

Natalie Rothwell, Dominican Republic, August 31, 2010

Summary- The Summer of Development

This past summer, I was given the incredible opportunity to intern at Esperanza International, located in the Dominican Republic. Esperanza is a non-governmental organization that is providing micro-credit to the poor of the Dominican Republic and some of Haiti.

During my 5 week period in the Dominican Republic I interned at one of Esperanza's branch offices in Samana. With my internship I had several projects, my primary project was to do a presentation on the comparison of Grameen Bank and Esperanza International. Then I had my secondary project which consisted of a website story, two success stories and journals for Kiva. I chose to do my website story on the Christian identity aspect of Esperanza. The two success stories and the Kiva journals were very similar, with each story and journal I would interview the associates, in Spanish, asking them about their job and how the loan had affected their lives, I would then translate and write a short story on how their lives had changed through that small loan. The difference is that with the Kiva journals, I would post them onto the Kiva website, kiva.org, which is an organization that provides lenders to organizations like Esperanza. The stories that I wrote for Kiva were to let the lenders know the change that they made in a stranger's life. Even though I was not making a strong impact on the lives of the associates of Esperanza, I believe that I was making a difference in a life.