As we reflect on our accomplishments over the 2022-23 fiscal year, amidst the worst social and political turmoil Haiti has faced in our decades of experience there, we think of a particular Children’s Academy student, Gardy. Gardy represents both the risk and the promise of being a child growing up in Haiti today.

Gardy had a rough childhood. He was rebellious and always in trouble at school and at home. He changed schools several times. His parents didn’t know what to do. At 15, he was at a crossroads. His path was quickly leading him towards joining a gang, like so many other lost adolescent boys in Haiti. New schools were refusing to take him leaving Gardy and his family without hope.

This is when Gardy came to The Children’s Academy and Learning Center. While school policy is only to take three-year-olds so they can grow up in the school culture, Gardy touched our hearts. The staff decided to give him another chance and integrate him into the sixth grade.

The first couple of years were not easy. Twice he was almost kicked out. Then the art teacher, known for using art to help students with trauma, said, “Give him to me.” Since then, we’ve all been astonished to witness Gardy’s gifts as an artist develop. Today, he is thriving, both as a student and as a young artist. In Gardy’s words, “I found a sense of belonging at The Children’s Academy that I never previously had. People took an interest in me and showed me love and respect.” (To appreciate Gardy’s art, view our new greeting card designs on the back page.)

Gardy’s story gives us hope for the future. With your support, and in close collaboration with our Haitian colleagues and the school community, we’re building The Children’s Academy into a new school model in Haiti, one with the power to transform lives and create the new leaders Haiti desperately needs. Together with our six Partner Schools, each day we bring this effort to over 1500 students throughout Haiti.

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

With love and gratitude,

Merline and John Engle
Co-Directors, Haiti Partners

Children’s Academy 9th grader, and burgeoning artist, Gardy
Your generosity has allowed Haiti Partners to help Haitians change Haiti through education since 2009. We couldn’t be more grateful for your steadfast support of our mission. With your support, we’re creating an empowering new educational model that Haiti so desperately needs.

In gratitude for your continued efforts, we have partnered with FreeWill, a free online tool that allows you to create a legal will in about 20 minutes. FreeWill makes it fast, easy and free to:

- Gain peace of mind about the future
- Complete an important act of caring
- Create a legacy of support for Haiti’s students, families, and communities through Haiti Partners

If you don’t yet have a will, we hope you take this opportunity to consider your legacy and to create one as an act of caring for yourself, your loved ones, and the causes you care about.

Learn more: freewill.com/haitipartners
### Hand Papermaking Social Business Grows and Innovates

When we began envisioning The Children’s Academy and Learning Center with the community in 2010, we determined that an onsite social business would be a crucial component. A social business would provide opportunities for parents, students, and others to develop skills in entrepreneurship, leadership, and teamwork. It also held the promise of generating revenue for the school.

Despite countless challenges, the hand papermaking social business is growing and innovating. Our latest handmade paper greeting cards feature artwork created by Children’s Academy 9th grader, Gardy (cf. Directors’ Note, pg. 2, and see below). Additionally, we’re wholesaling our handmade paper, thousands of sheets at a time, to customers who make their own beautiful products (e.g. rosiesboutiquehaiti.com, 2ndstorygoods.com, papillonmarketplace.com).

### Looking for unique gifts this holiday season? Get your Merline’s Caribbean Hot Sauce and Haiti Partners’ Greeting Cards featuring artwork from Children’s Academy 9th grader, Gardy, today! All purchases support this work. [haitiparters.org/gift-shop](http://haitiparters.org/gift-shop)

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### Financial Report

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<th>Category</th>
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<td><strong>Revenue:</strong></td>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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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 $1,550,441. Audited financials available upon request. Thanks to Circle Fund donors, Admin and Fundraising expenses were covered allowing 100% of gifts from all others to go directly to programs.

Haiti Partners’ Board of Directors: Lisa Victor (Chair), Linda Crouse (Vice-Chair), Christa Brelsford (Treasurer), Deanna Slamans (Secretary), Robin Merwin, Tawana Guillaume, Nancy Magloire, Andrea Rupp, Christina Baxter Vernace, Frank Alerte, Thomas Crowley, and Ex-officio: Jesse Engle and Miranda Ash.