

Haiti  
Partners

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020/21



# A NOTE FROM OUR CO-DIRECTORS

*"I've followed with great interest the evolution of Haiti Partners through The Children's Academy. What's been accomplished in these last nine years since it opened with 25 kids is more than remarkable, especially considering Haiti's many problems. The way the staff works with students and families to bring back the practice of Konbit is exactly what Haiti needs. This school is a beacon of light and hope for all of us in this community."*

*~ A local Entrepreneur and Children's Academy volunteer (name omitted for security reasons)*

The 2019-20 school year was certainly challenging. Then came 2020-21. Oh my. But, Haiti's insecurity and instability has not kept us from moving forward. Thanks to your generous support combined with the determination of students, staff and their families, we're making BIG progress:

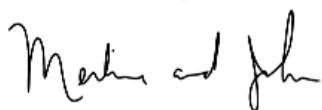
- The Children's Academy is now a full pre-K through 6th grade school
- Thanks to the Home Gardens project, over 600 gardens have been planted and are currently producing food for families at the homes of students and staff
- 1033 Partner School students moved forward with a quality education

*Konbit* emerged this past year as an essential theme for us. Historically, konbit was the practice that Haitians created to live and work together once they won their freedom from the colonists. Its spirit can be captured like this: "Today, we work my garden; tomorrow we'll work yours. The next day we'll work together for the community." Konbit is about working together in respectful partnership for the benefit of each other and the community. Konbit allows us to get more done and to do it with greater creativity, meaning, and joy.

As we reflect on the unimaginable adversity that our Haitian sisters and brothers face daily, we draw inspiration from them and commit, more than ever, to the vision of a new educational model, rooted in the spirit of konbit, that truly prepares children to become agents of change for themselves, their families, their communities and their country.

Thank you for being in this work with us of *helping Haitians change Haiti through education.*

With love and gratitude,



Merline and John  
Co-Directors, Haiti Partners



New Children's Academy Pedagogy Director, Widlyne,  
welcomes students and parents to school every morning

## WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE THIS YEAR



**1,337 students**  
in school



**954 people** in Community  
Change Groups



**75,628 hours**  
volunteered in Haiti,  
US and elsewhere



# SCHOOLS PROGRAM

304 pre-K through 6th grade students received an inspiring, student-centered, changemaker education at the Children's Academy and Learning Center as the school reached full elementary status. The Home Gardens project planted over 600 productive and sustainable gardens at the homes of students and staff. This included installing water catchment systems in the homes of 220 families. Over 100 local youth and other community members come to the school each day for the afternoon programming which includes help with homework, language classes, and sports activities.

**73,400 service hours were provided by parents** at the Children's Academy. Through their service hours parents engage at the school doing a variety of important tasks: tending school grounds, working permaculture gardens, assisting teachers, working in the hand papermaking/greeting card social business, serving as community health agents, and more. Service hours are a reflection of parent engagement at the school.

**Community Change Groups grew to 954 participants.** Community Change Groups provide parents the skills they need to be more loving to their kids and each other, while achieving greater financial independence. Their goal is to strengthen families and protect the vulnerable through



Village Savings and Loan programming and ongoing training in Child Protection and Gender Equality.

**Technology Education:** All 3rd to 6th grade Children's Academy students work in the on-site computer lab two times each week. Students learn both the basics for how to operate a computer, but also, with help from their teachers, do things like digital art and English, French and Spanish language learning.

**1033 students at our six Partner Schools received student-centered education** thanks to training and support made possible through your partnership. Partner Schools also engaged students and parents through Village Savings and Loan and other progressive educational approaches.

## Sad news about our wonderful Board Chair, Margaret Bell

*It is with broken hearts that we share that Haiti Partners' Board Chair, Margaret Bell, passed away on October 10th, 2021.*

*Margaret joined the Haiti Partners Board in September of 2017 and became chairperson in April 2019. She was a leader with profound wisdom and grace. She nurtured a board culture that truly reflects our organizational values of compassion, partnership, respect, learning and accountability. She competently and with great kindness led our monthly Board/Staff meetings through two of Haiti's most difficult years in recent history.*

*We will honor her memory by striving to bring the same elegance and insight that she brought each day to every aspect of our work. Our organization and each of our lives is richer for having known Margaret. She was among the most exquisitely kind, loving and compassionate people we have ever known. We will miss her terribly. Our hearts go out to her family and friends.*





# Haitian handmade paper greeting cards, branded as *Growing Together Collection*, offer new design and assortment options

Greeting cards are a wonderful way to warm someone's heart. Each year the handmade paper social business team at the Children's Academy works closely with Co-Director, Merline Engle, to refine the quality and appeal of the greeting cards. The story and noble purpose of these cards makes them especially unique. Haiti Partners hopes the expanded *Growing Together* card collection will become a go-to for you when you want to lift someone's day.

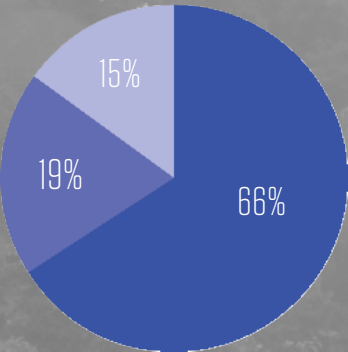


Looking for unique gifts this holiday season?

[haitipartners.org/gift-shop](http://haitipartners.org/gift-shop)

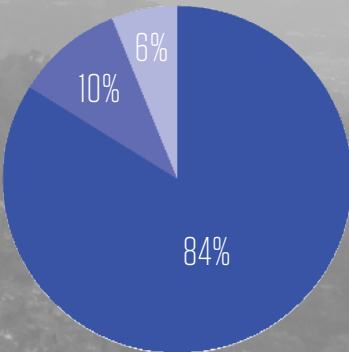


## FINANCIAL REPORT



**REVENUE: \$830,268**

- Individuals: **\$549,865**
- Foundations (incl PPP funds): **\$159,907**
- Businesses, Schools & Churches: **\$120,496**



**EXPENSES: \$848,163**

- Programs: **\$710,324**
- Administration: **\$86,479**
- Fundraising: **\$51,360**

Haiti Partners is committed to the highest standards of accountability. Total net assets (cash, deposits, school buildings, vehicles, computers, equipment, etc) at fiscal year end were \$1,417,755. In-kind services amounted to \$125,063. Thanks to Circle Fund donors, 100% of Admin and Fundraising expenses were covered, allowing 100% of gifts from all others to go directly to programs. Numbers reported here are the best available at the time of writing yet are unaudited and may be subject to change.

Haiti Partners' Board of Directors: Lisa Victor (Interim Chair) Houston Kraft (Vice-Chair), Christa Brelsford (Treasurer), Deanna Slamans (Secretary), Frank Alerte, Ben Blair, Patrick Collins, Linda Crouse, Thomas Crowley, Tawana Guillaume, Nancy Magloire, Andrea Rupp, Miranda Ash (Ex-officio), Christina Baxter Vernace (Ex-officio).



To give or to learn more about our staff and board, our financials, our strategy, and more, please visit our website [www.haitipartners.org](http://www.haitipartners.org) | 772-539-8521 | [hello@haitipartners.org](mailto:hello@haitipartners.org) | Haiti Partners, PO Box 2865, Vero Beach, FL 32961