

Empowering

Credible

Responsive

Impactful

Advocate

Life-Line

Stabilizing

Compassionate

# **Strengthening Community for 15 Years**

## **2014-2015 Annual Report**



**Haitian Neighborhood Center**

5000 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 110 ♦ Miami, Florida 33137

Tel: 305-573-4871 ♦ Fax: 305-573-4875



[www.santla.org](http://www.santla.org)



[Facebook.com/SantLa](https://www.facebook.com/SantLa)



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# Our Mission and Programs



## From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am very proud to say that Sant La celebrated 15 years of quality and efficient service to South Florida's Haitian community this year. We could not have made this far without your unwavering support or that of Sant La's marvelous team.

This year, I thought long and hard about the importance of uplifting Generation Next. To that end, Sant La proudly launched **Sant La Fellows**, a community leadership Fellowship program. We must prepare the next generation of community leaders by giving them the lay of the community and provide examples of how best to surmount obstacles.

I thank the visionaries who have invested in this important endeavor that will secure the leadership of our community, and I extend my deepest appreciation to the Sant La Board for their commitment; our loyal staff, who continue to devote themselves completely to achieving our mission; and our community allies, whose partnership advances our shared vision of a self-sufficient and fully integrated Haitian community.

Forever Sant La,  
Gepsie M. Metellus

Sant La's mission is to empower, strengthen and stabilize South Florida's Haitian community and to ensure its successful integration. To that end, we provided 9,376 units of service to the community in 2014-2015, and served 2,050 new clients. 1,334 individuals were served through our cornerstone services, including information and referral, care coordination, application assistance, review of correspondence, and naturalization support. Below are our core program areas. The work was done by a team of 11 staff members, 18 dedicated volunteers and interns, and in over 25,000 hours.

### Health Connect in Our Community

- Assisted 1,562 individuals in accessing benefits including Food Assistance, Medicaid & Florida KidCare, including 368 applying for insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

### Financial Security

- Assisted over 1,068 clients in resolving a myriad financial issues through our services including: Low Income Tax Clinic (LITC); tax preparation through our VITA program; mortgage modifications, consumer credit issues, resolution of identity theft, and home-buyer education.

### Employment Security And Reemployment Assistance

- Assisted 3,135 job seekers with resume preparation, online applications, employability orientation, referrals to training programs, and job placements.
- Filed 466 applications for unemployment benefits and successfully managed 1,493 unemployment claims.

### Positive Youth Development and Educational Attainment

- Fostered strong parent-child relationships and healthy interactions for 48 families.

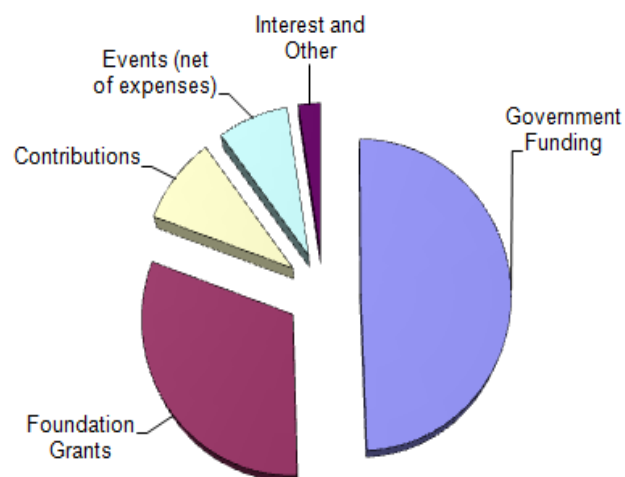
### Community Information, Education, Engagement and Advocacy

- We continue to educate, inform and engage over 500,000 Haitian-American households through our weekly TV show, *Teleskopi*. The program airs on Island Television, at 8 pm every Thursday, through Comcast Channel 578. We also continue to lead community needs assessments, demographic research and policy advocacy efforts to benefit the community.



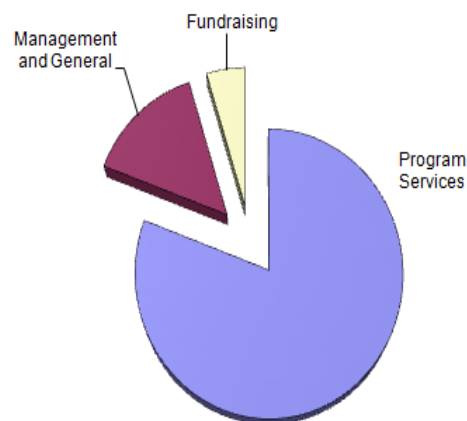
# An Overview of our Financial Stewardship

**INCOME 2014-2015**



**2014-2015**

**EXPENSES 2014-2015**



**2014-2015**

Government Funding	49.5%
Foundation Grants	31.0%
Contributions	9.3%
Events (net expenses)	7.8%
Interest and Other	2.4%
	100.0%

Program Services	80.6%
Management & General	14.6%
Fundraising	4.8%
	100.0%

## Philanthropy, Advocacy, and Leadership

### Philanthropy begins with me and You!

**The Red and Blue Book of Philanthropy**, a publication dedicated to recognizing and celebrating philanthropic leaders in the Haitian-American community, was printed in May 2015. The book features corporations, community members, friends, family and clients who support the community with their time, talents, and treasures. Through this yearly publication, we aim to remind everyone that Philanthropy is an investment in our community and therefore in our future.

### Progress and Unmet Challenges

**Progress and Unmet Challenges: Sant La's Profile of the Haitian Community of Miami-Dade, 2010-2015** was published in June 2015 in partnership with the Florida International University Metropolitan Center. The report offers a detailed statistical look at the ups, downs and challenges experienced by the community.

### Generation Next

**Sant La Fellows** was formally launched in July 2015. The primary goal of this fellowship program is to prepare the next generation of insightful, dedicated civic, academic, business and political leaders who are organically grown in the Haitian-American community. The inaugural class consists of 13 enthusiastic young professionals of Haitian descent.

# Sant La Board of Directors

## 2014-2015

### Officers

Ashaki Bronson-Marcellus, Chairperson  
Ana T. Rios, Vice-Chair  
Jean Renazile, Secretary  
Hudson Robillard, CPA Treasurer  
Thamara Labrousse, Program/Evaluation Chair  
Valeska Valencia, Development Chair

### Directors

Leslie Bauknicht-Nixon, Esq.  
Rasha Cameau  
Gepsie M. Metellus (E-O)  
Gregorie Dolce, Esq  
Maria Escorcia  
Ronald C. Joseph, MD  
Jodi Milander-Farrell  
Carl Nicoleau  
Maria J. Pascal  
Sandra Williams, Ph.D.

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## Sant La Staff

### 2014-2015

Gepsie M. Metellus, Executive Director  
Ludnel St-Preux, Deputy Director for Programs & Operations  
Charles Cazeau, Director of Employment Services  
Alphonse Piard, Director of Financial & Literacy Services  
Wilbert Laurent, Employment Trainer & Counselor  
Izara Lardellier, Director of Community Involvement  
Junie Dareus, Program Support Staff  
Josette Josue, Community Health Worker  
Safira Celcis, Receptionist  
Alta Joseph, Special Projects Administrator  
Marie Claire St. Louis, Custodian

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## Our Funding Partners

### Private Foundations

Bank of America Foundation \* Boule Foundation \* Carnival Foundation \* Green Family Foundation \*  
Health Foundation of South Florida \* Helios Foundation \* JP Morgan Chase \* John S. & James L.  
Knight Foundation \* Marguerite Casey Foundation \* Miami Foundation \* Peacock Foundation \*  
Publix Supermarket Charities \* The Ethel & W. George Kennedy Family Foundation \*  
United Way of Miami-Dade \* Wells-Fargo Foundation

### Government Agencies

Miami-Dade County \* The Children's Trust \* The City of North Miami \* The City of Sunny Isles Beach \*  
The Internal Revenue Service Tax Payer Advocate Services, \* Office of Refugee Resettlement \*  
South Florida Workforce \* United States Department of Human Services \* U.S. Treasury Department

### Corporate Donors

AT&T \* Aventura Hospital & Medical Center \* Bacardi USA \* Bank of America \* BB&T \* Baptist Health  
South Florida \* Becker & Poliakoff \* Florida Blue \* Bogosse \* Coca-Cola \* Digicel \* Doctor's Medical  
Center \* Doral Cops \* FPL \* Greenberg Traurig \* Humana \* Island TV \* Seaboard Marine \* The Miami  
Dolphins & the Dolphins Foundation \* The Miami Marlins & the Marlins Foundation \* Northern Trust  
Bank \* Royal Caribbean \* Unitransfer \* Waste Management