person—body, mind and spirit.

We endeavor to be good stewards of faith, achieve excellence in all we do, pursue integrity over image, and enable every person to have the opportunity to become all that God intends.



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

~ Jeremiah 29:11

## VE SERVE

## WHAT WE DO



# minican Republic



#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Esperanza's principles lead us towards community-based sustainable development strategies that address the root causes of poverty, especially those impacting children.

Our three major programs are financial services, health care and educational opportunities.

We work to improve the capacity of people to learn from their experiences of development, to be empowered by that process and to lead more fulfilled lives with greater understanding of the world they live in.

This goal is achieved by letting families and communities be the agents, planners, implementers and evaluators of the development efforts, where the vision comes from the people, and the ownership is theirs.

We seek to free people from the bondage and oppression of social, cultural, spiritual and economic forces that inhibit becoming all that is intended.

We accomplish this by reaching the most vulnerable and neglected populations such as the rural poor, single mothers, immigrants & refugees, people living with HIV and AIDS and those with little or no material assets.



= ESPERANZA OPERATION BRANCH OFFICE

## MICROFINAN











"Here at Esperanza, we emphasize not just economic, but holistic development. We understand that providing complementary services is a significant cost for us, but we continue to invest resources into these services because the bottom poor need health care and education too."

~ Carlos Pimentel, Country Director

## ICE PROGRAM



"With the first loan from Esperanza, I was able to start a business, which I wasn't able to do before. I was able to develop my business with further loans, and today my store boasts an inventory of RD\$ 50,000 (US\$ 1,560) in merchandise and a RD\$ 19,000 (US\$ 590) freezer.

Before I began receiving loans, my children had to live with their grandmother, because my wife and I could not support them in our own home. With the help of the loans I've received, I've been able to make my business a success and earn the resources we needed to reunite our family. All four of our children live with us now, and I am able to support and educate them as God wills.

T saw the manner in which my store kept growing thanks to the good interest rate that Esperanza offers us and the guidance of my loan officer. From the beginning, my loan officer taught us how to keep a register of our accounts. I wouldn't change my relationship with my loan officer for anything. Through the instruction the loan officers provided before giving us the loans, I have learned to have faith in God and to be a responsible member of my community.

Because I live in the community my store serves, I understand that my customers are as poor as I am. The loans have served the community by allowing me to offer needed goods at a fairer price than other stores in the area.

"Thank God for Esperanza. Thanks to them we have attained another way of life. Today we see the world from another point of view. If it weren't for the support and guidance that Esperanza has given us, we never would have been able to achieve our goals and aspirations."

## 2007 Loan Portfolio

Number of active clients	12,993
Total loans disbursed	55,162
Gross loan portfolio	\$1,387,813.10
Average Loan Size	\$106.80
Loan repayment rate	97.3%
Female Clients	87.0%

<sup>\*</sup> Figures as of December 31, 2007

#### Financial services for the poor

The needs of children can best be met by their families. One way to address these needs is by providing financial services.

The microfinance industry has shown how the poor are just as entrepreneurial as successful business people only they lack access to capital and business skills. Esperanza gives impoverished families the opportunity to start or expand their own businesses to become self-reliant.

Our microfinance services are focused on assisting the poor people, especially mothers. Women worldwide have proven themselves to be good credit risks in job creation and income generation. The economic gains go to meeting family needs.

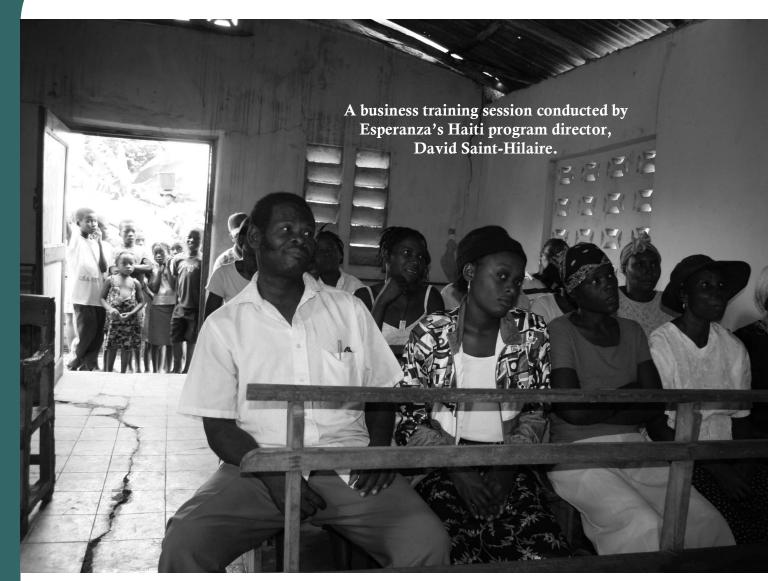
Children improve education and become healthier.

Esperanza accomplishes this by offering capital, savings, business training, and insurance. This creates a foundation for families to become financially self-sufficient in order to cover basic necessities. Selfworth and dignity are restored as well as hope for the future.

We implement a group-lending methodology where solidarity groups of five members of a community receive and repay a loan together. Multiple groups in a given community are known as a "Bank of Hope." Members are accountable to each other for repaying their group loan.

<sup>\*</sup> Amounts in United States Dollars

## EDUCATION & TRA









## INING PROGRAMS



#### **Vocational Training**

Esperanza develops and implements education and training opportunities that meet explicit needs of our bank associates, other community groups and our staff.

These include: leadership training, business planning, financial management, vocational/technical training, literacy, spiritual development and other issues that may emerge from our associates and their communities.

Associates and their children need education as well as vocational and spiritual training - giving them access to practical information and skills. For example, literacy courses are offered to expand their knowledge and understanding.

Vocational training programs are available for clients and their relatives to learn skills for managing their own small enterprise. Each entrepreneur works with their loan officer to create a business plan and develop their proficiency in a specific trade. This business training program gives five major lessons on personal finance, accounting, business management and principles of the loan contract so each of our associates is confident and prepared for the responsibilities of their enterprise.



Esperanza has partnered with Microsoft and Dominican government departments to promote the education and training of youths and adolescents through Computer Technology Centers.

The centers provide students with tools such as basic know-how of computers, vocational skills such as word processing and access to information via the Internet and encyclopedias.

#### 2007 Program Highlights

- ~ 5 centers open in 6 provinces
- ~ 3,850 students completed classes
- ~ Community members in 8 cities now have access to the centers.

#### 2008 Goals

- ~ Open 3 new centers (2 Santo Domingo, 1 Santiago)
- ~ Consolidate courses from 1-year to 6 months to accommodate more students

## Story of Hope ~ Milan Tapia

Before Milán heard of Esperanza, she was living on less than \$2 per day with little formal education; the reality for 1/3 of Dominicans.

With her first loan from Esperanza, Milán learned business skills, which enabled her to open her own business manufacturing and selling women's clothing. The business was a success thanks to not only the loan itself, but the

educational opportunities she received from her loan officer.

Milán began to feel a calling to pass on her blessings to others. She focused on her community's children, especially those who were disadvantaged. She developed a vision of educating, feeding, and loving these children – providing them with an education. She opened up a school, which

began with a few students, but soon community members began bringing children to her, many from the streets

Milán became teacher, mentor, and mother to these children. Now, seven years later, her school and volunteer teachers serve roughly 200 children each day. The school nearly doubled in size during 2007.

## HEALTH CAR



"The Esperanza y Vida program has been an incredible and excellent source of both economic and spiritual support for all of our associates, and we know this by the praise and thanks we receive from all of the women and men we serve. Although we encounter many challenges, stigmatisms, and difficulties we are very excited to continue growing and serving more families and children in the years to come."

~ Mirna Guillen, Esperanza y Vida Coordinator

## RE PROGRAM

#### **Addressing a fundamental need**

Esperanza's integrated microfinance and health care package offers a number of benefits to clients who receive both services. Our associates are able to access quality, affordable health services from a trusted network of providers.

For Esperanza, focusing on preventive care using external sources allows the healthcare program to function in areas with a limited availability of medical services. Additionally, our approach is easily adapted to different branch locations, providing a flexible system for instituting health services that is based on local conditions.

Those services that are not covered by the healthcare fee—such as medical procedures and medicines—are often available at a



Our "Esperanza y Vida" (Hope & Life) program was established to provide microfinance services to people living with HIV and AIDS. Microfinance rescues those who are outside the traditional financial system. Esperanza y Vida takes this notion a step further by demonstrating a good credit history for those living with HIV and AIDS.

#### 2007 Program Highlights

~ People received training: 1.075

~ Loans distributed: 243

~ Provinces reached: 5

~ Partnerships: 7<sup>3</sup>

\*Includes: UNICEF, Johnson & Johnson, Compassion, Clinton Initiative, Red del Camino, Grupo Paloma, others

#### 2008 Goals

- ~ Distribute 650 *additional* loans to people not yet in our program
- ~ Reach 2,800 children, orphans and vulnerable of at-risk youth through workshops and community outreach programs



reduced cost through pre-arranged agreements between Esperanza and health care providers. Esperanza pays each clinic and allied doctor based on services provided to their clients. Because these providers charge Esperanza fraction of their normal fee, Esperanza is able to pass these savings on to clients in the form of lower monthly fees.

## **Smiles for Hope**

Esperanza has joined with *Smiles for Hope,* a non-profit organization based in the U.S. which sends medical mission teams to developing countries such as the Dominican Republic to provide free dental care to impoverished communities.

Our partnership began two years ago. In 2007, Esperanza hosted three mission teams made up of dentists, oral hygienists and volunteers, who provided dental services to over 2,000 individuals in 15 communities.

#### 2007 Program Highlights

- ~ Children received cleanings: 2,109
- ~ Fillings (approx): 900
- ~ Extractions (approx): 1,400
- ~ Reconstructive or cosmetic surgery: 8-10

#### 2008 Goals

- ~ Host six medical mission teams
- ~ Reach an additional 3,000 children
- ~ Improve & promote oral hygiene

## LEADERSHIP

#### **Board of Directors**

**David Valle** - Chair, Co-Founder *President & CEO* Esperanza International

**Victoria Valle** - Co-Founder *Treasurer* Esperanza International

#### **Nancy Cahill**

Attorney at Law Holman Cahill Garrett Ives & Oliver PLLC

#### **Brian Holman**

Manager Ron Blue Company

#### **Paul Kennel**

President, DIME Foundation & Coordinating Committee Member, Micah Network

#### **Omar Minaya**

General Manger & Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations New York Mets

#### **Mike Mortimer**

CEO

Abner Group Real Estate & Investment

#### Mike Reilly

CEO

Reilly Brothers Real Estate

## **Senior Management Team**

Carlos Pimentel ~ Executive Director

David Saint-Hilaire ~ Haiti Country Director

Pedro Lacén ~ Microfinance Services Manager

Maria Teresa Hernandez ~ Human Resources Manager

Andrés Barréto ~ Information Technology Manager

Juan Alberto Marmolejos ~ Finance Manager

#### <u>Branch Managers</u>

Yakaira Rosario El Seibo & Hato Mayor Helena Calcano San Pedro de Macorís

Lorenzo Ozorio Santo Domingo

Grisér Figaro Samaná

Norberto Eusebio Puerto Plata

Celida Pérez Ingenio Consuelo

### Donors

#### **ORGANIZATIONS**

American Management Services LLC

Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

Apex Foundation

Azusa Pacific University

**Best Buy** 

BlackRock Financial Management, Inc.

Carleton A. Cleveland III Fund

CHS Services. Inc.

Credit Suisse

**Crystal Springs Foundation** 

**Extended Hands Ministries** 

Grameen Foundation

Grogan & Brawner PC

Hoglund Foundation

Hope International

Hope International Europe

Hugo Boss Fashions Inc.

Jerry & Marcia Tubergen Foundation

Kiva Microfunds

Lord Abbett Distributor

Merrill Lynch

Microsoft Giving

MLB Player Trust for Children

New York Mets Foundation, Inc.

Reilly Family Foundation

Roy J & Jeanne Grogan Family Foundation

SAP America

Seattle Mariners

Smiles for Hope Foundation

Sterling Stamos Capital Mgmt, LP

Steven A. & Alexandra M. Cohen Fdn. Inc.

Symetra Financial

Thomas O. & Cinda Hicks Foundation

Tommy Bahama

Tovs for Kids

UNICEF

**USAID** 

Wind-Up Entertainment, Inc

WREN Construction

#### **INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES**

Orlando and Adriana Ayala

Ray and Jennifer Baker

Mr. and Mrs. Lee M. Bass

Gregg and Lauren Bennett

Randy Bennett

Herb and Janice Blackinton

**Becky Bogard** 

Stephen Bray and Diane Dakin

Lawrence Dale

Steven and Gail Brookshire

Jeffrey and Michelle Brown

Lora Brown

Dan and Pat Brzusek

Dave and Candie Canfield

Sridhar Chandrashekar

**Emily Content** 

Jason and Courtney Courter

Dr. Ruth Crosby

Carolee Danz

Rick and Michelle Devenuti

Donald G. Elv

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J.C. Franklin

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John Stanton and Theresa Gillespie

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Scott Krahling

Michael and Kathleen Lambert

Scott and Ellen Lampe

Peter Lamy Joe Lara

Jesus Lopez

Howard and Grace Lincoln

Rufus and Pat Lumry

Dan and Barbara Masiello

Dana Mathews

Marty and Susan McCurry

Charlie and Julie McNerney

Omar and Rachel Minaya

Steven and Julie Nardi

Salvatore and Brita Naro Robert and Lynn Neidbalski

Thomas and Cheryl O'Leary

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Dan and Tamara Wilskie

Ann Wilson

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## **PARTNERS**

Ceprosh Clinton Global Initiative

Clinica Esperanza y Caridad Clinica Divina Providencia

Dominican Institute of Technology

Five Talents Grameen

Hope Johnson & Johnson

Kiva Microfunds

La Red del Camino

Microsoft

MIX Market

NY Mets

Office of the First Lady, D.R.

Tu Hogar Cristiano School

**UNICEF** 

**USAID** 

face-to-face with community with compatible goals.

Our network includes local to benefit from world-class technology and information.



Income Statement for January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 All figures are in US Dollars

-	From: To:	From:	To:
Account Name	1-Jan-2007 31-Dec-200		31-Dec-2006
Financial Revenue	537,8	33	335,601
Financial Revenue from Loan Portfolio	526,0		331,508
Interest on Loan Portfolio	424,8		331,508
Fees and Commissions on Loan Portfolio	101,1		0
Financial Revenue from Investments		0	0
Other Operating Revenue	11,8	16	4,093
Financial Expense	65,2	49	58,627
Financial Expense on Funding Liabilities	65,2	49	58,627
Interest and Fee Expense on Deposits		0	0
Interest and Fee Expense on Borrowings	65,2	49	58,627
Other Financial Expense		0	0
Net Financial Income	472,5	85	276,974
Impairment Losses on Loans	45,5	53	41,625
Provision for Loan Impairment	57,3	70	42,606
Value of Loans Recovered	(11,8	l6)	(981)
Operating Expense	682,9	94	487,080
Personnel Expense	412,7	03	293,048
Administrative Expense	270,2	90	194,031
Depreciation and Amortization Expense		0	21,388
Other Administrative Expense	270,2	90	172,644
Net Operating Income	(255,96	2)	(251,731)
Net Non-Operating Income/ (Expense)		0	0
Non-Operating Revenue		0	0
Non-Operating Expense		0	0
Net Income (Before Taxes and Donations)	(255,96	2)	(251,731)
Taxes		0	0
Net Income (After Taxes and Be- fore Donations)	(255,96	2)	(251,731)
Donations	669,4	09	221,845
Donations for Loan Capital	669,4	09	196,716
Donations for Operating Expenses		0	25,128
Foreign Currency Translation Gains (Losses) arising from converting financial statements from functional currency to presentation curency	(669,40	99)	(221,845)
Net Income (After Taxes and Do- nations)	(255,96	2)	(251,731)

Balance Sheet for January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 All figures are in US Dollars

	Values as of:	Values as of:
Account Name	31-Dec-2007	31-Dec-2006
Assets		
Cash and Due from Banks	69,428	35,731
Trade Investments	0	0
Net Loan Portfolio	1,286,700	850,042
Gross Loan Portfolio	1,373,463	896,803
Impairment Loss Allowance	(86,763)	(46,762)
Interest Receivable on Loan Portfolio	20,975	15,522
Accounts Receivable and Other Assets	359,936	383,320
Other (Long-term) Investments	0	0
Net Fixed Assets	391,077	333,468
Fixed Assets	399,267	368,332
Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization	(8,191)	(34,864)
Total Assets	2,128,116	1,618,082
Liabilities		
Demand Deposits	0	0
Short-term Time Deposits	0	0
Short-term Borrowings	106,499	134,305
Interest Payable on Funding Liabilities	0	0
Accounts Payable and Other Short-term Liabilities	0	0
Long-term Time Deposits	0	0
Long-term Borrowings	954,210	878,253
Other Long-term Liabilities	0	0
Total Liabilities	1,060,709	1,012,558
Equity		
Paid-In Capital	0	0
Donated Equity	1,385,742	751,173
Prior Years	716,333	529,328
Current Year	669,409	221,845
Retained Earnings	(318,335)	(145,649)
Prior Years	(62,372)	106,082
Current Year	(255,962)	(251,731)
Reserves	0	0
Other Equity Accounts	0	0
Adjustments to Equity	0	0
Total Equity	1,067,407	605,524

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Esperanza is a Christian development organization dedicated to freeing children and their families from poverty through initiatives that generate income, education and health, restoring dignity and self-worth to those who have lost hope.

ESPERANZA®

Leading the way to a future with hope