



ANNUAL REPORT

 HAITIANS OF TORONTO
2023-2024

Prepared By
DJINY SAINT JEAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2023–2024 was an important year of growth for Haitians of Toronto as we strengthened our role as a trusted voice and support network for the Haitian and Francophone Black community across the Greater Toronto Area.

Throughout the year, we engaged 200+ community members through initiatives ranging from youth mentorship and newcomer assistance to workshops and community support.

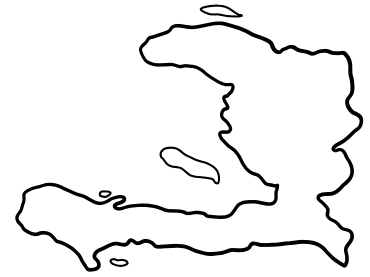
We also expanded our partnerships with the City of Toronto, Durham LIP, Haitian-owned businesses and other community organizations, helping us connect more individuals and families to resources and opportunities.

Our visibility continued to grow through local and national media, including CityNews and CBC, giving us opportunities to amplify Haitian voices and bring greater awareness to issues affecting our community in Canada and abroad.

The year also marked an important step toward our long-term vision as we began laying the groundwork for a physical Haitian community hub where community members could access programs, resources and support.



FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



Reflecting on 2023–2024, I am proud of how much Haitians of Toronto has grown and the stronger connections we have built within our community.

Through collaboration, new partnerships and community initiatives, we continued advancing our mission and creating opportunities to support Haitian individuals and families.

As we look ahead, our goal is to build on this progress, expand our programs and continue working toward a physical community hub where our community can access services, resources and support.

Thank you to everyone who continues to believe in our vision and contribute to the growth of Haitians of Toronto.
With gratitude,

Djiny Saint Jean
Founder & Executive Director



WHO WE ARE



VISION

Our vision is to build a strong and vibrant Haitian community where individuals and families have access to the resources and support they need to thrive while remaining connected to their culture.

MISSION

Our mission is to support the well-being, success and growth of the Haitian community through education, resources, community engagement and practical support.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024



VIOLENCE PREVENTION & MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP:

- In partnership with the City of Toronto, we hosted a violence prevention and mental health workshop that reached 30+ youth in the community.
- The workshop addressed mental health awareness, violence prevention and overall well-being.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE:

- Connected members of the Haitian community to essential services, local Haitian businesses, government programs, employment opportunities and community resources.

PATHWAY TO RESIDENT PROGRAM ASSISTANCE:

- Supported community members seeking assistance with the Pathway to Resident Program, released in November, by helping them navigate the application process and available information.

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES:

- Strengthened partnerships with organizations including Boukan, Durham LIP, TNG and the City of Toronto to increase awareness of resources and opportunities available to the Haitian community.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024



BACK TO SCHOOL FESTIVAL

- Distributed 100+ backpacks, along with food, gently used shoes and clothing to community members during our Back-to-School Festival.

CAREGIVER INITIATIVE:

- More than 25 caregivers and parents participated in workshops focused on employment readiness, financial literacy and stress management.
- The program helped participants build confidence, better understand Canadian systems and strengthen their overall well-being.

HAITIAN EXCELLENCE GALA:

- Continued planning for the Haitian Excellence Gala, an annual celebration created to recognize Haitian achievement, culture and unity while strengthening community pride.

INCREASED COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

- Responded to community requests for housing assistance, job-search support and social-service navigation, connecting individuals and families to essential resources and opportunities.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024



ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

- Strengthened our team through the recruitment of new volunteers and increased online engagement. We also began laying the groundwork for a physical community hub to provide services and host in-person programming.

VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION:

- Haitians of Toronto gained greater visibility through community and government events, helping strengthen our reputation as a community-led organization supporting Haitian and Francophone Black residents across the GTA.

SECURED MAJOR FUNDING:

- Secured a \$40,000 grant from the City of Toronto to deliver a comprehensive caregiver program.
- This investment allowed us to strengthen our programming and provide culturally relevant support and resources to more families.





\$45,000+

Funding Secured



75+

Youth & caregivers engaged through workshops and mentorship



400+

Community members directly served

Education Support



100+

Backpacks distributed

25+

Caregivers supported through workshops

50

Families supported through newcomer assistance

Partnerships

4+

Community partnerships

5

Programs delivered

Health & Wellness

30+

Youth engaged in violence prevention & mental health programming

20

Families supported through caregiver honorariums

100+

Hygiene kits distributed

Community Engagement

50

Volunteers engaged



85%

Donor retention

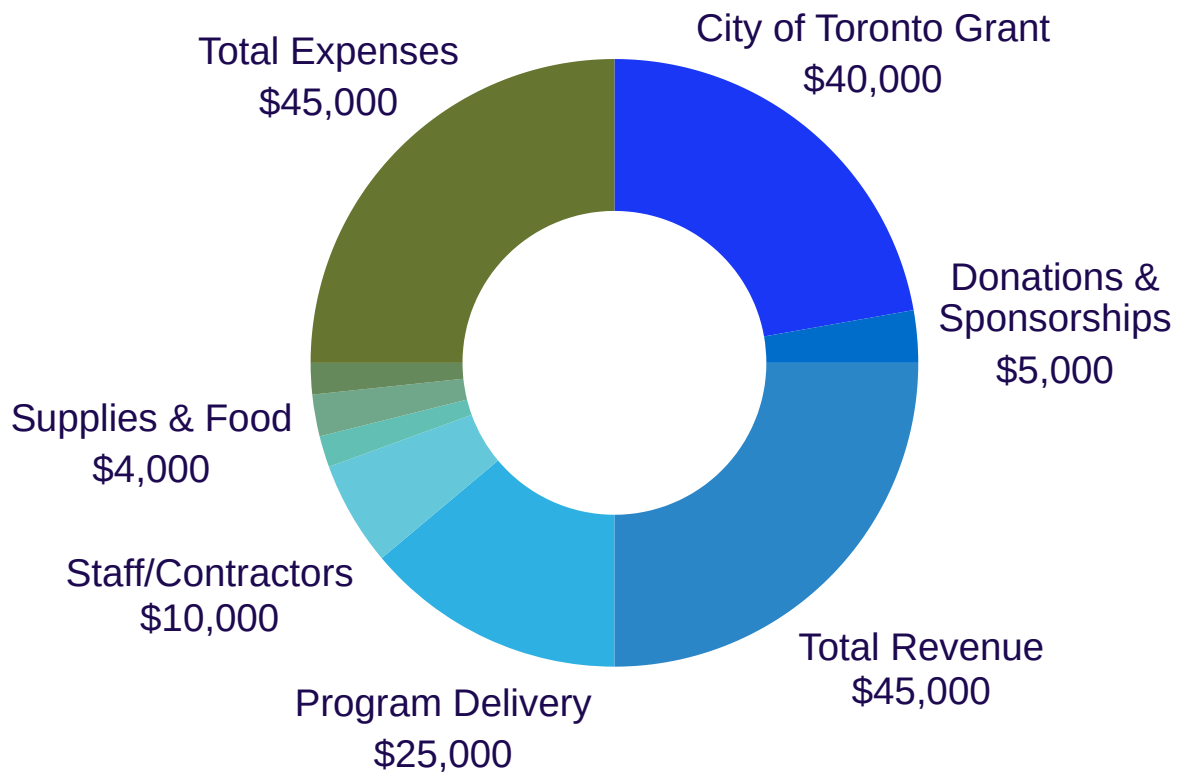


34%

Social media growth



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



In 2023, Haitians of Toronto received \$5,000 in funding and donations to deliver a youth-focused violence prevention workshop.

The funding supported equipment, space rental, refreshments, participant honorariums and other program-related expenses.

Later that year, Haitians of Toronto secured a \$40,000 grant from the City of Toronto to deliver a caregiver program scheduled for completion in March 2024.

CALL TO PARTNERSHIP



As the Haitian community across the GTA continues to grow, so does the need for culturally relevant programs, resources and community support. Haitians of Toronto is working toward sustainable, long-term programming and our vision of a physical community hub.

We welcome partnerships with businesses, funders, institutions and community organizations interested in supporting this vision and creating greater opportunities for the Haitian community.



PLANS FOR 2025



1

PHYSICAL
LOCATION FOR
SERVICES

2

EXPANDED WORKSHOP
OFFERINGS

3

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

4

HAITIAN
EXCELLENCE
GALA

PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR SERVICES:

- Continue working toward a physical community hub where community members can access services including interpretation, employment support, application assistance and other resources.

EXPANDED WORKSHOP OFFERINGS:

- Offer additional workshops throughout the year based on the evolving needs of the community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- Strengthen community engagement through new programs, events and initiatives.

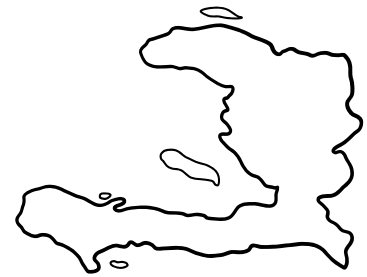
HAITIAN EXCELLENCE GALA:

- Host the annual Haitian Excellence Gala to celebrate achievements within the community and promote a sense of pride.

EXPAND PARTNERSHIP

- Build relationships with educational institutions such as Collège Boréal and La Cité to create additional opportunities for the community.

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

We extend our sincere gratitude to the City of Toronto, our community partners, dedicated volunteers, generous donors and the Haitian community for their support throughout 2023–2024.

Your contributions helped Haitians of Toronto expand our programs, strengthen our community presence and continue building toward our vision.

Thank you for being part of our journey.



Contact Us

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UNITY • COMMUNITY • STRENGTH

