



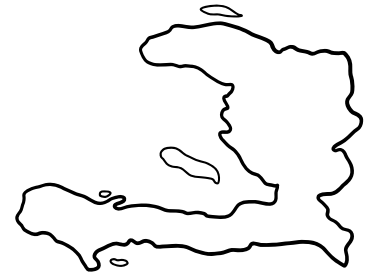
ANNUAL REPORT



HAITIANS OF TORONTO
2023-2024

Prepared By
DJINY SAIN TJEAN

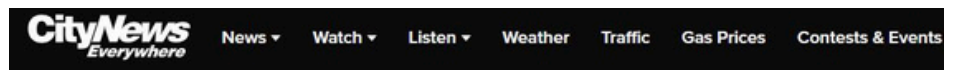
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In 2023–2024, Haitians of Toronto strengthened its role as a trusted voice and support network for the Haitian and Francophone Black community in the Greater Toronto Area. Through our programs, we engaged over 200 individuals across multiple initiatives—from youth mentorship to newcomer assistance—while expanding our partnerships with the City of Toronto, Durham LIP, and local Haitian-owned businesses.

We also became a key point of contact for local and national media, with features and interviews on CityNews, CBC, and other major outlets, highlighting our advocacy and insights on issues affecting the Haitian community in Canada and abroad. These moments helped amplify Haitian voices and raise awareness of our mission.

This year marked a turning point toward sustainability and visibility as we laid the groundwork for our first physical community hub—a dedicated space where Haitians across the GTA can access programs, support, and a renewed sense of belonging.



Calls growing in the GTA to support Haiti amid recent gang violence



through their family photo album, they reflect on their childhood in Haiti.

CALLS GROWING IN THE GTA TO HELP HAITI

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



Reflecting on the past year, I am proud of our collective achievements in advancing our mission. Collaborative initiatives and strengthened community connections have been instrumental in fostering growth and well-being. As we look ahead to 2025, we are poised for further impact, including the establishment of a physical hub for community services. Together, let's continue shaping a resilient and vibrant future for all Haitians in Toronto.



With gratitude,

DJINY SAINT JEAN
FOUNDER



WHO WE ARE



VISION

Our vision is to build a strong and vibrant Haitian community in Toronto, where everyone has access to the resources and support they need to thrive. We strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment that celebrates our cultural heritage, promotes social and economic empowerment, and fosters a sense of belonging and pride among all members of our community.

MISSION

We are dedicated to improving the well-being, success, and growth of the Haitian community in Toronto. We believe that by empowering individuals and families through education, support, and community engagement, we can create positive change and promote a brighter future for all Haitians in our city.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024



VIOLENCE PREVENTION & MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP:

- Collaborated with the City of Toronto to host a violence prevention and mental health workshop reaching over 30 youths in the community.
- Addressed topics such as mental health awareness and violence prevention, contributing to the holistic well-being of the community.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE:

- Connected numerous members of the Haitian community with essential services from local Haitian businesses and government programs.
- Facilitated partnerships with organizations to spread awareness about job opportunities and relevant resources.

PATHWAY TO RESIDENT PROGRAM ASSISTANCE:

- Assisted community members with the application process for the Pathway to Resident Program, released in November.

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES:

- Forged partnerships with various organizations such as Boukan, Durham LIP, TNG, City of Toronto to enhance awareness and access to opportunities for the Haitian community

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024



BACK TO SCHOOL FESTIVAL

- Distributed 100+ backpacks, provided food, and lightly used shoes and clothes to members of the community.

CAREGIVER INITIATIVE:

- Over 25 caregivers and parents participated in workshops covering employment readiness, financial literacy, and stress management. The program helped participants build confidence, learn about Canadian systems, and improve their overall well-being.

HAITIAN EXCELLENCE GALA:

- We continued planning the Haitian Excellence Gala, an annual celebration honoring Haitian achievement, culture, and unity. This event remains a cornerstone of pride and inspiration for our growing community

INCREASED COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

- Throughout the year, we responded to numerous community requests for housing assistance, job searches, and social service navigation. Our team worked tirelessly to connect individuals and families with essential services and opportunities



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024



ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

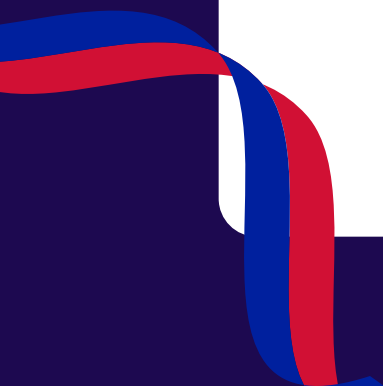
- Our team grew stronger through the recruitment of new volunteers and enhanced online engagement. We also began the groundwork for establishing a physical community hub to better serve our members and host in-person programs.

VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION:

- Haitians of Toronto gained recognition at various community and government events for our impact and leadership. We were celebrated as a trusted, community-led organization dedicated to uplifting Haitian and Francophone Black residents in the GTA.

SECURED MAJOR FUNDING:

- Haitians of Toronto received a \$40,000 grant from the City of Toronto to launch a comprehensive caregiver program. This funding allowed us to strengthen our operations and serve more families in need of culturally relevant support and resources.



Unity. Community. Strenghth



\$45,000+

in total donations received



75+

youth and caregivers trained through workshops and mentorship programs



400+

community members directly served through programs and events

Education Support



100+

backpacks distributed at our Back-to-School Festival

45

caregivers trained in financial literacy, job readiness, and stress management

50

families supported through Pathway to Resident and newcomer assistance

Partnerships

4+

Durham LIP, Boukan, TNG, and the City of Toronto

5

programs hosted

Health & Wellness

40

youth participated in violence prevention and mental health workshops

100

families helped through caregiver honorarium

100+

hygiene kits distributed in backpacks

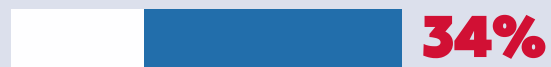
Community Engagement

50

volunteers contributed

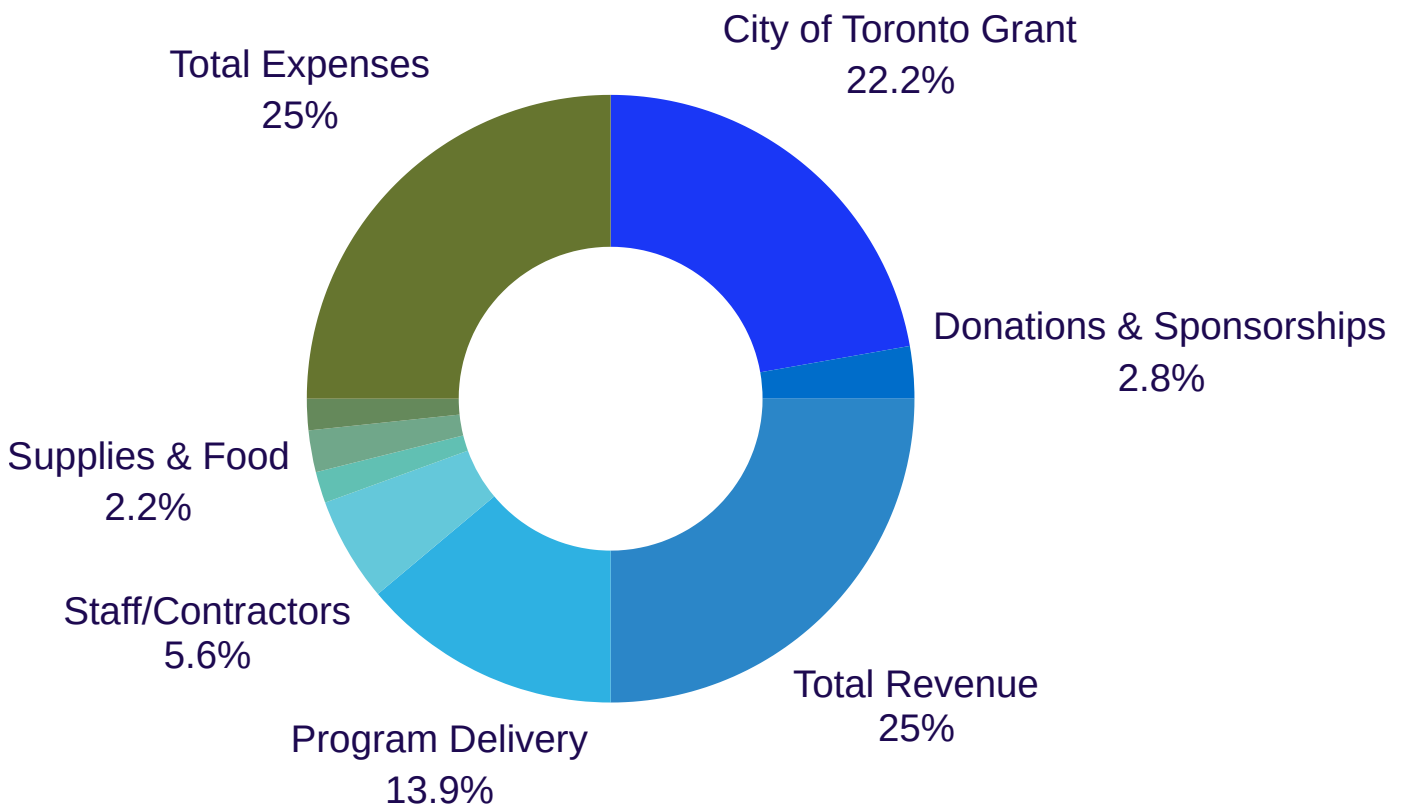


donor retention rate



growth in social media following

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



In 2023, Haitians of Toronto received \$5,000 in funding and donations, which allowed us to successfully deliver a youth-focused violence prevention workshop. The funds were used for various needs, including purchasing equipment, renting space for the workshop, providing refreshments, and offering honorariums to participants. Later in 2023, we secured a \$40,000 grant from the City of Toronto to run a program scheduled for completion in March 2024.



COMMUNITY VOICES



This program helped me feel that the work that i do as a caregiver has not gone unnoticed— Caregiver Participant

It's great to finally have an organization that speaks our language and understands our culture." — Community Member



PLANS FOR



1

PHYSICAL
LOCATION FOR
SERVICES

2

EXPANDED WORKSHOP
OFFERINGS

3

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

4

HAITIAN
EXCELLENCE
GALA

PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR SERVICES:

- Establishing a physical location where community members can access a range of services (interpretation & translation, employment services, application assistance, immigration, etc), fostering a centralized hub for support.

EXPANDED WORKSHOP OFFERINGS:

- Organizing diverse workshops throughout the year to address the evolving needs of the community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- Strengthening community engagement through innovative programs and initiatives.

HAITIAN EXCELLENCE GALA:

- Host the 1st annual Haitian Excellence Gala to celebrate achievements within the community and promote a sense of pride.

EXPAND PARTNERSHIP

- Expand partnerships with educational institutions like Collège Boréal and La Cité.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DJINY SAINT JEAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FARAH DOMINIQUE
SECRETARY

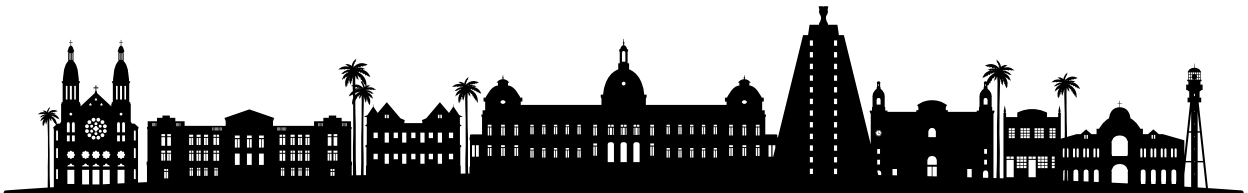
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MAX FRANCOIS
DIRECTOR

KARINE ST JEAN
VICE CHAIRMAN

DOMINIQUE CHARLES
DIRECTOR

EUNICE SAMEDI
TREASURER





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our deepest gratitude to the City of Toronto, our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and the entire Haitian community for their unwavering support in 2023-2024. Together, we will continue to build a resilient and vibrant future for all Haitians in Toronto.

CONTACT

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