COALITION OF THE WILLING
THE PEOPLE AS OUR ASSET

Annual Report 2023
Year Focus: Entrepreneurship
Building a Sustainable Ayiti
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Dear Valued Members, Partners, and Friends of Ayiti Community Trust,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the collective efforts and unwavering commitment demonstrated by each of you. Our theme for this year’s annual report, “Coalition of The Willing—The People As Our Asset,” is a guiding principle and a lived reality that underscores the core of our mission at Ayiti Community Trust.

This year at Ayiti Community Trust, we have embraced the entrepreneurial spirit as the cornerstone of our initiatives. We believe that entrepreneurship is not just about business; it’s about fostering innovation, cultivating leadership, and empowering individuals to turn their visions into realities. Our commitment to nurturing entrepreneurial endeavors is rooted in our conviction that our people are our greatest asset.

We witnessed remarkable collaborations and partnerships that have been pivotal in advancing our goals. The ‘Coalition of The Willing’ has been a testament to the power of collective action and shared vision among our hard-working board members and ambassadors. It’s your willingness - the willingness of the people - that has transformed our initiatives into impactful and sustainable projects.

This year’s focus on entrepreneurship has been on harnessing our people’s incredible potential and passion. We believe that the true asset of any community lies in its people. Your dedication, resilience, and innovative spirit have been the driving force behind our achievements. Your involvement has made a significant difference in areas ranging from environmental conservation to educational programs, cultural preservation, and economic development.

The stories of success we have witnessed are a testament to what can be achieved when people are given the opportunity to harness their potential. These entrepreneurs have not only improved their own lives but have also uplifted their communities, driving forward our mission of sustainable development.

Our focus on entrepreneurship will remain a key priority as we move forward. We see it as a powerful tool for change, a means to address some of our most pressing challenges, and a way to unlock the immense potential of our people. We are committed to expanding our support and fostering an environment where more entrepreneurial talents can emerge and thrive.

Let us strengthen our coalition, reach out to more willing hearts and hands, and invest in the people who are our greatest asset. Our collective efforts are essential in shaping Ayiti’s sustainable and prosperous future.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for participating in this journey. Your willingness to support, participate, and believe in our vision has been crucial. As we continue to build this coalition of the willing, let us keep empowering our people, our greatest asset, through the powerful vehicle of entrepreneurship.

Together, we are not just building communities; we are building hope, fostering resilience, and creating a legacy of positive change.

With heartfelt thanks and optimism,

Ghislain Gouraige Jr.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

GUERDA NICOLAS, PHD.

Dear Esteemed Members, Partners, and Allies of Progress,

In the rhythmic pulse of our beloved Ayiti, there lies an indomitable spirit — a spirit of resilience, innovation, and collective will. This year, at Ayiti Community Trust, we have encapsulated this spirit under the banner of “Coalition of The Willing—The People As Our Asset,” with a pronounced focus on entrepreneurship and the vibrant theme of our esteemed ‘Goute Peyi M’ gala.

Our community’s willingness to collaborate, strive, and dream has been the cornerstone of our achievements. We’ve built bridges of opportunity and solidarity extending beyond our immediate horizons.

Thanks to your support this year, we’ve launched initiatives that have empowered our youth, invigorated our cultural heritage, and sustained our environment. From the verdant hills of our countryside to the vibrant streets of our cities, the spirit of our people has been our guiding light.

Our coalition does not just comprise those with resources but everyone who offers their time, wisdom, and vision for a better tomorrow. We’ve seen unprecedented participation in our community programs, with volunteers stepping forward to lead projects transforming lives.

Our journey through the past year has been marked by an unwavering commitment to nurture the seeds of entrepreneurship within our communities. We have laid the foundations for economic empowerment by fostering local businesses, supporting innovative startups, and creating platforms for exchanging ideas and resources. Our belief is steadfast: the entrepreneurial drive of the Haitian people is a wellspring of sustainable development and national pride.

The ‘Goute Peyi M’ gala was not merely a celebration but a symphony of our culture, the tenacity of our people, and the flavors of our homeland. It served as a testament to the creativity and potential that flourishes within our borders. The gala embodied our ethos, drawing from the past and present to forge a future where every Haitian can partake in the nation’s economic narrative.

As we cast our gaze forward, our focus remains sharply attuned to unlocking the potential of our greatest asset — our people. We envision an Ayiti where every person can thrive, where community assets are strengthened, and where our collective will ignite a brighter future for all. Our vision for the coming year is to expand our entrepreneurial programs, create more avenues for mentorship and skill development, and continue celebrating our heritage with pride and pomp.

We stand at the helm of change, guided by a coalition that is as diverse as it is passionate. Your support, belief in our cause, and unwavering commitment to the community have been the pillars of our success. Together, we are cultivating a legacy of innovation and prosperity that will echo through generations.

Onward, with gratitude and resolve,

Guerda Nicolas, PhD
Successful Focus on Entrepreneurship

Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) has demonstrated a strong commitment to fostering entrepreneurship to empower individuals and stimulate economic development in Haiti. Through various initiatives and programs, ACT has actively invested in entrepreneurial ventures, particularly those led by youth and women, aligning with the broader goal of sustainable community development.

Grant Making

ACT has strategically awarded grants to entrepreneurial projects that drive innovation and economic growth. These grants are designed to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), particularly those that incorporate sustainable practices and contribute to preserving Haiti’s natural and cultural resources.

Youth Agribio Competition

The Trust has initiated the Youth Agribio Competition, encouraging young entrepreneurs to develop business plans for organic agricultural ventures. This competition not only promotes sustainable farming practices but also nurtures a new generation of agripreneurs by providing them with seed funding, mentorship, and exposure.

Visionary Events in Ayiti and Miami:

ACT hosts visionary events both in Haiti and Miami, creating platforms for entrepreneurs to share ideas, showcase their products, and network with potential investors and partners. These events serve as catalysts for collaboration and are instrumental in highlighting the ingenuity and potential of Haitian entrepreneurs on an international stage.

Youth Agribiz

Complementing the competition, the Youth Agribiz program by INNOVHA focuses on capacity building for young agricultural entrepreneurs. This program provides technical training, business coaching, and market access to enable youth to turn their innovative ideas into viable agribusinesses.

La Gonave Women Workshop with Dr. Vivens:

The La Gonave Women Workshop, led by Dr. Solanges Vivens, is a testament to ACT’s dedication to women’s empowerment through entrepreneurship. This workshop offers training and resources to women entrepreneurs, fostering skills development and encouraging them to establish or expand their businesses.

Day-long Workshop in Okap with over 100 Women:

In Okap, ACT has conducted a comprehensive day-long workshop attended by over 100 women. This workshop provides intensive training on business fundamentals, financial literacy, and strategies for business growth. The event is part of ACT’s broader strategy to empower women entrepreneurs to play a pivotal role in Haiti’s economic development.

Goute Peyi M: A Culinary Tour of Ayiti

On October 14, 2023, we hosted our annual fundraising gala themed Goute Peyi M (Taste My Country): A Culinary Tour of Ayiti. The goal was to celebrate Haitian cuisine and its culinary ambassadors. This provided an opportunity to highlight food entrepreneurs, from farm to restaurant, and the important food traditions that are passed down through each generation.
ABOUT ACT

Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) is a transnational community foundation that supports innovative sustainable development in Ayiti (Haiti) through grantmaking and community programs. ACT mobilizes Haitians and friends of Ayiti to invest in Haitian-led innovations using its asset-framing model with a permanent fund backed by an endowment.

Ayiti Community Trust is registered in both the U.S. and Ayiti and has partnered with The Miami Foundation, which was established in 1967 to manage its endowment funds.

Community Development Approach in Ayiti: Our sustainable development approach supports the vision and leadership of communities to drive the development process, resources, and decision-making in the rural communities in Ayiti. It operates on the principles of transparency, participation, accountability, and enhanced local capacity.

OUR MISSION
To support and sustain development innovation in Ayiti (Haiti) in the areas of civic education, environment, and entrepreneurship.

OUR VISION
To build a sustainable Ayiti by harnessing the collective strength of people all across the globe who are committed to long-term impact and Haitian-led solutions.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
This strategic focus on economic livelihood enables us to support business innovations that help stabilize the local economy and cultivate a new generation of entrepreneurs.

ENVIRONMENT
This year, our pillar of focus was the Environment. We hosted an Environment Forum that connected grassroots organizations from across the country that are leading the way in climate-resilient solutions and building a dedicated national network of innovators.

CIVIC EDUCATION
Our grantee partners help lead their communities to become civic-engaged members of society. They provided education on civic duty, along with many leadership development programs for youth, women, and girls.
WHAT MAKES ACT UNIQUE

Endowment Fund: A Sustainable Future
ACT is distinguished by its pioneering Endowment Fund, the first dedicated to Haiti’s development. Unlike traditional aid, this permanent fund is invested, and the returns are used to finance projects. This model ensures sustainability and long-term impact, allowing us to support initiatives today and for future generations.

Asset Framing: Valuing Community Strengths
We approach development through ‘Asset Framing’ — focusing on the strengths and potentials of Haitian communities rather than deficits. By highlighting the assets and resilience inherent within communities, we empower them to lead their development journey, shaping narratives that honor their capabilities and aspirations.

Focus on Rural Communities: Decentralization
Our work is deeply rooted in the rural heartlands of Ayiti. We strive for ‘Decentralization,’ moving away from capital-centric development to empower rural areas. By investing in these communities, we aim to reduce inequalities and ensure that the fruits of development are shared across the country.

Community-Led: Ownership and Direction
ACT stands out for its commitment to community-led initiatives. We believe the people of Ayiti are best placed to determine their needs and solutions. Our role is to facilitate, support, and empower, ensuring that projects are driven by those whose lives they impact the most.
Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) is a grantmaking community foundation. We offer nonprofit community-based organizations in Ayiti, especially in rural communities, an opportunity to share in our commitment to sustainable development by funding grants to innovative programs that are leading the way in one or more of the three pillars; civic education, environment, and entrepreneurship.

Solidarite Haïtienne Pour Le Développement Rural De Kenscoff (SOHADERK)

**ORGANIZATION MISSION:**

SOHADERK works to reverse the environmental degradation of natural resources in the mountainous community of Kenscoff. They provide agricultural extension services and innovative training to a growing network of farmers.

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

SOHADERK is implementing a project aimed at strengthening food security and building self-sufficiency in the poultry sector in Kenscoff. In 2023, the organization built and managed a solar-powered poultry facility, organized and trained 50 local farmer groups to establish their own small poultry businesses to provide meat & eggs to the local communities. The farmer groups received training on good nutrition and health practices for chickens and received 10 chicks each to start their businesses. SOHADERK now serves as a hub for capacity building and supply of eggs and chickens in Kenscoff.

Coopérative des Acteurs de Pêche d’Environnement et d’élevage—CAPEELAG

**ORGANIZATION MISSION:**

CAPEELAG is a cooperative of fishermen and local associations on the island of La Gonave working to protect coastal ecosystems that are critical to their livelihoods and well-being.

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Mangroves are an essential component of the coastal ecosystem. They provide habitats for high-value marine species, prevent coastal erosion and storm surges, and sequester 10x more carbon than terrestrial trees. However, the cutting of mangroves for use in charcoal production has threatened their existence. CAPEELAG is combatting this trend by rehabilitating La Gonave’s mangrove forests and establishing community goat parks and organizing fishing material boutiques to generate new sources of income that can help offset charcoal production money. CAPEELAG has also established environmental protection committees recognized by the local government to monitor and propose more systemic solutions. The project on Lagonav Island, supported by ACT achieved significant milestones, including establishing two new goat parks capable of housing over 100 goats each. With 34 goats purchased during the grant period and plans for resale underway, the project is making strides in economic empowerment. Additionally, the relocation of fishing material shops to strategic locations enhances community accessibility. Despite challenges, the project’s numerical accomplishments underscore its effectiveness in conserving mangrove ecosystems and improving livelihoods on the island.

Baskètbòl pou Ankadre Lajènès (BAL)

**ORGANIZATION MISSION:**

BAL uses basketball as a tool to educate and mentor vulnerable Haitian youth. In addition to basketball, participants partake in a wide variety of educational and enrichment activities designed to maximize their capacity as citizens and keep them out of trouble.

BAL operates in two of Port-au-Prince’s most underserved urban neighborhoods: Cité Soleil and Martissant.

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

BAL partnered with the Centre d’Entrepreneuriat et de Leadership en Haïti (CEDEL Haiti) to organize 4 full-day entrepreneurship workshops for a group of twenty (20) aspiring or fledgling entrepreneurs that took place from November 7th-10th. At the conclusion of the workshops, the participants pitched a business idea to a jury. Some of the businesses proposed were a pharmacy, a soap making shop and a book rental service for parents. Participants will prepare business plans with technical support from CEDEL Haiti. Following the review of the business plans by the workshop facilitators, the approved business plans will each grants between $250 to $750 chickens in Kenscoff.
**Innov’ha**

**ORGANIZATION MISSION:** INNOV’HA is a fairly young organization established about 5 years ago in Northern Haiti whose goal is to help the youth of the area grow intellectually, economically and socially.

**PROJECT SUMMARY:** The Agri-Biz program trained 42 young people to explore agricultural projects that can develop into businesses and support the local agriculture in the Commune of Limbe in the North department of Ayiti. The program culminated with a pitch competition before a jury of experienced entrepreneurs. The winning team called Savoura impressed the members of the jury with a well thought out strategy and tasty samples of the pineapple jam. Savoura and the two other top businesses received a small financial award from INNOV’HA and continued business advice.

**HIGHLIGHTS + NOTABLES**

- **SOHADERK** received a 3rd year award for funding (2024)

  The school called Lekol Matenwa on La Gonave was chosen for the inaugural Donor Advised Fund grant (2024) through the Anglade Fund at ACT.

- **ACT** established a matching grant partnership with Papyrus allowing our current grantees to receive additional funding for their work.

  The AGRI-BIO competition final ceremony took place in Vallue Tigoave and three teams received technical assistance in developing a business plan and a cash prize to fund their business ideas in agriculture.

  Construction completed and inauguration of 2 community centers (one in each community- Lyev ivre and Twarak), building of new residential homes for families in these communities, and establishment of a community impact based funding mechanismsmers in the communities.

**PROGRAMS**

**AYITI VISIONARIES**

In May 2023, ACT hosted the inaugural **AYITI VISIONARIES** event in both Fort Lauderdale and Cap Haitien, showcasing trailblazing entrepreneurship within the Haitian community during Haitian Heritage Month. We were privileged to have YveCar Momperousse as our keynote speaker during the first event. Her journey was very inspirational, as she shared how her company made an intentional impact from the start.

The event also celebrated the achievements of distinguished entrepreneurs and business leaders, including:

- YveCar Momperousse, CEO & Co-Founder Kreyol Essence
- Jeff Lozama, Entrepreneur CMS International Group, Corp
- Dannie Augustin, Multi-Brand Business Owner Franchise Girls FL
- Conrad Schutt, Owner/Operator Malfini Photography
- Angie Bell, Co Founder Atizan International
- Magalie Noel Dresse, CEO & Founder Caribbean Craft
- Geoffrey Handal, Entrepreneur Ets JB Vital / Agnlog

This event is another way how ACT continues to work to build an inclusive community of growth, empowerment, and sustainability.

For more information about our this event, visit www.AyitiCommunityTrust.org/Visionaries
ANNUAL GALA - GOUTE PEYIM
TASTE MY COUNTRY  A CULINARY TOUR OF AYITI

The Ayiti Community Trust organized a fundraising gala, Goute Peyi M, on October 14, 2023, at Level Three in Aventura. The event aimed to raise funds to support the Trust’s various programs focused on community development, civic education, and environmental sustainability in Ayiti. The gala was well-attended, with a diverse crowd of community leaders, philanthropists, business professionals, and individuals who share a common interest in the welfare of Haiti.

OBJECTIVES
1. Raise funds for ongoing and upcoming projects by Ayiti Community Trust.
2. Strengthen relationships with existing donors and partners.
3. Engage new supporters and potential donors.
4. Showcase the progress and impact of ongoing projects.
5. Honor chefs who have significantly contributed to the promotion of Haitian culture through their cuisine.

GRANDEY AWARDEE RECIPIENT
Joseph Gérard Therilien

HOST COMMITTEE
Chislain Gouraige Jr
Dr. Beatriz Gonzalez
Dr. Solanges Vivens
Marlon A. Hill, Esq.
James Meyer, Esq.
Kéée St. Cyr
Elissa Vanaver
Kimberly Green
Merdocher T. Lafrange
Genevieve Leveille
Rachelle Sylvain-Spence

LOUNGE FETE HOST COMMITTEE
Dr. Natacha Janac
Yanatha Desouvry
Angie Bell
Samuel Danes
Naomi Foxx
Vanessa Joseph
Paul Douillon
Sagine Edouard
Lory George

ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY
Loukou Mizik
Tafa Mi-Soleil
DJ Nicky Mix
NSL Dance
Jques Alamod

The event witnessed a turnout of approximately 350 guests, with active participation in the live auction and donations. Participants joined us from: Ayiti, Boston, DC, Maryland, North Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Texas, Canada, and Australia.

A total of 20 volunteers shared their time with us as volunteers during the event.

The atmosphere was vibrant, and the attendees showed immense support for the cause.

SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS
1. Successful engagement with community leaders and influencers.
2. Positive feedback on the cultural performances and Haitian cuisine.
3. Significant funds raised, surpassing the initial target.
4. High level of interest for future collaboration and support from new contacts.

NEW JERSEY EVENT
CREOLE CUISINE FOR A CAUSE

In September, ACT ambassador Carl Brandt and board member James Cadet orchestrated “Creole Cuisine for a Cause,” with the invaluable support of Chef Ron Mompoint. This noteworthy event unfolded at Saveur Creole, the charming Haitian restaurant nestled in Montclair, NJ, under the ownership of Chef Mompoint.

The occasion was a remarkable triumph, drawing a gathering of over 100 enthusiastic attendees and generating a commendable sum of over $15,000 for Ayiti Community Trust! Anticipation is high for more exhilarating ventures in New Jersey.
TOTAL DONATIONS TO AYITI COMMUNITY TRUST | IN USD

2016 TO 2023

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ASSETS HELD AT THE MIAMI FOUNDATION | IN USD

2016 TO 2023

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OUR DONORS

We express our deepest gratitude to all our generous supporters. Your contribution is part of a community with a shared vision for Ayiti’s future.

MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

GRAY HOLBROOK
JAMES LUBIN
JEAN-PIERRE TROUILLOT
MARIE-MICHELE FOURNIER

25K-50K
GUERDA NICOLAS, PH.D.

10K-25K
ANGLADE FUND
CFLAEDS
COMMISSIONER MARLEINE BASTIEN
GRANT CARDONE FOUNDATION
HARPER MEYER

SOGEPEDIA SA
SOLANGE’S VIVENS FOUNDATION
TEEEM FOUNDATION
THE MIAMI FOUNDATION

5K-10K
BEROTTE CONSULTANCY ASSOCIATES
GISLAIN GOUISSE, JR.
GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
JACKSON HEALTH FOUNDATION
JAMES CADET
KNIGHT FOUNDATION
MAYOR ALIX DESULME CITY OF NORTH MIAMI
NORTHERN TRUST
SHUBIN BASS
SOLUTION FOCUSED CONSULTING
VICE MAYOR MARY ESTIME-IRVIN

2.5K-5K
ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI
COLA COURONNE (UNIVERSAL BEVERAGES)
DR. HERB BROWN
JAMES MEYER
JOELLE CERGE
MAYOR DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA
PAMELA UNGAR
PATRICIA HANNAH BRANDES
PEDRO GASSANT
PRIMARY MEDICAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

500-2.5K
ALEXANDRO MUNIZ
ANGELO BOUSSE UROLOGY
ANONYMOUS(4)
CARL BRANDT
CEDAR HILL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
CHELINDE EDOUARD
CHRISTINE SANWILL
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL JOSEPH
DEBORAH SCHNEIDER
DR. CLAUDINE MICHEL
ELISA VANAWER
ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GREINER WEISER FAMILY FOUNDATION
GUITELE NICOLEAU

2.5K-5K
ISABELLE LAURENT
JANAE LLOYD
JOHN & BETTY ROCHE
LAW OFFICES OF FRITZGERALD FRANCOIS, P.A.
MARIE J. MONTANEZ
SERGE JC PIERRE-LOUIS
SOGEBANK FOUNDATION
STRONG VOICES FOR FLORIDA STRONG VOICES FOR FLORIDA
TRABIAN SHORTERS
VANESSA PROSPER
WORLD CENTRIC
YOSBEL A. IBARRA
THE ZACHARY R. RINKINS AND ROSEMOND RINKINS FAMILY FUND

DESSALINE SOCIETY $2500+ INDIVIDUALS

PAMELA UGAR

I wholeheartedly support ACT because of their commitment to empower Haitian communities in country to self develop. It’s a ground up initiative where after a needs assessment individuals and small businesses are supported in a culturally respectful way.

- Marie Denise Gervais
COALITION OF THE WILLING

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