



*Celebrating a Decade
of Haitian Philanthropy*

2024 Annual Fundraiser Gala

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Sport of Kings, Gulfstream Park
Hallandale Beach, Florida

Welcome

Dear Friends,

In 2014, Sant La launched the Haitian Philanthropy campaign to promote charitable giving in South Florida's Haitian community.



This initiative represented an effort to debunk the notion that Haitians do not engage in charitable giving. For Haitians, the tradition of giving defines our role as emergency responders and supporters of family and community in times of need.

As we convened partner organizations, we set clear goals to engage Haitian Americans in discretionary philanthropy. It was our vision and challenge to harness our traditional spirit of giving and build a movement that would demonstrate to the world that Haitian Americans can give in meaningful and measurable ways.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of this campaign, we have selected local organizations and individuals who have contributed, time, talent and treasure while inspiring and furthering philanthropy in South Florida's Haitian community.

May this evening's celebration be a call to action for the next decades and a reminder that philanthropic giving offers our community a vehicle for collective power to impact social change.

Let's vow to celebrate our honorees tonight and hold them as models for growing generations of philanthropists.

In Solidarity,

Gepsie M. Metellus
Executive Director

Herve Bony
Board Chair

Program

Mistresses of Ceremony

Dr. Shirley Plantin, U-Turn Youth Consulting
Eurica Ketant, Sant La Development Committee Co-Chair

National Anthems

Sheila Be

Welcome

Herve Bony, Board Chair

Reflections

Rev. Vensen Ambeau, Greater New Mount Zion AME Church

Greetings

Miami Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava

Occasion

Gepsie M. Métellus, Executive Director

Philanthropy Awards

Sant La Board Members

Acknowledgements

Eurica Ketant, Sant La Development Committee Co-Chair

Entertainment

Ambiance Creole
Guy Michel

Board of Directors

Officers

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Karen Hurst, Vice Chair

Tamara Beliard Rodriguez, CPA,
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M. Rose Bleus, Ph. D., Secretary

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Patrick Martin, Esq.

Michael McDearmaid
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Scarlet Pereira, CPA
Donard St. Jean, MBA
Sandra Williams, Ph.D.

Sant La Staff

Gepsie M. Métellus, Executive Director

Murielle Augustin,
Youth & Family Counselor

Tanayiz Bertrand, Data Specialist

Joanne Cadet, Program Support

Dr. Marlène César-Berrouet,
FNSP Program Director

Junie Daréus,
Citizenship & Elderly Specialist

Olmise Délicieux, FSNP Success Coach

Emmanuelle Elie, FNSP Natural Helper

Léonie Hermantin,
Special Projects Director

Sabine Jean, FNSP Success Coach

Marie Josette Josué,
Community Health Services Director

Jean F. Leger,
Employment Services Director
Lucie Liberal, Program Assistant &
Client Receptionist

Rose T. Mainville,
Youth & Family Services Coordinator

Karine Mompremier,
Family Services & Operations Director

Soraya Papayoute, RCSWI,
Youth & Family Counselor

Alphonse Piard,
Financial Literacy Services Director

Junior Pierre, Employment Coach

Raymonde Pinchinat,
Health Benefits Educator

Oslaude Rousseau, Financial Coach

Guibert St. Fort, Program Coordinator

Evelyne Sylvain, Benefits Specialist

Sedney Taylor,
Natural Helper and TFC Ambassador
Nadeige Theresias-Joisil,
Youth Development Program Director

Jinia Williams Dauphin,
Mental Health Program Director

Isna Anacius, Housekeeper

Jean Faustin, Custodian

Herman Rivas, CPA, Accountant

Acknowledgements

Event Planning

Léonie Hermantin, Kenta Joseph, Rose Mainville,
Gepsie M. Métellus and Karine Mompremier

Haitian Marketplace Silent Auction

Léonie Hermantin, Rose Mainville and Karine Mompremier

Décor

Sabine Dulcio Florals and Décor

Graphics and Program Book

Kenta Joseph

Power Point Presentation

Karine Mompremier

Entertainment

Ambiance Creole
Guy Michel

360 Photo Booth

DJ Nicky Mix

Photography

Gerry Brierre Photography

Videography

Jimmy Pertil

Sponsors

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JP Morgan Chase & Co.
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Comcast
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Health Foundation of South Florida
Miami Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine-Cava
Solanges Vivens Foundation

Benefactor

Miami Dade County Commissioner Rene Garcia, District 13
Publix Super Market Charities

Friends

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Ira Kurzban
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Miami Dade County Commissioner Micky Steinberg, District 4

Sponsors

Table Sponsors

Angels for Humanity
Ayiti Community Trust
Black Business Investment Fund
City of North Miami Vice Mayor Mary Estime-Irvin
Edgard Pierre Jr. Foundation
Eurica Ketant and Michael McDearmaid
Herve Bony and Patrick Martin
Karen Hurst and Donard St. Jean
Gepsie M. Métellus
Man Dodo Humanitarian Foundation
The Miami Foundation
Scarlet Pereira and Mastercard
Thamara Labrousse and Sandra Williams

Silent Auction Donors

Gepsie M. Métellus
Alphonse Piard
Leonie Hermantin
Maggie Saintil

Wine Sponsor

Top Shelf Beverage Catering

Open Bar Sponsor

Bacardi

Philanthropy

Sant La's Board and staff salute these outstanding individuals and organizations who have played a pivotal role as philanthropic leaders and advocates of Haitian philanthropy.

Individual Honoree



Yoyo, a 30-year resident of Little Haiti, migrated from Haiti to the US in the 80s. Sant La has known Yoyo for more than 20 years, first as a client in need of services and later as an active member of our Neighborhood Advisory Group which provides insights on community issues. Today we are proud to call her a sustaining donor who insists on making her monthly contribution to the organization she considers family.

Institutional Honorees



Angels for Humanity, founded by Judith Joseph, empowers impoverished children in Haiti and globally. AFH hosts back-to-school and Christmas events, built a state-of-the-art school in Cap Haitian, and conducts life-saving missions. Through Catwalk for Charity and Tea for a Cause, AFH merges fashion and philanthropy. We celebrate their unwavering support for Haiti!



Ayiti Community Trust is a grantmaking community foundation with a mission to support and sustain development innovation in Haiti across civic education, the environment and entrepreneurship. Founded by Dr. Guerda Nicolas, ACT envisions a just and equitable Haiti, where farming communities flourish with economic empowerment and dignity. It mobilizes Haitians and friends of Ayiti to invest in Haitian-led, asset-based innovations through a community foundation model supported by an

Honorees

endowment. Beyond its nation-building efforts in Haiti, ACT actively engages the new generation of philanthropic giving by involving young Haitian Americans. Tonight, we celebrate ACT's impactful work, which centers around a transformative vision for our beloved Haiti.



The **CLE-Haitian Sisterhood** fosters a safe space for Haitian women to connect, uplift, and support one another. With over 5,000 members, this relatively new organization embodies community philanthropy. Whether responding to emergencies for homeless mothers or gathering donations for local charities, the Sisterhood actively engages its members in generous giving. We extend heartfelt gratitude to the CLE Sisterhood for their impactful contributions to our community.



The **Edgard J. Pierre Foundation**, established in 2004 in memory of community leader Edgard Joseph Pierre, is dedicated to supporting initiatives in Haiti and the United States. Their focus includes feeding, clothing, educating, and nurturing needy children. Notably, they invest 100% of raised funds directly into projects. Tonight, we honor their commitment to community history and engaging the next generation in heartfelt giving.



Fondasyon Konesans ak Libete, founded in Haiti in 1995, champions individual autonomy, critical thinking, responsibility, creativity and cooperation through education and training. Today, it remains a beacon of hope for Haiti's artists, civil society, students, farmers and Diaspora partners. After the 2021 earthquake, FOKAL, alongside its U.S.-based not-for-profit Ayiti Demen, swiftly mobilized and provided immediate relief to nearly 23,500 families with food, healthcare and shelter. Notably, they were among the first Haitian-led organizations to report on funds raised and their distribution to 35 grassroots organizations and small businesses. We are thankful for FOKAL's example of transparency, for it fosters trust and loyalty in a community often plagued by doubt.

Philanthropy



Greater Miami Health Education & Training Center led by community leader Dr. Larry Pierre, offers medical clerkships in various specialties to students from local, national, and international medical schools. These students gain hands-on experience in local hospitals and outpatient clinics across South Florida. Beyond medical education, GMHETC is a dedicated philanthropic institution, unwavering in its support for Haitian-led community-based charities. Tonight, Sant La honors this steadfast supporter, exemplifying the spirit of Haitian philanthropy.



The **Man Dodo Humanitarian Foundation**, founded in 2005 to honor the legacy of Mrs. Evanne “Man Dodo” Lozama, a revered figure in her hometown and community. The Foundation focuses on improving the lives of underserved residents in Southern Haiti. When Hurricane Matthew struck, affecting 1.2 million victims, the Foundation swiftly mobilized resources and engaged young Haitian Americans, in philanthropic efforts. Tonight, we honor their impactful efforts in Haitian philanthropy.



The Miami Foundation, established in 1967, passionately supports Miami’s growth. With over 50 years of investment, they’ve contributed over half a billion dollars to our community, focusing on strengthening Greater Miami with \$427 million in assets. Tonight, we honor the Miami Foundation for its impactful “Give Miami Day” campaign. Nearly 50 Haitian-led and community-serving organizations participate in this day of giving and thousands in our community have become loyal philanthropists, investing millions to support community-building efforts.

Honorees



The **Schulz Foundation**, established in 2006, serves Miami's Haitian immigrant community. Their Haitian Community Thanksgiving Brunch brings together over 600 Haitian and Haitian American seniors from Little Haiti, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Homestead, and Florida City. Volunteers also deliver meals to home-bound individuals.

We recognize the Schulz Foundation for fostering community leadership and fellowship in service to our elders.



Dr. Solanges Vivens, a retired business owner turned bestselling author, established the **Solanges Vivens Foundation** to champion women and children. Her dedication to empowering women and girls is evident in her books, "Girls Can Move Mountains" and "Educated Girl, Empowered Woman." The foundation gained prominence when it generously supported the beginnings of Haitian Ladies Network, which unites over 75,000 engaged Haitian women globally. We honor the Solanges Vivens Foundation for its unwavering commitment to empowering Haitian women and girls through philanthropy.

Sant La's Impact in Numbers

Founded on December 6, 2000

Launched on June 15, 2001

People

- 26 Staff Members
- 15 Board Members
- 3 In-house Partners
- 26 Volunteers & Interns
- 25 Neighborhood Advisory Group Members

Services*

- 15,988 clients served
- 953 clients received tax preparation & financial coaching
- 1,138 job seekers received employment services
- 390 clients received re-employment assistance
- 1,828 received health security support
- 1,670 clients received food security
- 1,029 visits for mental health services
- 1,523 visits for EDEN Place workshops and services
- 241 clients received emergency rental assistance
- 1,209 received TPS-related assistance
- 393 received tech literacy education in Creole
- 316 clients received support via Grandet Branche/Silver Connections

Initiatives

- 10+ White Papers and Documentation Projects
- 400+ episodes of Teleskopi viewed by 500,000+ households
- 16-member Haitian Philanthropy Coalition
- 9-cohorts of the Sant La Fellows
- Countless successful advocacy efforts for policies and investments that benefit the Haitian community

Funders & Partners

- 47+ Impact Investors
- 100+ Community Partners

**Numbers reflect those served during fiscal year 2022-2023.*

Impact Investors

Sant La's Board and staff gratefully acknowledge the following partners who support our work:

1199SEIU Florida
AETNA
Allegany Franciscan Ministries
BAC Funding Corp
Bank of America Foundation
Bank United
Big Green
Career Source South Florida
Carnival Foundation
The Children's Trust
Citi Foundation
City of Miami
City of North Miami
Coral Gables United Church of Christ
Doral Cops
The Ethel and George Kennedy Foundation
Florida Blue
Florida Blue Foundation
Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète (FOKAL)
The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation
Greater Miami Jewish Federation
Green Family Foundation
Health Foundation South Florida
Humana
Jackson Health System
The John S. & James L. Knight Foundation
The Kathleen Kennedy Foundation
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Miami-Dade County Mayor and Commission
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
The Miami Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Peacock Foundation
Related Philanthropies
Rethink Food
Royal Caribbean
Share Our Strength
United Way Miami

Community Partners

Working to Uplift the Haitian Community!

Association of Exchange and Development of Activities & Partnerships

Avanse Ansanm

Association of Haitian Educators of Dade

Ayiti Community Trust

CACEC

Caribbean Audio Visual and Cultural Preservation

Center for Haitian Studies

Center for Information and Orientation

Community Access Center

Concerned Leaders of Little Haiti

CLE Haitian Sisterhood

Family Action Network and Movement (FANM)

Gang Alternative

Haitian-American CDC (Little Haiti Housing)

Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida

Haitian-American Elderly Center

Haitian American Foundation For Democracy

Haitian American Faith-Based Network

Haitian-American Leadership Organization

Haitian-American Nurses Association

Haitian-American Professionals Coalition (HAPC)

Haitian American Voter Empowerment Coalition

Haitian-American Youth Organization

Haitian Child and Community Center

Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance

Haitian Heritage Museum

Haitian Ladies Network

Haitian Lawyers Association

Haitian Medical Association

Little Haiti Cultural Complex

Little Haiti Football Club

Little Haiti Optimist Club

National Haitian American Elected Officials Network

NSL Dance Ensemble

Our Little Ones

Pierre Toussaint Catholic Center

Prosperity Social and Community Development

Sosyete Koukouy Miyami

Tradisyon Lakou Lakay

Community Partners

Working to Uplift South Florida!

Advocacy Network on
Disabilities

Americans for Immigrant Justice

Anti-Defamation League

Axis Helps South Florida

Barry University

The Beacon Council

Borinquen Health Centers

Capital Good Fund

Catalyst Miami

Career Source South Florida

Catholic Legal Services

The Cleo Institute

Concerned African Women

Dibia Dreams

Early Learning Coalition

Epilepsy Foundation

Equity and Advocacy Collective

Florida Immigrant Coalition

Flippany

Florida International University (FIU)

FIU Neighborhood Help

Florida Rising

Greater Miami Chamber of
Commerce

Hispanic Unity

Greater Miami Chapter of
The Links Inc.

Jewish Community Services

Juvenile Services Division

Kristi House

Legal Services of Greater Miami

Miami Bridge

Miami Climate Alliance

Miami Dade College

Miami Dade County Office of New
Americans

Miami Dade County Public Schools

Miami Homes for All

Miami Workers Center

Partners for Self Employment

Radical Partners

Parent Engagement Network

Rethink Food

St. Thomas University

South Florida Black Prosperity
Alliance

The Women's Fund

Together for Children

Unidos

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World Central Kitchen



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We proudly support Sant La and applaud its commitment to Florida's Haitian community.

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Commissioner Marleine Bastien

Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 2



Sant La has been at the forefront of serving, representing, and advocating for our families with pride and determination. I am proud to join you in saluting Haitian pioneers who labored to build our community for the past 50 years, trailblazing a path for future generations. We celebrate your commitment and leadership and wish you continued success in all your endeavors.



Commissioner
MARLEINE BASTIEN
Miami Dade County
District 2



Digicel International



Cash
Yon pwodwi **Digicel**



GREEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Green Family Foundation provides grants to support programs that empower entire communities. Our goal is to enable underserved communities to achieve sustainability and self-reliance by alleviating the cycle of poverty and disease.



We proudly support Sant La programs.
Congratulations on 23 years of
empowering the Haitian community.



**KNIGHT
FOUNDATION**



WE BELIEVE IN:

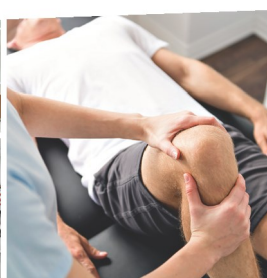
freedom of expression and in the values expressed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

an informed citizenry as essential for a representative democracy to function effectively.

engaged, equitable and inclusive communities.

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Health Foundation of South Florida
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2024 Annual Fundraiser
and the empowering work of
Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center



www.hfsf.org



Alix Desulme, Ed.D.

Mayor

March 8, 2024

Dear Ms. Gepsie M. Metellus, Executive Director of Sant La, Haitian Neighborhood Center, Inc.:

On behalf of the City of North Miami, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Sant La on your remarkable achievements in empowering, strengthening, and uplifting South Florida's Haitian community. Your mission to provide free access to information and services for successful integration is not only commendable but vital to the fabric of our diverse city.

Your vision of a fully integrated and self-sufficient Haitian community aligns perfectly with our city's values of inclusivity and community development. Through your partnerships with community-based organizations, government agencies, and public and private institutions, you have created a robust network of support that is invaluable.

The cultural competence training you provide for partner agencies is a testament to your commitment to ensuring that the Haitian community receives the respect and understanding it deserves. Your efforts to strengthen neighborhood-level leadership and civic engagement are essential in building a vibrant and active community.

Your advocacy for the Haitian community's needs and interests at all levels of government, along with your recommendations for policies and investments, demonstrate your dedication to creating positive change.

Once again, congratulations on your outstanding contributions to the Haitian community and South Florida. The City of North Miami looks forward to continuing our collaboration with Sant La to further our shared goals of integration and empowerment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alix Desulme".

Alix Desulme, Ed.D.

Office of the Mayor and Council

776 NE 125 Street | North Miami | Florida | 33161

Office: 305.895.9815 Fax: 305.892.9899

E-mail: adesulme@northmiamifl.gov Web: www.northmiamifl.gov



Congratulations

to **Sant La** 

Haitian Neighborhood Center

ON YOUR *Annual* FUNDRAISER GALA
IN CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF
HAITIAN PHILANTHROPY



Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.
The People's Mayor
City of North Miami, FL

www.mayor.northmiamifl.gov •  [adesulme](#)  [@desulmealix](#)  [@alixdesulme](#)

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8 YEARS
UNDER THE
CARIBBEAN
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Fatima Group congratulates Sant La on its 23rd anniversary!

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Congratulations Sant La on 23 years! Wishing you continued success!

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COMCAST

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Solanges Vivens[®]

Congratulations Sant La on 23 years of service in the Haitian community.



**STRENGTHENING
OUR
CONNECTIONS.**

We're proud to support those who dream of something bigger through helping others.



Mary Estimé-Irvin
Vice Mayor – District 3



May 04, 2024

Dear Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center Board Members:

It is with great honor and privilege to witness the celebration of Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center on its tenth anniversary of Haitian Philanthropy under the leadership of Mrs. Gepsie Metellus with the support of her staff, the board of directors, and stakeholders. Since 2001, Sant La has been serving the Haitian community through services, programming, education, and advocacy. Sant La has always been at the forefront of fighting for equality and justice for Haitians and Haitian Americans providing resources and support to whatever challenges the Haitian community faces locally and abroad.

It is because of Sant La that many Haitian immigrants in the local area have been able to obtain financial assistance for their educational goals through their scholarship program for students; access to employment services, basic technology classes, free tax services, assistance enrolling in health insurance programs, referrals for caregivers taking care of older adults, life skill workshops for parents and youth, immigration and naturalization support and assistance,

Chapo Ba to Mrs. Metellus and the whole Sant La team. May you keep making a positive and lasting impact on the lives of all those who come in contact with your organization.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Estimé-Irvin".

Mary Estimé-Irvin
Vice Mayor

Office of the Mayor and Council

776 NE 125 Street | North Miami | Florida | 33161

Office: 305.895.9818 Fax: 305.892.9899

E-mail: mestime-irvin@northmiamifl.gov Web: www.northmiamifl.gov

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center for their dedication to empowering, strengthening, and uplifting South Florida's Haitian Community!
The City of North Miami applauds your impactful work.



Alix Desulme, Ed.D.
Mayor



Mary Estimé-Irvin
Vice Mayor, District 3



Scott Galvin
Councilman, District 1



Kassandra Timothe, MPA
Councilwoman, District 2



Pierre Frantz Charles, M.Ed.
Councilman, District 4



Vanessa Joseph, Esq.
Elected City Clerk

NorthMiamiFL.gov



Miami-Dade County Mayor
Daniella Levine Cava

Thank you, Sant La, for your unwavering commitment to philanthropy and service in Miami Dade.





Sant La's Philanthropy Gala

www.SantLa.org

@SantLaHaitian

