

Haiti  
Partners

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022/23



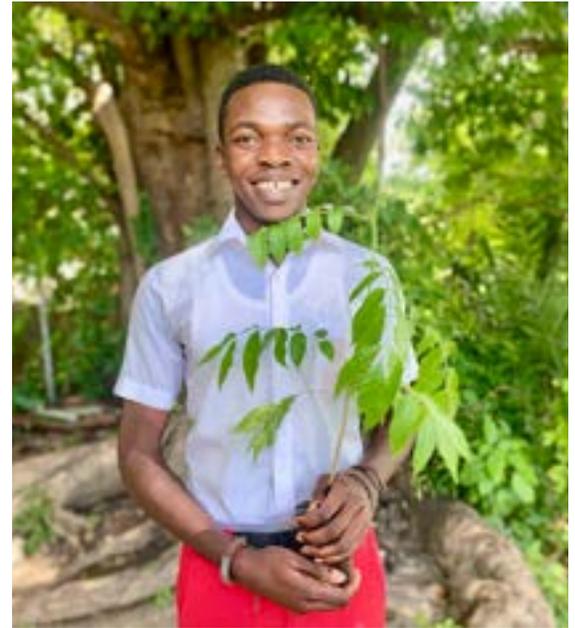
# A NOTE FROM OUR CO-DIRECTORS

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.)



*Children's Academy 9th grader, and burgeoning artist, Gardy*

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



## WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE THIS YEAR



**1,522 students in school**



**86,840 hours volunteered in  
Haiti, the US, and elsewhere**

◇◇◇◇ As you read this summary report covering the last fiscal year, please bear in mind the extraordinary context Haiti has been facing. Widespread gang violence led to repeated school closures throughout the country. The Children’s Academy and Learning Center lost most of its spring semester as gangs infiltrated the area and then fought with local militias which sprung up to defend the community. While, thankfully, the school itself was never attacked, it is with deep regret that we share that this violence did, in many cases, directly impact members of the school community, including students, staff, and their families. ◇◇◇◇



A Children’s Academy teacher celebrates the school’s reopening with two of her students

## SCHOOLS PROGRAM

**350 pre-K through 8th grade students benefited from an inspiring, student-centered, changemaker education at The Children’s**

**Academy as the school expanded a second year beyond the elementary level.** In order to help students cope with the trauma they were facing, the school conducted “Art Therapy” classes in which teachers helped students express themselves through various artistic activities. The Children’s Academy also deepened its commitment to environmental programming, teaching students each school day about reforestation - including raising seedlings and planting them in the community - recycling, and having respect for the environment.

**84,760 service hours were provided by Children’s Academy parents.** Despite the insecurity, parents continued to engage at the school and in the community by providing service hours doing a variety of important tasks: working the permaculture gardens, tending school grounds, helping

in the hand papermaking/greeting card social business, assisting teachers, serving as community health agents and more.

**Community Change Groups** strengthen families and protect the vulnerable through training in Child Protection and Gender Equality and Village Savings and Loan programming. Unfortunately, these groups had to be suspended because of the risk of violence. We are pleased to share, however, that they were able to restart as of October 2023 with over 400 participants.

**1172 students at our six Partner Schools received student-centered education** thanks to training and support made possible through your partnership. Despite periodic closures, Partner Schools engaged students through gardening, arts education (including learning to play instruments), creative writing, learning about Haitian culture and history, meal programs, and more.

## BUILD A LEGACY FOR HAITI’S FUTURE WITH FREEWILL



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](https://freewill.com/haitipartners)**





## Hand Papermaking Social Business Grows and Innovates

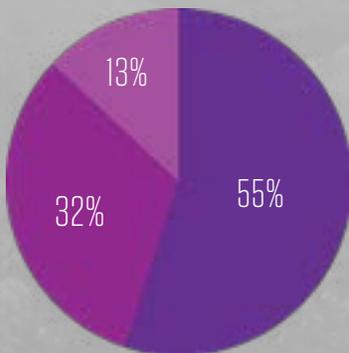
When we began envisioning The Children’s Academy and Learning Center with the community in 2010, we determined that an onsite social business would be a crucial component. A social business would provide opportunities for parents, students, and others to develop skills in entrepreneurship, leadership, 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](http://rosiesboutiquehaiti.com), [2ndstorygoods.com](http://2ndstorygoods.com), [papillonmarketplace.com](http://papillonmarketplace.com)).



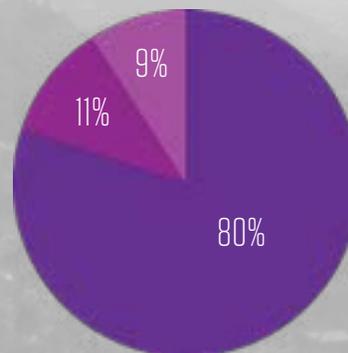
Looking for unique gifts this holiday season? Get your Merline’s Caribbean Hot Sauce and Haiti Partners’ Greeting Cards featuring artwork from Children’s Academy 9th grader, Gardy, today! All purchases support this work. [haitipartners.org/gift-shop](http://haitipartners.org/gift-shop)

## FINANCIAL REPORT



**REVENUE: \$915,807**

- Individuals: **\$505,606**
- Foundations: **\$294,904**
- Businesses, Schools & Churches: **\$115,297**



**EXPENSES: \$891,380**

- Programs: **\$713,040**
- Fundraising: **\$100,335**
- Administration: **\$78,005**

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.



To give or to learn more about our staff and board, our financials, our strategy, and more, please visit our website

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