



ANNUAL REPORT



HAITIANS OF TORONTO
2024-2025

Prepared By
DJINY SAINT JEAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The 2024–2025 fiscal year was a year of community growth, cultural celebration and increased visibility for Haitians of Toronto. Through the support of community partners, sponsors, donors and volunteers, we continued creating opportunities for Haitian and Francophone Black families across the Greater Toronto Area to access support, build connections and celebrate their culture.

Throughout the year, we supported newcomers with employment and settlement navigation, connected families to community resources, engaged youth in career exploration and provided practical support through community initiatives.

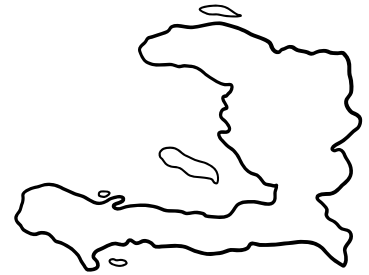
A major highlight was the 2024 Haitian Excellence Gala, which welcomed more than 200 guests for an evening celebrating Haitian achievement, leadership, culture and representation. Our annual Back-to-School initiative also supported families by distributing more than 120 backpacks and school supplies to children preparing for the new school year.

Our community presence continued to grow beyond in-person programming. Haitians of Toronto experienced a 94% increase in social media following, allowing us to reach more members of the Haitian community, share resources and opportunities, and increase the visibility of Haitian voices and culture.

Much of this work was accomplished without government operating funding. Through sponsorships, community contributions, partnerships, event revenue and volunteer leadership, we continued responding to community needs while laying the groundwork for future growth.

As we entered 2025–2026, our focus was on strengthening our organizational capacity, expanding sustainable programming and continuing to build toward a permanent community space for Haitian families.

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



This year reminded me why Haitians of Toronto was created in the first place: to build a community where Haitians can find support, opportunities, connection and a place where our culture is celebrated.

Throughout 2024–2025, I watched our organization continue to grow. We welcomed more than 200 guests to the Haitian Excellence Gala, distributed backpacks and school supplies to families, supported newcomers looking for employment, connected community members to resources and created opportunities for Haitian youth and families to come together.

One of the things I am most proud of is seeing our community become more connected. Whether someone came to us looking for information, attended an event, volunteered, became a partner or simply followed and shared our work online, every interaction helped strengthen the community we are building. We accomplished much of this with limited resources and through the dedication of volunteers, partners, sponsors and community members who believed in our mission.

As we continue to grow, our goal is not simply to do more. It is to build a stronger and more sustainable organization that can provide consistent support while continuing to celebrate the culture and identity that connects us.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this journey. We are building something that belongs to all of us, and there is much more ahead.

DJINY SAINT JEAN
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



WHO WE ARE

Haitians of Toronto is a Black-led, community-based nonprofit organization supporting Haitian and Francophone Black newcomers, families, youth and long-time residents across the Greater Toronto Area.

We connect community members to information, resources, employment opportunities and services while creating spaces where Haitian culture, heritage and identity can be celebrated and passed on to future generations.

VISION

A strong and connected Haitian community where individuals and families have access to the resources, opportunities and support they need to thrive while remaining connected to their culture and identity.

MISSION

Our mission is to support Haitian and Francophone Black individuals and families as they build their lives in Canada by connecting them to resources, opportunities and community.

Through settlement support, employment assistance, youth and family initiatives, cultural programming and community partnerships, we work to strengthen belonging, opportunity and cultural pride.

SETTLEMENT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Helping newcomers and families navigate resources, services and life in Canada.

EMPLOYMENT & OPPORTUNITY

Supporting job seekers through employment information, résumé assistance and connections to opportunities.

YOUTH & FAMILIES

Creating opportunities that support education, career exploration, family well-being and community connection.

HAITIAN CULTURE, HERITAGE & IDENTITY

Celebrating Haitian history, language, achievements and traditions while creating spaces for cultural pride and belonging.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-2025



1. Haitian Excellence Gala 2024 – “Nuit de Luer”

Our sold-out Haitian Excellence Gala welcomed 200+ guests for an evening celebrating Haitian achievement, leadership and culture. Through recognition, Haitian artistry and live performances, the Gala created a space for positive representation, cultural pride and community connection.

2. Strengthened Community Partnerships

We continued building relationships with community organizations, businesses, sponsors and institutions. These partnerships helped us expand our reach, access resources and create additional opportunities for the community.

3. Expanded Digital Reach

Our digital community continued to grow throughout the year, with a 94% increase in our social media following. This growth strengthened our ability to share information, promote opportunities and keep community members connected to our work.

4. Community Outreach & Support

Throughout the year, we supported newcomers and community members with employment assistance, résumé support, referrals and connections to community resources and benefits.

5. Cultural Engagement & Events

Culture remained central to our work. Through events, storytelling, community gatherings and the celebration of Haitian achievement, we continued creating opportunities for Haitian families to remain connected to their heritage while building community in Canada.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue Source	Amount (CAD)
Via Monde Scolaire	\$2,500.00
Region of Durham	\$1,000.00
Mon Avenir	\$500.00
La Cité Collège	\$2,500.00
MSP Payments &	\$9,000.00
Community	\$8,656.73
Total Revenue	\$24,156.73

Haitians of Toronto remained committed to responsible financial management and maximizing the impact of the resources entrusted to our organization.

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, our activities were primarily supported through sponsorships, community contributions, event revenue and other community-based sources.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Revenue: \$24,156.73

Total Expenses: \$21,872.20

Net Surplus: \$2,284.53

Closing Bank Balance: \$2,284.53

Despite operating without government operating funding during this period, the organization continued delivering programs, community initiatives and cultural events while maintaining a focus on responsible spending and organizational sustainability.

Expense	Amount (CAD)
Honorarium	\$4,500.00
Admin / Staff	\$5,800.00
Volunteers	\$1,200.00
Space Rental	\$3,000.00
Media &	\$2,500.00
Project	\$2,872.20
Project	\$2,000.00
Bank Fees &	\$1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$21,872.20



1,000+

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
through events and
community initiatives



200+

GALA ATTENDEES
at the Haitian Excellence Gala



400+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
directly served through
programs and events

Education Support



120+

BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES
distributed to children and families

25

NEWCOMERS
supported with
job-search and
résumé assistance

50

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
connected to
resources and benefits

Partnerships

6+

SPONSORING PARTNERS

3+

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Health & Wellness

40

YOUTH
supported through career
exploration

10+

new community
partner collaborations

100+

HYGIENE KITS
distributed to
community members

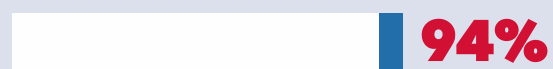
Community Engagement

60+

**COMMUNITY REFERRALS &
SUPPORT CASES**



DONOR RETENTION RATE



SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH
expanding our digital community and reach

COMMUNITY VOICES

“The Gala was beyond beautiful — I felt so proud to see our Haitian culture celebrated with elegance and respect. It reminded me of home and showed the world the brilliance of our people.”

— Marie D., Community Member

“It was my first time attending the Haitian Excellence Gala, and I left inspired. Seeing professionals, artists, and families come together in such a classy event gave me hope for our community’s future.”

— Sammy P., Guest & Volunteer

“The attention to detail, the performances, the speeches — everything was perfection. It made me want to get more involved with Haitians of Toronto and support future projects.”

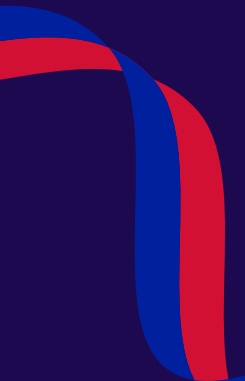
— Guerlinda P., Sponsor Representative, Supreme Delight

“This event came at the right time. The backpacks and supplies helped my two kids start the school year with confidence. I’m so grateful for the support and love we felt that day.”

— Sandra M., Parent Participant

“I volunteered at the festival and was amazed by how many families came together. The organization and atmosphere showed how much Haitians of Toronto truly care.”

— Melissa B., Youth Volunteer



Their experiences remind us that impact is not only measured by how many people we reach, but by the difference community support can make in someone's life.

LOOKING AHEAD 2025-2026



1

STRENGTHEN
ORGANIZATIONAL
CAPACITY

2

EXPAND SETTLEMENT
SUPPORT

3

EXPAND JOB-READINESS
SUPPORT, AND
CONNECTIONS TO
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES.

4

DEVELOP ADDITIONAL
EDUCATIONAL, CAREER-
FOCUSED AND FAMILY-
CENTRED INITIATIVES.

5

CONTINUE CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES TO
CELEBRATE HAITIAN
CULTURE, HISTORY,
ACHIEVEMENT AND
IDENTITY.

6

CONTINUE LAYING THE
GROUNDWORK FOR A
PERMANENT HAITIAN
COMMUNITY SPACE
WHERE SERVICES,
PROGRAMS,
WORKSHOPS AND
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
CAN TAKE PLACE.

Our goal is to move from primarily volunteer-led community initiatives toward a stronger organizational structure capable of providing consistent, year-round programming and support.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Haitians of Toronto is guided by a volunteer Board of Directors committed to responsible governance, community accountability and the long-term growth of the organization.

Our Board provides oversight and leadership as we continue strengthening our organizational foundation and expanding our impact within the Haitian and Francophone Black community.

DJINY SAINT JEAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FARAH DOMINIQUE
DIRECTOR

JASMENTA ST JEAN
CHAIR

MAX FRANCOIS
DIRECTOR

KARINE ST JEAN
VICE-CHAIR

DOMINIQUE CHARLES
DIRECTOR

EUNICE SAMEDI
DIRECTOR





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work of Haitians of Toronto is made possible by the people and organizations who believe in our community and continue to support our mission.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors, volunteers, sponsors, donors, community partners, businesses and organizations whose contributions helped make our work possible throughout 2024–2025.

Most importantly, we thank the individuals, families, youth, newcomers and community members who attended our programs and events, reached out for support, volunteered their time, shared our work and continued to place their trust in Haitians of Toronto.

Every partnership, contribution and act of support helps us build a stronger and more connected Haitian community.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

Contact Us

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UNITY • COMMUNITY • STRENGTH

