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**Sant La**   
HAITIAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021

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Dear Friends,

We are proud to say that in spite of the many tribulations caused by this pandemic, we have endured! The number of clients served has grown from 11,000 this past fiscal year to 16,000 this year. We did not face the terrible choice of staff lay-offs and we did not cut services.

Instead, we fully understood our role as "essential workers"; we adapted to the new normal, remaining true to our mission yet expanding our services and charting new paths of community service and engagement, guided by important lessons learned.

We had hoped that the pandemic would have abated, growing so hopeful by the availability of vaccines. But we all watched with great dismay the stubborn hesitancy which persists. The loss of loyal supporters, friends and partners has steeled our resolve to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Miami's Black communities. Through community partnerships, we worked steadfastly to promote the vaccines, educate our community about their efficacy and more importantly address the fears conjured by pervasive disinformation.

COVID-19 also taught us a valuable lesson about our community's tech vulnerability. In the early days of the pandemic, it became evident that as most organizations

were pivoting to remote operations, the growing dependence on digital tools was inaccessible to many in the Haitian community. As such, Sant La's vision of digital equity and of a digitally connected community transformed first into *An'n Pale Tek* or Let's Talk Tech, which was initially supported by partners such as the Miami Foundation and the University of Miami's U-Links Initiative. Our strategic vision also birthed *Rezo Lespwa*, a phone-based mapping application, developed in collaboration with the University of Miami U-Links Initiative, which serves to assist Haitian parents of early learners to access educational services for their toddlers.

We continue to be amazed and humbled by the steadfast support of our community partners, funders, donors and clients, who believe in our team and in our proven track record. We are proud that our programs are growing, grounded in our foundational principles, and invigorated by the opportunities to blaze new trails, especially during an unprecedented year fraught with trials and tribulations. In the face of all that, we stand.

With Warm Regards,

**Gepsie M. Metellus**  
Executive Director

# AGENCY STATS



## 16,114 CLIENTS SERVED IN 2020-2021

### EMPLOYMENT & PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE

**1,262** job seekers increased their employability options with resume preparation, online applications, employability orientation, referrals to training programs and job placements.

**774** clients were assisted with re-employment benefits filing.

**4,934** unemployment claims were successfully processed.

**559** individuals received assistance through Miami Pandemic Assistance Program.

### HEALTH & FOOD SECURITY

**1,733** clients gained health insurance through Medicaid & Florida KidCare.

**267** with health coverage through the Affordable Care Act.

**1,749** families accessed Food Assistance.

**1,162** meals distributed.

### FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES

**1,274** clients increased their financial capabilities through free tax preparation, financial coaching, consumer credit reduction, resolution of identity theft, and home-buyer education.

### CORNERSTONE SERVICES

**1,602** individuals were served through our cornerstone services, including information/ referral, care coordination, review of correspondence and naturalization/ passport, voter registration and census applications. This past year we also served over **900 migrants** -- individuals and families, including children, who were paroled into the United States from the Southern Border.

### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES & YOUTH

**887** visits for EDEN Place services through educational workshops, coaching, counseling, child behavior support and school advocacy

**356** family visits for mental health services.

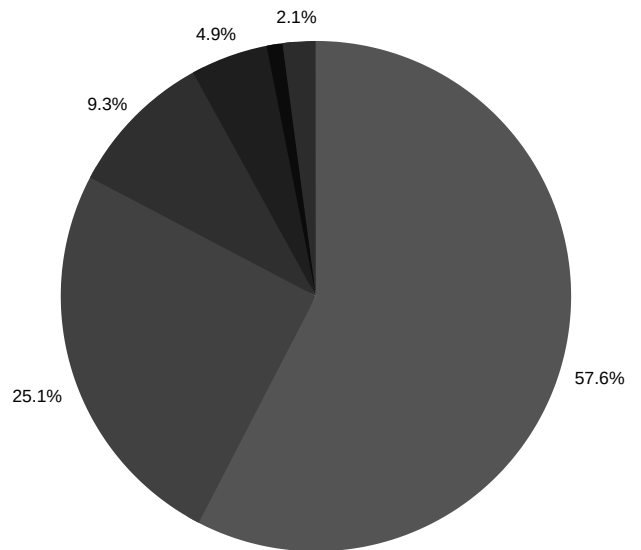
**100** students participated in our after school youth enrichment program

**41** families fostered strong parent-child relationships through our parenting program.

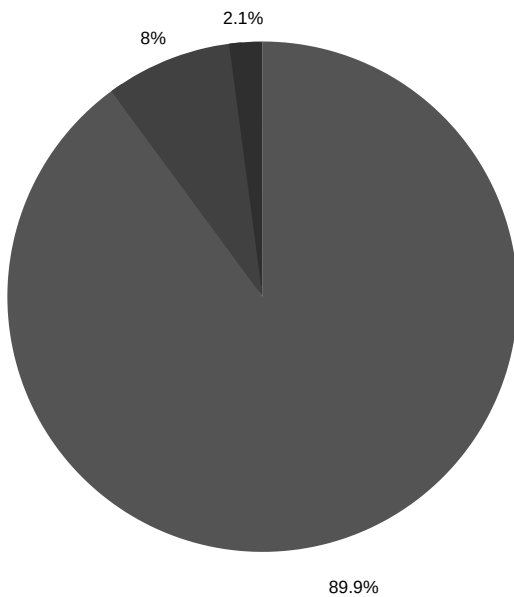


## INCOME

Building In-Kind Contribution*	57.6 %
Government Funding	25.1 %
Foundation Grants	9.3 %
Contributions	4.9 %
Events (net expenses)	1.0 %
Interest and Other	2.1 %



• Donated Building valued at \$2.3 million dollars.



## EXPENSES

Programs and Services	89.9 %
General and Administrative	8.0 %
Fundraising	2.1 %



## PANDEMIC SERVICES

We are grateful for local partners with whom we work to alleviate the impact of the pandemic, including United Way of Miami-Dade, Dolphins/Football Unites, Axis-Helps South Florida, FLIPANY, Ballard Partners, Miami-Dade Department of Health, Jackson Health and World Central Kitchen. Plus, as founding members of the Haitian American COVID-19 Coalition, we continue to focus on policy options for the Haitian community.

## EDUCATION, ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

Our education, engagement and advocacy activities continue. ENFO Sant La was a 6-month radio program to keep the community informed, Sant La LIVE continues to offer a weekly dialogue on Facebook with community experts to explore solutions and approaches to pressing community issues. We also participated in activities such as Thrive 305, giving residents a voice in the shaping of policies that affect them. And we continue to collaborate with allies to advocate collectively for affordable housing, pandemic assistance, to reduce vaccine hesitancy and to provide assistance to recent arrivals.

## TECH INITIATIVES

Sant La embarked on several technology initiatives to help our community bridge the ever-widening digital divide that impacts access to employment and resources. We graduated our first cohort of An'n Pale Tèk (Let's Talk Tech), an innovative education program to introduce participants to basic digital skills and tools. We are also working with partners at the University of Miami to build a culturally sensitive and user-friendly "Early Childhood Resource" app for Creole speaking parents. We also partnered in the creation of Axis South Florida, a tool to increase access to pandemic assistance.

## LABOR MIAMI

The Miami Foundation has launched LaborMiami.org, an interactive portal to provide students, jobseekers, entrepreneurs and employers with career development resources. In this partnership, Sant La is committed to ensuring inclusion for Creole speaking users.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

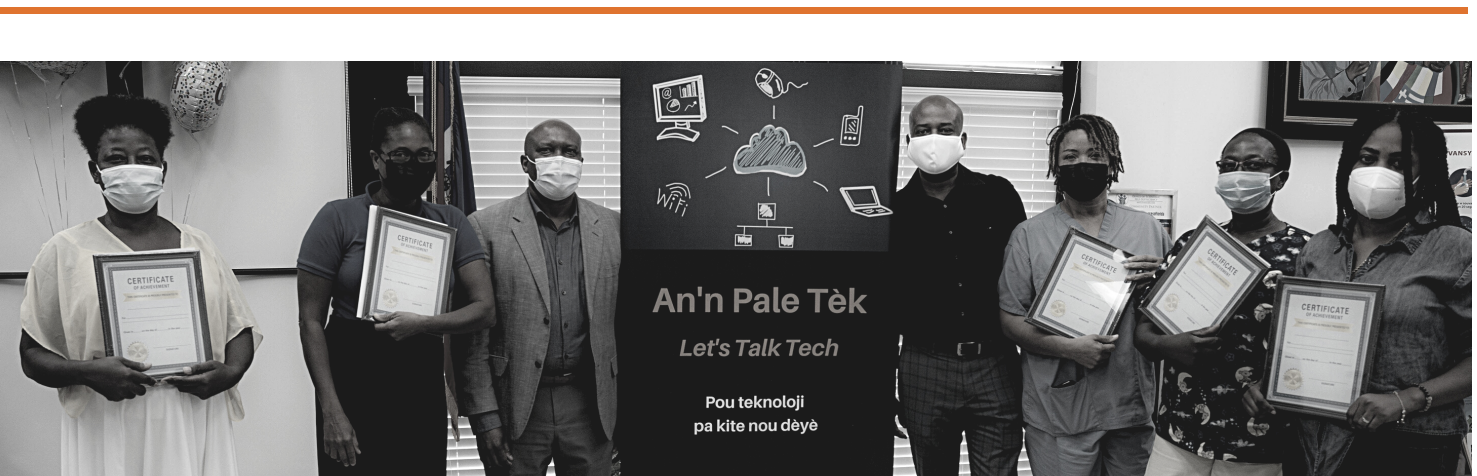
Herve Bony, Chair  
M. Rose Bleus, Ph.D., Vice-Chair  
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Donard St. Jean, Secretary  
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Reginald Andre, Nominating Chair  
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## MEMBERS

Ashaki Bronson-Marcellus  
Jodi Mailander Farrell  
Karen Hurst  
Eurica Ketant  
Thamara Labrousse  
Patrick Martin, Esq.  
Michael McDearmaid  
Gepsie M. Metellus  
Jean Renazile

## STAFF

Gepsie M. Metellus, Executive Director  
Murielle Augustin, Family Counselor/Natural Helper  
Charles Cazeau, Employment Placement  
Stekare Armand-Charles, Youth and Family Advocacy  
Junie Dareus, Program Support  
Olmise Delicieux, Program Support  
Ashante Germain, Program Support  
Leonie Hermantin, Development & Strategic Planning  
Kenta Joseph, Special Projects  
Marie Josette Josue, Community Health  
Wilbert Laurent, Employment Service  
Lucie Liberal, Client Services Reception  
Rose Mainville, Community Services & Initiatives  
Daphney Michel, Youth and Family Counselor  
Karine Mompremier, Community Programs  
Alphonse Piard, Financial Capabilities Services  
Oslaude Rousseau, Program Support  
Guibert St. Fort, Youth and Community Services  
Nadeige Theresias-Joisil, EDEN Place  
Jinia Williams Dauphin, Youth and Family Counselor  
Jean Faustin, Custodian  
Herman Rivas, Accountant



# FUNDING PARTNERS

## PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Allegany Franciscan Ministries  
 Bank of America Foundation  
 Citi Foundation  
 Carnival Foundation  
 The Dolphins Foundation  
 The Ethel & W. George Kennedy Family Foundation  
 Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète  
 Florida Blue Foundation  
 Greater Miami Jewish Federation  
 Green Family Foundation  
 Health Foundation of South Florida  
 John S. & James L. Knight Foundation  
 The Marlins Foundation  
 Miami Foundation  
 Open Society Foundations  
 Peacock Foundation  
 Publix Supermarket Charities  
 United Way of Miami-Dade  
 Wells Fargo Foundation

## GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Jackson Health System  
 Miami-Dade County  
 The Children's Trust  
 The City of North Miami  
 The City of Miami  
 Career Source South Florida  
 Miami Parking Authority  
 National League of Cities  
 State of Florida Department of Health  
 United States Department of Human Services

## NON PROFIT PARTNERS

BAC Funding Corp  
 Flipany  
 Florida Philanthropic Network  
 One Hundred Black Men  
 Prosperity Now

The Leadership Conference Education Fund  
 The Women's Fund of Miami-Dade  
 The Florida New Majority/Florida Rising

## CORPORATE DONORS

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 Archdiocese of Miami  
 Adolphe Supermarket and Restaurant  
 American Airlines  
 Bacardi USA  
 Bank of America  
 Bank United  
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 Becker & Poliakoff  
 Bogosse  
 Citi Community Development  
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 Island TV  
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 Magic City Innovation District  
 Magellan Housing  
 Miami Herald  
 Miami Dolphins  
 Miami Marlins  
 Northern Trust Bank  
 Oleta Partners  
 Royal Caribbean  
 Unitransfer  
 Waste Management  
 World Central Kitchen

## HAITIAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, SANT LA, INC

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Sant La's mission is to empower, strengthen and uplift South Florida's Haitian community by providing free access to information and existing services to ensure its successful integration.

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13390 West Dixie Highway  
North Miami, FL 33161  
305-573-4871  
305-573-4875  
[www.santla.org](http://www.santla.org)  
[@SantLaHaitian](https://www.instagram.com/SantLaHaitian)

