

Haiti
Partners

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/24



A NOTE FROM OUR CO-DIRECTORS

“We celebrate our success despite unbelievable obstacles. It’s God’s grace, our determination, and togetherness—locally and internationally—that’s making it all possible. We are stronger together!”

~ 10th grader, Carline (Class of 2028)



Children’s Academy 10th grader, Carline

We remember well back in 2010-11, the Children’s Academy vision of a new school model was getting clearer with each community meeting on the second Sunday of the month. It was both exciting and daunting. We knew the key to Haiti’s progress was a school experience rooted in Haitian *Konbit*, not colonialism.

“Haiti’s educational system is the strongest remnant of Haiti’s colonial past,” is how brilliant Haitian-American Nedgine Paul—one of our heroes—puts it. Colonialism is about taking advantage of others for one’s gain, whereas *Konbit* is about building one another up and working together for the common good.

The enthusiasm among community members made the prospect of a new approach to education compelling and exciting. Yet, where would the resources come from? How would we bring all this to fruition? One foundation leader candidly stated when we shared the Children’s Academy vision for a new Pre-K through high school model, “That’s bold.”

We joined with our local and international communities with faith and determination. With hearts filled with gratitude and joy, today we celebrate that 100% of The Children’s Academy’s 9th-grade students passed the National Exam this July! Despite monumental obstacles, we celebrate another successful school year at The Children’s Academy and our six partner schools.

We honor the determination and courage of the students, teachers and staff, and all their families. We give thanks for the incredible engagement of our Board of Directors and other volunteers, and are deeply grateful for your generous support.

With love,

Merline and John Engle
Co-Directors, Haiti Partners



WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE THIS YEAR



1,524 students in school



97,032 hours volunteered in Haiti, the US, and elsewhere

SCHOOLS PROGRAM

404 pre-K through 9th grade students benefited from an inspiring, student-centered, changemaker education at The

Children's Academy and Learning Center as the school completed 9th grade, the final year before Haiti's high school begins. Students, parents, teachers and community members worked together throughout the year—in *konbit*—planting 3660 trees in the school community, **organizing community meetings** to discuss school safety and other key issues, and holding **wellness visits serving over 200 students**. Additionally, on the school's first try, **100% of Children's Academy 9th graders passed the national exam**. This is an extraordinary achievement in Haiti where a typical passing rate is around 70%.

94,536 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: 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. Service hours are a reflection of parent engagement at the school.

In July 133 parents graduated from Community Change Groups. The module was a modified version of the training, specifically focusing on the protection of children through positive discipline and "love in action." 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



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protect the vulnerable through ongoing training in Child Protection and Gender Equality.

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

1120 students at our six Partner Schools received student-centered education thanks to training and support made possible through your partnership. Partner Schools engaged students through gardening, arts education (including learning to play instruments), creative writing, learning about Haitian culture and history, meal programs, and Village Savings and Loan groups.

CHILDREN'S ACADEMY CELEBRATES LEGACY DONORS WITH MEMORIAL GARDEN



The Memorial Garden—created in honor of HP supporters, Judy Bork, Anne Brenaman, and Albert Pinter—serves as a beautiful, quiet space for students and staff to gather, work, and reflect together

In honor of three dear friends—Judy Bork, Anne Brenaman, and Albert Pinter—who each left significant legacy gifts to Haiti Partners, we've begun creating a special Memorial Garden at The Children's Academy. 100% of their gifts have been well spent and contributed significantly to the growth and development of The Children's Academy.

Their names are hand-carved into these steel benches that will serve the students, staff, and families for decades to come.

Did you know that *legacy giving*—including a gift to charity in your will—is linked to aging well, finding meaning later in life, and increased happiness? It's true. In recent years a proliferation of academic research into legacy giving demonstrates it.

We invite you to consider a legacy gift to further Haiti Partners' work. To facilitate this, we have partnered with FreeWill so you can make a legal will for free in about 20 minutes.

To learn more, go to freewill.com/haitipartners or scan the QR code.





Children's Academy teacher, Mackinson, teaching interested students how to install ceramic tiles as part of a two week job skills summer training

Job Skills Training at The Children's Academy

People often ask us what our students do after they graduate. At The Children's Academy one way we approach this is to offer students the opportunity to learn various skills—employable skills that can provide them some options to earn money even before finishing school.

During the summer break the school held a two-week "Learning for Life" job skills seminar for students, staff, and other community members. In addition to laying tiles, participants also had the option to learn hair-cutting, hair-braiding, soap-making, and giving mani/pedicures.

We are pleased to share that it was such a success that these learning sessions are now being done every Saturday.

HANDMADE PAPER GREETING CARDS, HOT SAUCE, AND SOUP JOUMOU

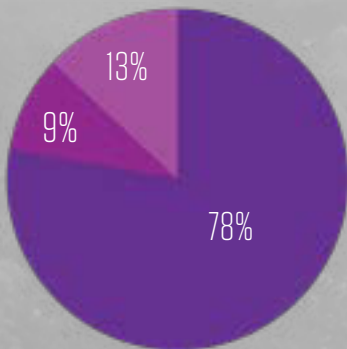


haitipartners.org/gift-shop

Seeking Holiday gifts with purpose? Order Merline's Caribbean Hot Sauce and Haiti Partners Greeting Cards featuring artwork from Children's Academy 10th grader, Gardy, today. All purchases support this work.

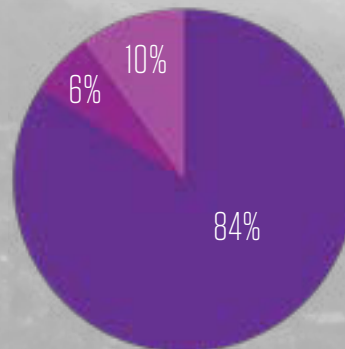
Coming in time for the holidays... Merline's Haitian Soup Joumou, a.k.a. Freedom Soup!

FINANCIAL REPORT



REVENUE: \$943,260

- Individuals: **\$736,678**
- Foundations: **\$86,422**
- Businesses, Schools & Churches: **\$120,160**



EXPENSES: \$942,739

- Programs: **\$796,318**
- Fundraising: **\$54,649**
- Administration: **\$91,772**

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 \$1,566,806. Earnings Before Depreciation was \$55,452. Thanks to Circle Fund donors, Admin and Fundraising expenses were covered allowing 100% of gifts from all others to go directly to programs. Audited financials available at haitipartners.org/financials.

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



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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