



AYITI RISING

ON A MISSION TO REPLACE POULTRY IMPORTS

FROM RWANDA TO AYITI

The First FCAP Adaptation in the Western Hemisphere

SO THEY SAY

**“THERE’S NOTHING GOOD
HAPPENING IN HAITI?”**

Data from Community Organizations Say Otherwise

THANK YOU MÈSI

You kept us going in 2025! Our community showed up for us all year long and that's the only way we were able to keep doing the work we do. With the addition of our new arm, Haitian Preservation, here's what our community looked like in 2025:

14,800+

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

3,143

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

561

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

44

EVENT SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

TOP DONORS & ACTIVATORS

Dr. Gloria Blaise
Hannah Brandes
Herb Brown
James Cadet
Joëlle Cerge
Vincent Congolio
Necky Deneus

Carl Henri Fombrun
Pedro Cassant
Ghislain Gouraige, Jr.
Dr. Alyssa Jean
Dr. Guerda Nicolas
Dr. Solanges Vivens
Jéan E. Wilson

Members of the Okap Team for United in Legacy 2025 take the long hike up to the top of the Sitadél in Ayiti.



2025 ANNUAL REPORT OF AYITI COMMUNITY TRUST

Our Vision

A thriving, self-sufficient Ayiti, where Haitian communities lead their own development.

Our Mission

To build a sustainable source of funding for Haitian-led organizations focused on Civic Education, Environment, and Entrepreneurship.

2025 Board of Directors

Ghislain Gouraige, Jr.
Founding Board Chairman

Dr. Guerda Nicolas
President, Co-Founder

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Ouigi Theodore

Jéan E. Wilson

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Dr. Alyssa Jean, Executive Director | **Dr. Gloria Blaise**, Director of Endowment Strategy and Ambassador Program Lead | **Amber Kamilah**, Director of Strategy and Narrative
Melodie Cerin, Strategic Community Partnerships Manager | **John Peter Adolphe**, Grantmaking Supervisor | **Léon-Enos Jean**, Grantee Field Supervisor | **Mathania Bazile**, Grantee Administrative Accountant | **Merdochey LaFrance**, Fundraising Events Chair | **Stephanie deVilla**, Graphic Design | **Kindred Technology**, Website Services | **Sakapfet Okap** - Photography & Videography (Ayiti) | **Triangle Management Solution**, Grantee Monitoring and Evaluation (Ayiti)

Design

Cover Photo: **United in Legacy 2025: Okap Team Celebrates their Hike Up The Sitadèl** | Image taken by Sakapfet Okap in Milot, Ayiti. See story on page 25.
Report Design, Layout and Editing by Amber Kamilah

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

We are not a charity model. We are a sovereignty model—one that puts power and resources back where it belongs in Ayiti: in the hands of Haitians.

Founded in 2016, Ayiti Community Trust (ACT), is a part of the movement changing the way development is done in Ayiti. Here's what makes our model game-changing for Ayiti.

1. Leadership from Within

We elevate local vision. We don't impose outside "solutions." ACT stands with the visionary Haitian leaders who live the challenges, know the context, and lead with courage and clarity. They don't need saving—they need capital and self-sustaining knowledge. That's what we provide (and more. See *There's Nothing Good Happening in Haiti?* on page 9.)

2. Beyond the Capital

Although Port-au-Prince was never the whole story, it was positioned to take the spotlight and the resources. Comprehensive national development requires inclusive investment that reaches all communities. ACT invests in

rural communities to shift power and expand opportunity to every corner of the country.

3. Stronger Together

We unite community leaders, institutions, and global partners to act with one vision. Lasting change demands collective power—one people, one nation, building a prosperous Ayiti together.

4. Building a Forever Fund

We are building an endowment fund, the first of its kind for Ayiti. Backed by the trusted stewardship of the Miami Foundation, it will ensure community organizations in Ayiti have long-term, reliable funding that grows over time. No more chasing grants from foreign sources. We are building financial independence and ensuring Haitian people have the means to design their own futures for generations.

Students at the Gérard Baptiste Community School in Vali tend to their school garden.

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STEADY RISING

A YEAR IN REVIEW

We tell the story of an Ayiti that is rising because we see the ascent. Ayiti Rising is the story of a land and a people in progress and the role ACT proudly played in 2025.



COMMUNITY-LED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AYITI

We fund initiatives in Ayiti that are imagined by those who understand the context and are committed to staying the course – Haitians themselves. In 2025, we touched roughly 3,497 individuals in 39 seksyon kominal (municipalities) across Ayiti through local grantees and local partner organizations.

- 1 Facilitated Collective Action Process (FCAP) now known as Pwogram Ayisyen pou Devlopman Ekonomik (PADE).** *Vali.* The team – comprised of members of the ACT Grants Team, FCAP expert Alexandra Muyama from Uganda, Asosyasyon Peyizan Vali (APV), FONDAYSON FELICITÉE, and Triangle Management Solution – facilitated working groups to continue adapting the FCAP model to the Haitian context, developed a facilitator guide and a management manual, and organized the pilot launch for January 2026 with a seven-day training and community meetings. (See page 11.)
- 2 Hope on a String (HOAS).** *Akayé.* HOAS provided weekly programming using music, art and culture to raise awareness of civic values for up to 300 children, ages 7 to 12, throughout the year. (See page 21.)
- 3 Koze Agrikilti (KAG).** *Jacmel.* KAG established a 2,500-plant nursery, provided training to 20 aspiring apiculturists, installed 12 beehives, and acquired beekeeping equipment to distribute to partner sites. (See page 23.)
- 4 Lagonav Community and Leadership Development Center.** *Lagonav.* We continued partnering with Roots of Development to help Rasin Devlopman build a permanent community leadership hub on the island.
- 5 Lekòl Kominotè Matènwa Pou Devlopman (LKMPD).** *Lagonav.* Through the Anglade Donor-Advised Fund, we continued providing the LKMPD graduating class of 2030 support for tuition, extracurricular programs, community service projects, mentorship, and civic education activities.
- 6 Organizasyon Tèt Ansanm de Dèrivo Pestél (OTADEP).** *Pestèl.* OTADEP constructed a poultry center and provided training on poultry production techniques. (See page 19.)
- 7 Rasin Devlopman's Fanm Djanm Program.** *Lagonav.* The Charmante Rinvil Fund continued to back Rasin Devlopman's efforts, ensuring they could keep offering training and support to meet the needs of women on the island. (See page 15.)

8 Soldarité Haitienne Pour Le Développement De Kenscoff (SOHADERK). *Kenscoff*. SOHADERK provided trainings to a growing network of farmers, established 50 family-based microenterprises, constructed a 2,000 chick poultry house, and scaled up other poultry and egg-market activities. (See page 17.)

9 Gérard Baptiste Community School of Vali. *Vali*. With support from The Empathy, Equality, Entrepreneurship Mission Fund (TEEM), Asosyasyon Peyizan Vali (APV) established a teaching garden for students and constructed a poultry facility. (See page 19.)

10 Solange Vivens Fund. *Okap*. Newly established in 2025, this fund supported the 75th Anniversary of the Haitian Women's Congress and the third Women's Entrepreneurship Program event in December 2025. (See page 15.)

HAITIAN HERITAGE PROGRAMS

To inspire investment in Ayiti, we have learned that we must re-educate our people and friends of Ayiti on Haitian history and culture. Through various educational and community-building events in 2025, ACT successfully engaged approximately 733 individuals and raised over \$144,000.

- **Ayiti Visionaries.** *Miami*. We hosted the fourth annual award reception in Miami to honor Haitian leaders in Civic Education, raised over \$115,000, and attracted 215 guests. (See page 27.)
- **Give Miami Day.** *Virtual*. Through a citywide online fundraiser, we engaged the South Florida community for the sixth consecutive year, raising \$18,025 from 137 supporters.
- **Goute Peyi M Mixer.** *Boston*. We held a networking reception for Haitian professionals at La Perle Restaurant and Lounge (Haitian and women-owned) to build upon the energy of the Red Sox

Haitian Celebration jersey event organized by Ruthzee Louijeune the previous day.

11 Goute Peyanm and Tabou Combo Concert. *Okap*. We hosted a fundraising and award dinner to celebrate Haitian cuisine and to honor seven local leaders: Eddy Lubin, Fatima Group, Fifine Jean, Guesly Michél, Harry Nicolas, and the Lakay Bar Restaurant. The next day we hosted a community concert featuring the legendary Haitian band, Tabou Combo.

- **The Revolution of the Haitian Spirit.** *Virtual*. We held an online revival with over 100 guests as a part of the launch of our new revenue-generating arm, Haitian Preservation. (See page 16.)
- **The Untold Story of the Haitian Flag.** *Miami*. We held a brunch on Haitian Flag Day for young professionals on the history of Ayiti's 13 flags.
- **United in Legacy.** *8 Locations*. We organized the 5th annual 4-mile solidarity walk on Emperor Dessalines' birthday, September 20, 2025. The 117 participants assembled in Miami, Okap, Atlanta, Qatar, Okay, Philadelphia, Chicago and Connecticut and collectively raised \$2,829. (See page 25.)

PARTNERSHIPS

Thank you Asosyasyon Peyizan Vali, Atizan International, CLE-Haitian Sisterhood, FONDAYSON FELICITÉE, Grande Fondation D'Haiti, Haitian American Professionals Coalition, Roots of Development, Rasin Devlopman, Papyrus, and Sakapfet Okap. You help us keep our work local and relevant.

LOOKING AHEAD

We think in terms of roots, systems, and generations. We aim for our efforts to endure far into the future. In 2026, we will continue strengthening our organizational foundations and improving our measurement of impact. Join us as we continue building a prosperous future for Ayiti — **a nation, a people rising.**

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT

Dear Friends, Partners, and Members of the ACT Family,

In a year marked by continued uncertainty, Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) remained grounded in our purpose and unshaken in our commitment. We strengthened our roots. We listened deeply. And we continued the patient work of building systems that endure beyond crisis cycles.

ACT was founded on a simple but powerful belief: **Ayiti's future is best shaped by its own people.** That belief guided every decision we made this year. What you will read in these pages is not a collection of isolated projects. It is a living ecosystem of dignity and shared leadership.

We are especially proud of how ACT's work has increasingly centered women and youth. The growth of Haitian Women Rising, the expansion of legacy funds such as the Charmante Rinvil Fund and the Solanges Vivens Donor-Advised Fund, and the historic convening of women leaders this year all signal a shift from fragmented efforts to a collective movement.

None of this work happens in isolation. Our local partners lead with courage and clarity on the ground in Ayiti—our Board of Directors stewards ACT with integrity and vision. Our staff and volunteers demonstrate care and competency. And our donors and legacy supporters understand that transformational change requires patience, trust, and long-term investment.

As you turn these pages, we invite you to see ACT as an organization that is actualizing a vision: Ayiti's communities will continue to rise—steadily, collectively, and on their own terms.

With gratitude and resolve,

Ghislain Gouraige, Jr., Chairman of the Board
Dr. Guerda Nicolas, President and Co-Founder

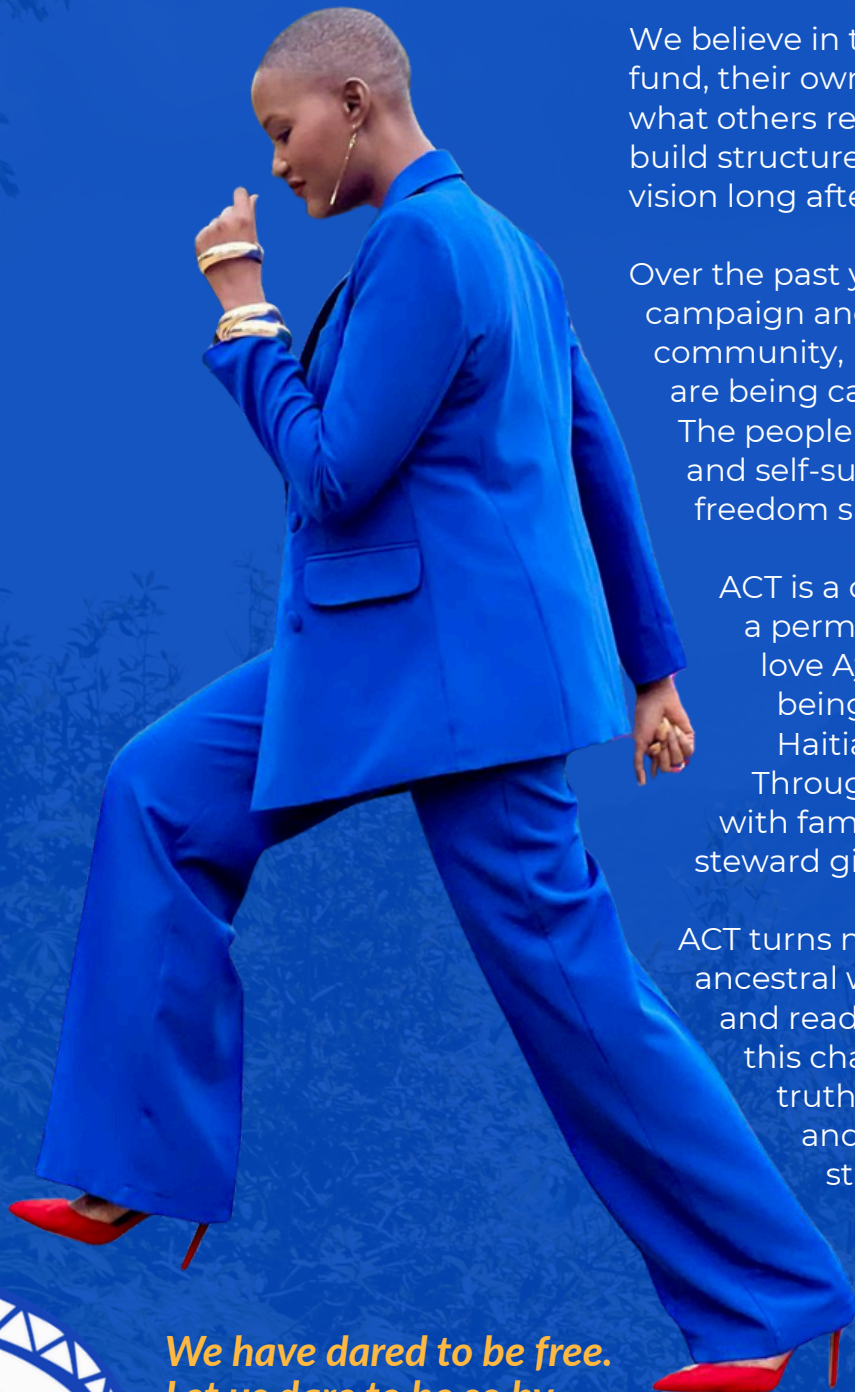


GHISLAIN GOURAIGE, JR.
Chairman of the Board



DR. GUERDA NICOLAS
President and Co-Founder

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



WE DARE TO PROSPER

For a people born out of revolution, freedom has never been abstract. Yet Ayiti's modern story has often felt unfinished and constrained by debt, isolation, and generations of external interference that distorted what self-determination could look like in practice. And still, the question remains: **why do we believe in a prosperous Ayiti when the world insists on telling a different story?**

We believe in the power of Haitians to lead, and to fund, their own future. To lead our future is to see what others refuse to see. To fund our future is to build structures that outlive individuals and hold vision long after names have faded.

Over the past year, through my Executive Director campaign and conversations across our community, I came to see more clearly that we are being called once again to choose ourselves. The people I met reminded me that sovereignty and self-sufficiency are the conditions that make freedom sustainable.

ACT is a community foundation—by design, a permanent home (lakay) for people who love Ayiti and are committed to its well-being. Through our grants, we invest in Haitian-led organizations across Ayiti. Through donor-advised funds, we partner with families, businesses, and institutions to steward giving with accountability and care.

ACT turns nine this year—nine full cycles. In ancestral wisdom, nine represents completion and readiness for what comes next. As we turn this chapter, we also turn toward a larger truth that prosperity for Ayiti is possible, and that we are ready to build the structures to sustain it.

We dared to be free in 1804. And in 2025, we dared to prosper.

Ayibobo,
Dr. Alyssa Jean
Executive Director of ACT, CEO &
Founder of Haitian Preservation

***We have dared to be free.
Let us dare to be so by
ourselves and for ourselves.***

- Emperor Jean-Jacques Dessalines



SO THEY SAY

“There’s Nothing Good Happening in Haiti?”

BY MELODIE CERIN

In the early days of Ayiti Community Trust (ACT), when our co-founder, Dr. Guerda Nicolas, set out to raise funds to support Haitian-led community organizations, she was often met with doubt. Again and again, the same question came back: **“Are there even any community-led organizations in Haiti?”**

For people who know Ayiti deeply, this question reveals a common misconception. Most people know Ayiti only from headlines, missing the everyday stories that rarely make the news—stories that showcase long-standing community development and the deep, abundant expertise within the country.

Haitian organizations make up the social fabric of Haitian society. There are farmer associations, women-led savings groups, artist collectives, theatre troupes, and professional associations. These organizations, particularly in the rural communities, offer economic opportunities,

health and educational services, and a space to organize politically.

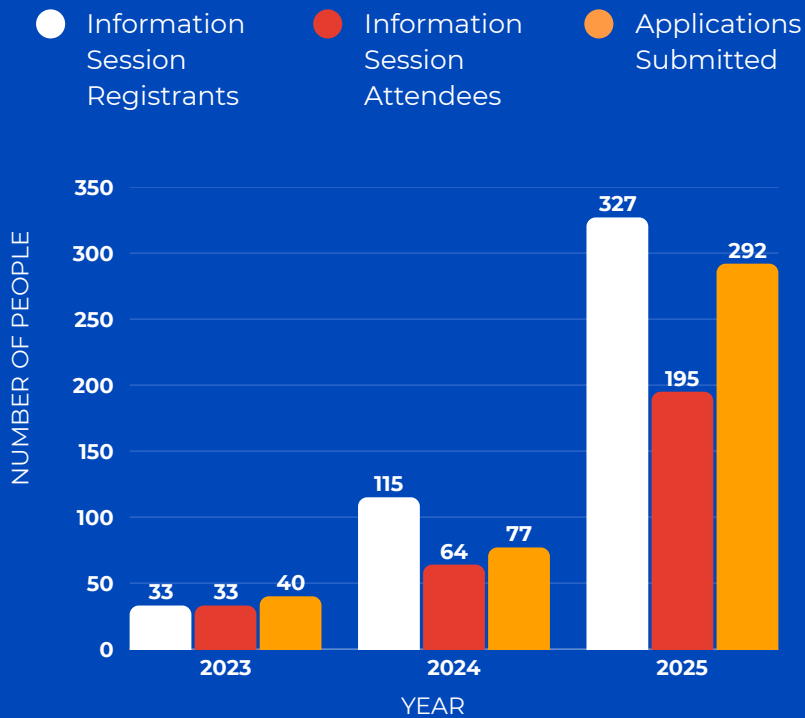
This question from potential donors highlighted two needs for ACT:

1. To educate people about what is truly happening in Ayiti beyond major headlines, and
2. To generate support for small, local organizations quietly advancing their communities.

In response, Dr. Nicolas strategically shifted ACT’s early focus to grantmaking, putting Haitian-led organizations in sharp relief for the Diaspora and potential donors.

The rising number of organizations applying for ACT grants over the past nine years shows the multitude of community-led initiatives in Ayiti. **In just the last three years, demand has surged sevenfold—from 40 applications to 292—resulting in 34 grants awarded to 18 organizations.**

DEMAND FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN 3 YEARS



ACT's grant application process has uncovered hundreds of Haitian-led, community-based organizations across Ayiti. With a database now exceeding 600 organizations, we are coordinating networks of mutual support and gaining insight into the most effective initiatives and development models. This work has allowed us to focus on three sectors with the greatest potential for impact: poultry (see page 17), beekeeping (see page 23), and the Facilitated Collective Active Process (FCAP) model (see page 11).

The answer is clear: Ayiti is full of impactful, promising work. The key is knowing where to look and connecting with the Haitian-led organizations leading it. ACT helps guide donors to where their support can make the kind of impact that will soon leave no one questioning all the good that is happening in Haiti.

WHAT COMES WITH AN ACT GRANT?

Like a “degi” at the mache (market) when a vendor gives a customer a little extra as a gesture of kindness, ACT gives grantees additional support to convey a genuine interest and commitment to their success. In addition to grant dollars, ACT provides grantees:

- ⬆ Strategic planning support
- ⬆ Connection to other local organizations (e.g., Quarterly Grantee Connect Meetings with all ACT grantees)
- ⬆ Capacity building coaching and trainings
- ⬆ Access to a network of experts in poultry, beekeeping, economics, community planning, and mental health
- ⬆ Emergency relief support when possible

“ACT’s grant application process has uncovered over 600 community organizations in Ayiti.”

*Professor Bello shares
Haitian history at a
village community
meeting in Rwanda.*

From Rwanda to Ayiti: The First FCAP Adaptation in the Western Hemisphere

BY DR. GUERDA NICOLAS

In November 2022, with the support of a travel grant from Pilot House, Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) joined leaders from Asosyasyon Peyizan Vali (APV), FONDASYON FELICITE, and Centre Banyen on a study visit to northern Rwanda.

They went to investigate an innovative community-led development approach called the Facilitated Collective Action Process (FCAP). Developed by Spark Microgrants, the method empowers rural villages to revitalize their own communities by providing seed money and facilitating ongoing village meetings.



The study group from Ayiti visits Rwandan villages that participate in the FCAP program.

What they witnessed was a living system that placed families and communities at the center of decision-making and trusted them to lead their own path forward. This aligned with ACT's core strategies *Leadership from Within* and *Stronger Together* (see page 3).

With success in several African countries, the visit posed a central question: **Could FCAP be adapted to Ayiti? Not replicated. Not imported.** But reshaped through Haitian language, culture, and leadership.

Evaluation data from Spark's FCAP microgrants revealed striking outcomes: meal consumption among the poorest households doubled; productive assets increased by more than 50%; and these gains were sustained for over five years.

Even more compelling was how those outcomes were achieved. Rather than treating people as passive recipients of aid, FCAP enabled communities to define priorities, mobilize collectively, and steward resources together. The durability of impact beyond the formal Spark process stood out as one of the strongest indicators of success.

As Haitian leaders walked through Rwandan villages—listening to community members, observing meetings, and studying facilitation practices—they recognized

familiar rhythms: agrarian life shaped by land and seasons, tight-knit village structures, strong informal leadership, and a cultural emphasis on collective responsibility. Despite differences in language and history, the similarities between rural Rwanda and rural Ayiti were unmistakable.

FROM LEARNING TO ADAPTATION

Following the Rwanda visit, ACT and Spark hypothesized that adapting and piloting FCAP across multiple Haitian villages could offer a powerful, evidence-informed pathway for community-driven economic and social development in Ayiti. With a three-year grant from Pilot House, the hypothesis set in motion a multi-year partnership. This would be the first adaptation of the FCAP program beyond Africa. The first year, 2024, focused on relationship-building, technical preparation, and assembling a Haitian-led implementation team. Year two, 2025, focused on cultural adaptation.

ACT convened an expert team that represented a deliberate balance of global learning and Haitian leadership: **Asosyasyon Peyizan Vali** (APV) and **FONDASYON FELICITEE** (FF), whose deep roots in the Vali region anchor the work in lived community experience;

Triangle Management Solution (TMS), who would provide operational and monitoring expertise; and **Alexandra Muyama**, an international FCAP expert from Uganda with extensive experience adapting the model across countries.

In January 2025, the team members traveled, many by motorcycle, to Tigwav to begin the adaptation process. Together, they engaged deeply with FCAP's model, questioning assumptions and translating concepts into Haitian terms—linguistically, culturally, and structurally. They asked fundamental questions like, *What defines a "community" in rural Ayiti? And How do women, elders, youth, and faith leaders shape collective life?* Out of these conversations emerged critical decisions:

- The initiative was renamed **Pwogram Ayisyen pou Devlopman Ekonomik (PADE)**, affirming its Haitian identity.
- The program would be delivered entirely in Haitian Kreyòl, not as an accommodation, but as a statement of respect and accessibility.
- Elements of FONDASYON FELICITEE'S Konnen Tèt Ou (Know Yourself) model were woven into PADE, grounding economic development in self-awareness, dignity, and cultural affirmation.

Following the convening, ACT formed a **PADE Adaptation Working Group** composed of representatives from each partner organization. Over 13 meetings, the group reviewed a 100-page facilitator guide, that was translated from an earlier Burundi version, and reconstructed it through a Haitian lens.

With additional support from Pilot House Philanthropy, ACT documented each stage of the process. A Haitian cultural expert later conducted a comprehensive review, ensuring the guide reflected konbit traditions, local

leadership dynamics, rural livelihoods, and everyday language, including proverbs and familiar scenarios.

They produced the first PADE Facilitator Guide entirely written in Haitian Kreyòl and rooted in Haitian cultural principles. This contribution expands FCAP's global body of work and affirms that Haitian knowledge is not supplementary—it is foundational.

FROM ADAPTATION TO ACTION

In 2026, the adapted FCAP will be piloted in **five localities in Vali, Tigwav**, communities selected for their readiness and strong social cohesion. There, families will collectively define priorities, develop proposals, and steward resources to implement their own solutions. They will be supported, not directed, by ACT and its partners.

As Ayiti continues to navigate political instability, natural disasters, and economic uncertainty, this work offers something both practical and profound: a way for communities to reclaim agency and build resilience together.

The PADE story is ultimately about trust—in communities, in culture, and in collective power. With the continued partnership of Pilot House Philanthropy and Spark, ACT is aiming to create a blueprint for Haitian-led development—one that honors evidence, embraces culture, and places decision-making where it belongs: in the hands of the people.





Dr. Guerda Nicolas speaks at the 75th Anniversary of the Women's Congress in April 2025. Section pictures by Sakapfet Okap.

Turning Love for Grann Into Opportunity for Women

BY DR. GUERDA NICOLAS AND AMBER KAMILAH



Charmante Rinvil

This is the story of how the Charmante Rinvil Fund—established in honor of an enterprising grandmother—sparked a chain of collective power-building for women across Ayiti.

Charmante Rinvil, born on November 11, 1919, in the lush surroundings of Grand Goâve, Ayiti, was the grandmother of Ayiti Community Trust’s President, Dr. Guerda Nicolas. The daughter of Silvana Bien-Aime and Papa “Dini,” she stood as a pillar among her six siblings, carrying the responsibility and honor of being the eldest child in a bustling household.

In the rural community of Baudin, Charmante was a respected figure known for her entrepreneurial spirit and devotion to family. Her home was a lively gathering place where the energy of her eight children and life partner, Francois Nicolas, mingled with the sweet aroma of her famous baked goods.

In 1979, the winds of change in Ayiti carried her to the U.S. with her son and grandchildren. She made the most of it, preserving Haitian heritage for her family while adapting to life in the U.S., yet her pastry business came to an end.

Imagine if the conditions had been different in Ayiti for Charmante—if she could have stayed in her homeland and had the guidance and support to grow her business. How far might she have been able to take it for herself and her family?

In 2024, Charmante’s granddaughter, Dr. Nicolas established a fund at ACT to help women like her grandmother learn skills to build independent, sustainable careers and businesses. As ACT’s first women-focused fund, the **Charmante Rinvil Donor-Reserved Fund** was born, and quickly sparked a wave of projects that placed women like Charmante in the center.

A Wave of Growth

In 2024, a grant from the Charmante Rinvil Fund enabled **Rasin Devlopman** to expand the reach of its **Fanm Djanm** (Women Forward) **Program** to women entrepreneurs in Lagonav. Prior to the grant, **Dr. Solanges Vivens** had supported the program by donating copies of her book, *Girls Can Move Mountains: Rewriting the Rules of Female Entrepreneurship*. A long-time advocate for Haitian women, Dr. Vivens had engaged with Fanm Djanm from afar. Now through the Rinvil Fund, that support was amplified—creating opportunities to meet women face-to-face and connect story-to-story.

Then, with support from another donor-advised fund, the **Damian Braga Fund**, the **Women's Entrepreneurship Program** in Okap was set to launch in December 2024. Almost thwarted by a flight ban (see *A Flight Ban Won't Stop Us* in ACT's 2024 Annual Report), the program was rescheduled for January 2025. It attracted around 200 young Haitian women to the Retrouvailles Complex in Okap. It was a full day of skillbuilding and storytelling, co-hosted by Dr. Nicolas and local leader **Angie Bell**. Dr. Vivens returned in-person to Ayiti with her sister, **Mirlène Charles**, a leader in education in Jacmel, to deliver a keynote filled with practical strategies and personal stories of triumph against odds. Respected professor and educator **Bayyinah Bello** also joined them to encourage participants to draw strength from their roots and to let their identities shape their ventures.

Moved by the women she met and the collective strength she witnessed, Dr. Vivens established the **Solanges Vivens Donor-Advised Fund** at ACT in 2025. It was established to further support women-focused entrepreneurship initiatives in Ayiti in partnership with **CLÉ Haitian Sisterhood** and **Entr'Elles Haiti**.

The Women's Congress Revived

These interconnected efforts led to a defining moment in April 2025, a revitalization of the Haitian Women's Congress. Originally held in 1950, the Congress assembled Haitian women from across the island to organize, strategize, and assert their role in shaping the nation's future. Now in 2025, on its 75th anniversary, ACT and partner organizations reorganized the Congress as a living tribute to that legacy.

By bridging 1950 and today, the Congress marked a renewal of an intergenerational movement across Ayiti to reclaim the space Haitian women have always held in civic life and social transformation.

Continuing to Rise

In December 2025, the Women's Entrepreneurship Program returned to Okap, focusing on a smaller group of women entrepreneurs who had read Dr. Vivens' book and were ready to engage in deeper reflections on their businesses and their growth as entrepreneurs.

What began as a tribute to one grandmother has become a pathway to autonomy and economic independence for women across Ayiti. From honoring a single woman to equipping a rising generation of leaders, the story of Haitian women rising — and of Charmante Rinvil — continues.

Dr. Solanges Vivens speaking at the 75th anniversary of the Women's Congress.



REINTRODUCING HAITIAN PRESERVATION

BY DR. ALYSSA JEAN

Where does the Haitian diaspora go to learn more about their cultural identity?

I've learned many lessons as Executive Director of ACT. The responsibility of this work has required me to listen closely—to our community, to our patterns, and to what is both spoken and unspoken about how we show up for Ayiti and for each other. The creation of Haitian Preservation as the revenue-generating arm of this work was not something we forced. It was an organic evolution—one that revealed itself when we were ready to see clearly.

It began with something simple. I came across a small red book that explained how the Girl Scouts use cookie sales to sustain their nonprofit work. And something in me settled. It clicked! We could do the same. In truth, we already had been.

For years, ACT has been intentional in celebrating Haitian culture as a way to engage the diaspora. **We understood that before asking people to invest, we had to restore pride.** Like many nonprofit organizations, we moved with the assumption that engagement required scale—large galas, polished events, notable names. And so we created beautiful spaces. We shared knowledge freely. We danced. We ate. We honored. But there was a gap. The energy at the events was real, but it was not translating into the long-term support required to fund transformative work.

I found myself in conversation with other Haitian professionals across the nonprofit

sector whose experiences echoed ACT's. A question emerged: What if the very culture we were using to gather could also be the foundation that sustains the work?

I began Haitian Preservation in 2019 as a blog—a personal documentation of my family's journey toward knowledge of self. Over the years, it grew into a living community rooted in valuing who we are as Haitians. **This year I began to see that Haitian Preservation was not separate from ACT's mission.** It nurtures the cultural foundation, community, and identity development that inspires giving to Ayiti.

So in the summer of 2025, the ACT team began shaping Haitian Preservation into something more structured—a business that could both serve the diaspora and strengthen ACT's long-term sustainability. We relaunched Haitian Preservation through a communal virtual gathering, *The Revolution of the Haitian Spirit*. More than 130 participants joined us and their presence affirmed what we had begun to understand—our community is seeking spaces that nourish both Haitian identity and action for our country.

We developed eight more products designed to support this model—tools that allow individuals to engage with their culture while directly contributing to the sustainability of the work. So when we return to the question—Where does the Haitian diaspora go to learn more about their cultural identity? We are no longer searching for the answer. We are building it.



ON A MISSION TO REPLACE POULTRY IMPORTS

BY JOHN PETER ADOLPHE

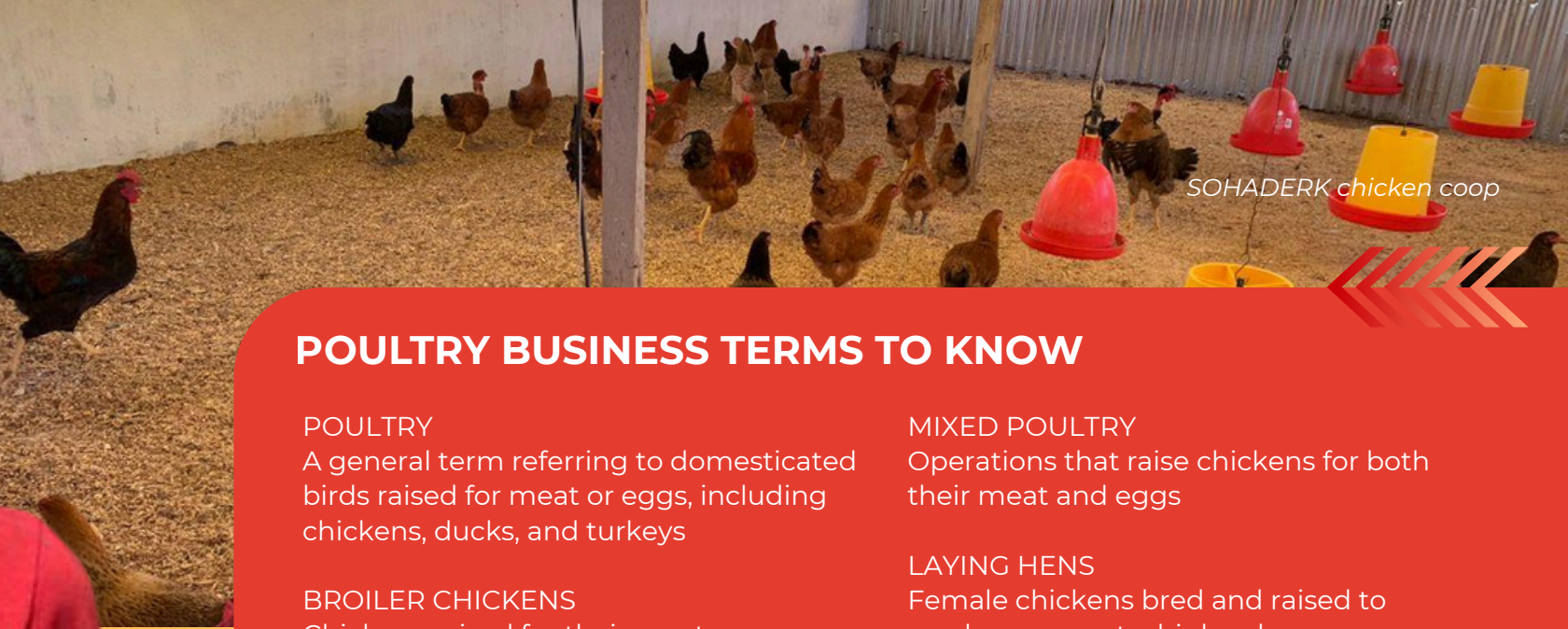
Ayiti imports more than 80% of its poultry meat and 75% of its eggs. Locally produced chicken would not only taste better in sòs poul—it would help transform the economy and move Ayiti closer to self-sufficiency. So how can Ayiti increase the production of homegrown chicken and eggs?

Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) is seeding the development of a rural poultry network. Guided by the principles of the Prosperity Paradox and market-creating innovations, ACT is helping to build functional local markets that respond to the nutritional and economic needs of their communities. ACT has begun by deploying grants to three community organizations:

Solidarité Haïtienne pour le Développement Rural de Kenscoff (SOHADERK), **Òganizasyon Tèt Ansanm de Dèrivo Pestèl** (OTADEP) and **Asosyasyon Peyizan Vali** (APV). Each organization plays a distinct role in strengthening the poultry ecosystem while navigating its own set of challenges.

A SOHADERK project participant joyfully picks up starter chickens for her business





SOHADERK chicken coop

POULTRY BUSINESS TERMS TO KNOW

POULTRY

A general term referring to domesticated birds raised for meat or eggs, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys

MIXED POULTRY

Operations that raise chickens for both their meat and eggs

BROILER CHICKENS

Chickens raised for their meat

LAYING HENS

Female chickens bred and raised to produce eggs at a high volume

#1 SOHADERK: A High-Performing, Replicable Model (Kenscoff)

Since 2021, ACT has funded three cycles of SOHADERK initiatives. SOHADERK, whose acronym in English means Haitian Solidarity for the Development of Rural Kenscoff, has been a leader in the Kenscoff community for over 30 years. With ACT's latest grant, SOHADERK successfully ran their Mixed Poultry Multiplication Project and:

- Constructed a 2,000-chick poultry house, which now attracts schools, visitors, and young people eager to learn poultry farming techniques.
- Produced 24,930 eggs over a 13-month period.
- Raised 6,000 more chicks than the previous year.
- Established 50 family-based micro-enterprises focused on egg production and sales.
- Trained community members in poultry farming, animal nutrition, biosecurity, disease prevention, and small-scale farm management.

- Produced 37.6 m³ of organic compost to fertilize community, school, and market gardens, reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

SOHADERK achieved these results despite security threats. In January 2025, Kenscoff was overrun by armed gangs. Nearly 700 of SOHADERK's members were forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in displacement sites. ACT provided emergency support to SOHADERK by identifying immediate response options, alerting other donors, and awarding an additional emergency grant. With this relief funding, SOHADERK provided direct cash assistance to 79 displaced heads of household, benefiting a total of 593 individuals.





Left: OTADEP Team members at the newly constructed poultry center. Right: OTADEP Team member installing an industrial incubator.



#2 OTADEP: Advancing Local Broiler Production (Pestel)

OTADEP is developing a social enterprise with the ambition to produce up to 45,000 broiler chickens per year, involving nearly one hundred rural families. With the grant from ACT, they are progressing toward this goal. So far, OTADEP has:

- Constructed a solar-powered poultry center equipped with an industrial incubator.
- Provided training on poultry production techniques.
- Mobilized local farmers to produce feed ingredients based on crops available in the region.

OTADEP encountered several challenges, including a ten-month delay in incubator delivery, the need for a more robust power system, and a failed incubation test that resulted in the loss of over 300 eggs. In response, OTADEP's skilled team reinforced the solar infrastructure, hired specialized

technicians, and is now preparing for a new testing phase. Despite these setbacks, community members increasingly see themselves as actors capable of creating local economic value. For example, the construction of the center provided immediate income for several local masons, who reinvested their earnings into their own agricultural activities.

#3 APV: A Garden Combining Growing and Learning (Vali, Tigwav)



APV has developed an educational model that integrates hands-on learning with food security. With support from **The Empathy Equality Entrepreneurship Mission (TEEM) Fund** at ACT, APV established a one-hectare "Garde-Manger" community garden within the Gérard Baptiste Community School of Vali. The garden functions as a living classroom where more than 100 students gain foundational agricultural skills while contributing to the school's feeding program. With a chicken coop for 60 laying hens currently under construction, the



Students at the Gérard Baptiste Community School of Vali tending to their school garden as a part of the APV project.



initiative will further enable students to engage directly in poultry management, understand the full production cycle, and build agricultural and entrepreneurial skills simultaneously.

In October 2025, Hurricane Melissa hit southern Ayiti, destroying homes, farmland, and taking the lives of livestock and families. Tigwav, where APV is based, was one of the most impacted areas. ACT launched the **Hurricane Melissa Solidarity Fund** and coordinated a relief effort through APV and several other local partners. This coalition was able to distribute kitchen kits, help families make minor home repairs, helped to restore livelihoods by providing livestock and seeds, and organized a cash-for-work program to clear roads and provide a path for temporary income. ACT's goal was to strengthen local capacity and ensure that recovery efforts continued beyond the emergency phase. As such, ACT will coordinate psychological support to families in 2026 through a grant

from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Furthermore, even ACT's efforts to strengthen the poultry sector can be vulnerable to forces beyond ACT's control. ACT had anticipated support from the Inter-American Foundation to scale SOHADERK's poultry work and expand its growing network of microbusinesses. However, the U.S. administration's January 2025 pause on foreign assistance to Ayiti suspended those plans (at least for now).

This disruption only reinforces why a collective vision for a self-sustaining poultry industry is essential. **The stories of SOHADERK, OTADEP, and APV demonstrate what locally rooted, community-led organizations can achieve in advancing Ayiti's internal poultry value chain.** At its core, this work is about Haitians reclaiming agency over their food systems and building a durable economy—one in which chicken and eggs are products of local effort and become Ayiti's newest symbols of independence.



The Children Marched On:

Artful

Lessons in Civic Responsibility

BY MATHANIA BAZILE

Imagine a quiet road in the countryside. The air is calm. Only the sounds of daily life can be heard, until a rhythm begins. This is the story of a rhythm. A rhythm of hope that comes from the heart of the Akayè region, in Ayiti.

Hope on a String (HOAS) was created in 2010 with the mission to “strengthen Haitian communities while developing self-esteem, hope, and civic engagement through inclusive cultural programs.” It has a socio-cultural center in the Koray area, which serves as a dynamic space for collaboration, empowerment, and social transformation.

With an \$18,000 USD grant from Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) in 2025, HOAS was able to launch its project “Let’s save the future of children through civic education and music for a better tomorrow.”

Every week, HOAS welcomed children aged 5 to 12 to participate in recreational and civic activities. During the first six months, approximately 200 children benefited from the program. Despite the growing insecurity in the community due to gang attacks beginning in June, it did not

prevent HOAS from supporting an additional 150 children.

Throughout the year, HOAS engaged children in hands-on activities designed to strengthen their understanding of civic responsibility and community leadership:

- On May 1, in recognition of Agriculture and Labor Day, 120 children participated in a community parade and march aimed at raising awareness on **environmental protection**. The children distributed saplings and encouraged residents to take an active role in safeguarding their local environment.
- On June 8, in celebration of Children’s Day, 40 participants showcased their creativity through artistic performances, highlighting the importance of **self-expression and cultural pride**.
- From September 11 to October 17, 2025, 100 children participated in a community konbit (collective work effort), gaining **practical experience** in teamwork, solidarity, civic engagement, and patriotism.

Despite the force of insecurity continuing to strike them until the end of the year, HOAS always showed itself to be stronger. This symbol of resistance comes to life when we count:

- More than **300 children** participated in at least one of seven workshops on civic education, music, singing, dancing, theater, macrame, and drawing.
- 85% of the children were **present every week**.
- 60% of the children **engaged in discussions** about moral values and civic duties.
- 80% of **parents** came to support the club's activities.

The impact of the club extends beyond its activities, resonating in the homes and hearts of the children it serves. As one staff member shared, many parents express deep satisfaction with the program, noting how it instills values such as respect, solidarity, and responsibility. They observe their children becoming more open, more engaged in household and community activities, and even helping other children in the neighborhood. **For one parent, the gatherings were a “light” for their children during a year that challenged the community’s spirit.**

Hope on a String exemplifies how an organized, civic-based effort can sustain and nourish a community during a difficult time. HOAS was truly the shining light and the steady beat that the Akayè community needed in 2025.



Top: Agriculture and Labor Day Parade and March in May. Middle: End of year showcase in December. Bottom: Participants learning about civic values during a weekly session.

Bee The Change

in Ayiti

WHAT IT
REALLY
LOOKS LIKE

BY LEON ENOS JEAN



Koze Agrikilti (KAG) is a community-based organization born out of the commitment of local actors to respond to the economic, social, and environmental challenges facing rural communities in Southeast Ayiti, particularly in the Jacmel area and the Lavano community.

From its inception, KAG adopted a participatory approach to actively involve community members, grassroots organizations, and local leaders in needs identification, planning, and implementation. Early on, KAG focused on strengthening the capacities of rural youth and women through technical training in sustainable agriculture, natural resource

management, and the development of income-generating activities. Over time, they expanded into beekeeping, the production of melliferous (honey-producing) plants, and environmental protection.

Today, KAG has evolved into a trusted intermediary between grassroots organizations, public institutions, and technical and financial partners in the Southeast. KAG has the deep village relationships, field experience, organizational knowledge, and long-term vision needed to drive enduring economic, social, and environmental transformation within communities.

In 2025, KAG was awarded a grant from ACT to launch the project, “**Apiculture Production Center for the Production and Sale of Honey Syrup, Training Beekeeper-Entrepreneurs, and Manufacturing Beekeeping Materials.**” Their goal was to promote rural entrepreneurship and environmental protection in Lavano. In keeping with its participatory approach, KAG joined forces with the **Federation of Lavanno Group (FGL)**, the **Federation for the Coordination of Lavanno Grassroots Groups (FKGBL)**, and community authorities for the project. Together they:

Established an agricultural space/nursery that enabled the production and availability of 2,500 plants, primarily melliferous plants and other species useful for environmental protection.

Provided training to 20 aspiring apiculturists (5 women and 15 men) on modern beekeeping techniques, hive management, and honey production.

Installed 12 complete beehives on a specially prepared site.

Purchased beekeeping equipment, including 6 smokers, 1 honey sieve, 6 veiled hats, 30 complete hives, 30 queen excluders, 8 lighters, and 6 full protective suits. Through a transparent and collaborative process, KAG evenly distributed the equipment across the FGL and FKGBL partner sites.

Hurricane Melissa’s arrival in October was a setback. Many program participants saw their fields and livestock devastated, several households suffered damage, and KAG lost six bee colonies. Despite these issues, other logistical challenges, and supply chain delays, KAG’s team resolutely adapted and is still making a beeline for their goals. Over the next few years, KAG aims to become a regional reference in the Southeast for

beekeeping and agroecology. They plan to strengthen the capacities of grassroots organizations, youth, and women through training and entrepreneurial support. The results already achieved, combined with KAG’s strategic planning, indicate strong potential for scaling and replication in other areas. KAG stands out as an adaptable organization capable of “bee-ing” the change internally that Ayiti needs.



Phadia's walk in Connecticut is a powerful reminder that although walking solo, she's united in a global purpose.

WALKING UNITED ON DESSALINES DAY

BY DR. GLORIA BLAISE

We ran. We walked. We hiked. We danced – all in celebration and support of United in Legacy 2025, ACT's annual Global Walk for Ayiti.

On September 20, 2025, **116 ACT supporters** united worldwide to honor the birthday of Ayiti's first and only emperor, Jean Jacques Dessalines. Participants gathered in **eight locations** – Miami, Okap, Okay, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Qatar, Okay, Chicago and Connecticut – to symbolically walk the path from Palais San Souci to the monumental Sitadèl fort (4.1 miles).

Leading up to the global walk, participants rallied virtually with ACT's Leadership Team and City Champions to gain inspiration for the walk and to share fundraising ideas.

Participants as young as one year old joined their families on this special walk. In Ayiti, the streets of Okay were filled with music as our 9 walkers and runners danced. In Okap, 33 climbed the mountains to the Sitadèl, some even twice. In Qatar, 12 brave walkers faced the heat of the desert eight hours ahead of the Eastern Hemisphere. In Chicago and Miami, teams partnered with Yogaletics for a warm-up and breathwork session.

Friendly competition between the 8 locations **fundraised \$2,829** with New York leading the board. Coming in second place on the fundraising board was Miami, where the most participants joined us.

Join the next walk on Sunday, September 20, 2026. Visit our website for details.

“It's so important for us to do these kinds of activities to show that even though we're not physically in the homeland – our hearts, our soul, and our spirit are still with Haiti.”

*- Gigi Bastien,
Atlanta team*

2025 TEAMS



MIAMI

**UNITED
IN LEGACY**

GLOBAL WALK FOR AYITI

SEP 20 2025
Dessalines' Birthday



OKAY



OKAY



QATAR



ATLANTA



SOUTH MIAMI



CT



CHICAGO



OKAP



PHILADELPHIA

From all over the world, we walk as one.



From left, 2025 Honorees: Dr. Moise Anglade, The Honorable Marleine Bastien, Dr. Berthude Albert, Nedgine Paul Deroly, and Johnny Celestin, with ACT Director of Endowment Strategy, Dr. Gloria Blaise. Section photos by Kri8ed Media.

Highlighting Civic Leaders in the Haitian Community

BY MERDOCHEY LAFRANCE AND AMBER KAMILAH

Ayiti Visionaries 2025 was made possible because of every sponsor, community partner, honoree, friend, ticket holder, vendor, and guest who gave their time, treasure, and heart to this vision. Thank you!

We gathered at the Rubell Museum on October 18, 2025 to honor five Civic Education Leaders who are shaping the future through their dedication to fostering informed and engaged communities: **Dr. Berthude Albert, Dr. Moise Anglade, The Honorable Marleine Bastien, Johnny Celestin, and Nedgine Paul Deroly.** In a panel discussion moderated by ACT's Director of Endowment Strategy, Dr. Gloria Blaise, we could feel their combined courage and commitment to Ayiti. One guest later reflected, "The message from the panelists was clear: we are the saviors we were looking for."

The evening continued with a powerful tribute to **President Dumarsais Estimé**, the 31st President of Ayiti, who received the Grandèt Award posthumously.



Above, guests are seated for the award presentations and Councilwoman Mary Estimé-Irvin opens award tribute to President Estimé.

“It’s important to be reminded who you are, and who you’re meant to be. It’s important to be reminded where you come from and where you’re going. And that’s exactly what this night was about...Events like this bring together ...Haitians that have been scattered and it puts us all on the same page. Viv Ayiti!”

- Honoree Dr. Bertrhude Albert

Councilwoman Mary Estimé-Irvin opened the tribute with moving remarks that framed the depth of President Estimé's legacy. Dr. Solanges Vivens, ACT Strategic Advisor, presented the award with reverence and his daughter, Marie-Florence Estimé, shared warm reflections through video that filled the room with pride. Finally, his granddaughter, Valerie Estimé-Trouillot, accepted the award on behalf of the family. It was a moment that wove history, family, and legacy into the fabric of the evening.

The event raised more than \$115,000 through sponsorships and ticket sales and brought together nearly 215 guests in celebration of Haitian leadership. In closing remarks, ACT Executive Director, Dr. Alyssa Jean reminded attendees that every gift is a seed, “planted in Haitian soil, tended by Haitian hands, and grown into Haitian solutions.” The evening closed with a strong sense of purpose and connection, as guests lingered to share stories, network, and celebrate together.



Far left: Family photo of President Estimé. Above from left: Ghislain Gouraige, Jr., Dr. Guerda Nicolas, Valerie Estimé-Trouillot, Dr. Solanges Vivens, Dr. Alyssa Jean, and Pierre Jonas Imbert. Left: Marie-Florence Estimé in award acceptance video. Right: Sculpture of Marie-Jeanne Lamartinière.



Watch event highlights.



ACT AMBASSADORS

A Fresh Start and Wider Reach for the Ambassador Program

BY DR. GLORIA BLAISE

In 2025, Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) relaunched its Ambassador Program, bringing together professionals at various career stages who share a passion for giving back to the nation they call home. Led by Dr. Gloria Blaise, 17 ambassadors activated their networks to amplify ACT's mission, vision, and fundraising efforts.

What began with ambassadors in three states grew into a network spanning nine U.S. states and one department in Ayiti. This cohort represented a rich range of fields – including medicine, ecology, film, mental health, the arts, horticulture, journalism,

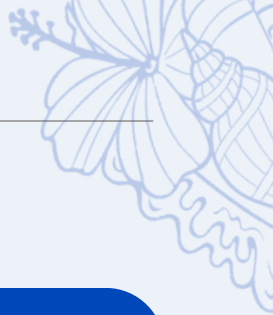
finance, technology, engineering, international affairs, retail management, enterprise management, and architecture.

Together, the ambassadors fundraised \$14,085 in 2025 and contributed more than 191 hours of service to ACT. Through the Ambassador Program, professionals inspired by ACT's vision have a pathway to give back to Ayiti in a meaningful, action-oriented way.

If you're interested in learning more about how you can become an Ambassador, email ambassadors@ayiticommunitytrust.org.

2025 ACT Ambassadors. From top left: Anuella Alexandre, Sophia Bellegarde, Lexie Bernier, Gloria Blaise, Carl Brandt, Towana Davilmar, Olivier Désiré, Emmy N. Etienne, Liseberth Guillaume, Mat Jeanius, Makenson Lamour, Jennifer Louissaint, James Lubin, Roldy Lucien, Leila Metellus, Woody Monsanto, Lyvie Racine.





FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

OPERATIONS SNAPSHOT

In 2025, Ayiti Community Trust generated a positive operating surplus while continuing to invest in program delivery, staffing, and organizational infrastructure.

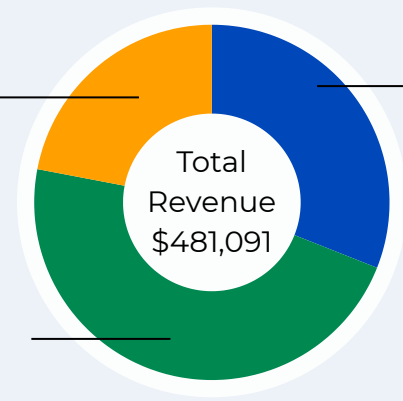
Total Revenue	\$481,091
Total Expenses	\$438,303
Net Change	\$42,788

REVENUE SOURCES

Revenue growth in 2025 was driven primarily by expanded grant funding and donor-advised fund support, alongside steady individual and board contributions.

Fundraising Events & Sponsorships (Non-Gift)
\$105,727 (22%)

Grants & Donor Advised Funds
\$226,604 (47%)



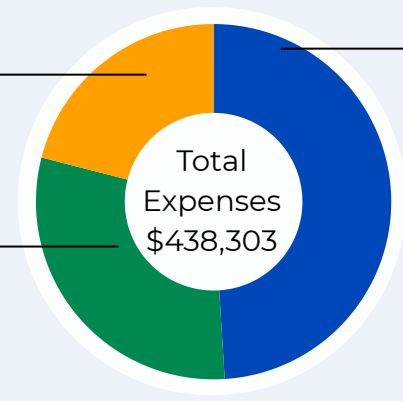
Direct Contributions
Individuals, Board, Corporate, Foundations, Major Gifts
\$148,760 (31%)

EXPENSE ALLOCATION

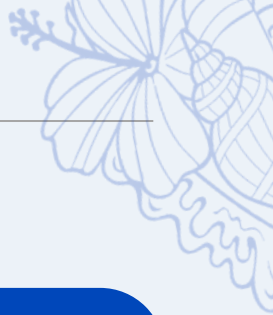
Expenses in 2025 reflect a balanced investment across program delivery, organizational infrastructure, and revenue generation, positioning the organization for continued growth and sustainability.

Fundraising
\$90,000 (21%)

Management & General
\$131,500 (30%)



Program Services
\$216,803 (49%)



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS IN AYITI

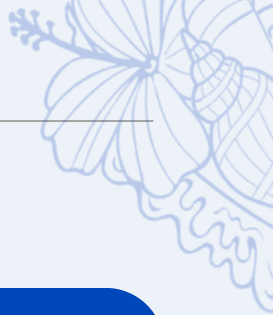
Lekòl Matenwa <i>Through the Anglade Fund</i>	\$9,000
Rasin Devlopman <i>Through the Charmante Rinvil Fund</i>	\$4,500
Asosyasyon Peyizan Vali for Pwogram Ayisyen pou Devlopman Ekonomik (PADE) <i>Formerly Facilitated Collective Action Process (FCAP)</i>	\$37,900
Hope on a String (HOAS)	\$18,000
Koze Agrikilti (KAG)	\$25,000
SOHADERK <i>Soldarité Haitienne Pour Le Développement Rural De Kenscoff</i>	\$3,000
Haitian Women’s Congress and Women’s Entrepreneurship Program <i>Through the Solange Vivens Fund</i>	\$35,000

All of these figures were rounded to the nearest 100.

Total \$132,400



ACT Executive team meets with the leadership of Asosyasyon Peyizan Vali (APV) during a due diligence trip in November 2025 to discuss the history and mission of the organization in Vali.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

THANK YOU TO ACT'S 2025 HIGH-IMPACT SUPPORTERS!

It is with gratitude that we highlight the individuals, organizations and companies that have made the most substantial contributions to furthering our mission in 2025.

TOP INDIVIDUAL DONORS AND ACTIVATORS

Dr. Gloria Blaise	Joëlle Cerge	Pedro Gassant	Dr. Guerda Nicolas
Hannah Brandes	Vincent Congolio	Ghislain Gouraige, Jr.	Dr. Solanges Vivens
Herb Brown	Necky Deneus	Dr. Alyssa Jean	Jéan Wilson
James Cadet	Carl Henri Fombrun		

EVENT SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

- Albert & Gail Dotson
- Archdiocese of Miami
- Association of Exchange and Development of Activities and Partnership
- Atizan
- Cadet Family Foundation
- CLÉ-Sisterhood / Krazy Kozy Cocktails
- Dr. Gloria Blaise
- Edgetour
- Educate Tomorrow
- Ekolojik Resort
- Entr'elles
- Fatima Group
- Florida Power & Light
- Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Green Family Foundation
- Greenberg Traurig
- Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida
- Haitian Lawyers Association
- Harper Meyer
- Holland & Knight
- Jeanius Consulting LLC
- Knight Foundation
- Kreyòl Essence
- La Perle Restaurant and Lounge
- Lela Decor
- Miami Foundation
- Miami-Dade County The Office of the Honorable Marleine Bastien
- Navét 1804
- Nature Design International LLC
- Neg Kreyol, Inc.
- North Miami Florida Office of Councilwoman Mary Estimé-Irvin District 3
- Office of the Honorable Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
- Papyrus
- PouBèl Ayiti
- Prince Hotel Haiti
- Rachelle's Gourmet Catering
- Sakapfet Okap
- SAJJ2 Partyvenue LLC
- SOGEBANK Foundation
- Solutions Focus Consulting
- Timoun Lakay Foundation
- U/R Gousse Urology
- Vivens Media Group
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Yogaletics

LEGACY GIVING

Committed Beyond a Lifetime: For Those Who Stand with ACT



Since 2016, Haitians and Friends of Ayiti have joined Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) in building the first endowment dedicated to sustainable development in Ayiti. Many have made commitments that extend beyond their lifetimes, grounded in the understanding that Ayiti's long-term prosperity depends on investments that span generations. Here are some of their stories.



Joëlle Cerge & Carl Fombrun A Niece and Uncle Leave a Family Legacy

Joëlle Cerge has long seen ACT's mission as aligned with her own. She was among the first to establish a Donor-Advised Fund at the Miami Foundation with ACT as its beneficiary. In 2025, she extended her commitment by joining ACT's Legacy Giving Circle (see next page). Her dedication naturally reached her family and friends, and in one such conversation, she spoke with her uncle, Carl Fombrun, a public relations professional, media personality, lecturer, and lifelong steward of Ayiti's cultural heritage. Upon Joëlle's suggestion that he might want to support Ayiti Community Trust beyond his lifetime, Carl decided to direct \$50,000 to benefit ACT as part of his Estate Plan. His wish was faithfully fulfilled from the proceeds of the sale of his home, following his passing in August 2024. Joëlle and Carl remind us that family bonds play a vital role in sustaining impactful change in Ayiti.



Dr. Gloria Blaise Early Career Philanthropist

Gloria has been steadfast in her commitment to ACT, describing herself as an "early-career philanthropist" who understands that philanthropy is defined not by age, but by intention and action. Just as professionals grow into leadership roles with increasing responsibility and capacity, she believes that, "Philanthropic engagement can—and should—begin at the entry level." To date, Gloria has mobilized more than \$15,000 in support and has already made an estate pledge. While Gloria's philanthropic journey is just beginning, her leadership and generosity distinguish her as one to watch.





Hannah Brandes & Herb Brown From Wedding Day to Enduring Philanthropy

In 2017, Hannah Brandes and Herb Brown declined traditional wedding gifts and invited their guests to contribute to ACT on their behalf (pictured left on their wedding day). Hannah has served on ACT's Board of Directors since the organization's early days and has led the grantmaking team throughout its growth. As ACT has deepened its impact, the couple's giving has deepened as well. Through permanent gifts to the grantmaking funds, Hannah and Herb embody a belief in long-term investment—choosing, as in their marriage, to commit steadily and intentionally to a future they believe in.

ACT'S LEGACY GIVING CIRCLE

A Pledge Beyond a Lifetime

ACT launched its estate planning vehicle in 2025 to secure planned commitments to build its endowment. The founding members of the ACT Legacy Giving Circle, comprising ACT Board Members and ACT Executive Leadership, have collectively pledged \$1,150,000 of their estates, a powerful demonstration of their confidence in ACT's role in advancing Ayiti's development.

Legacy Giving Circle Founding Members. From far left clockwise: Gloria Blaise, Hannah Brandes, Joëlle Cerge, James Cadet, Alyssa Jean, Ghislain Gouraige, Jr. Guerda Nicolas, Jéan Wilson



ACT's growing endowment fund is housed and managed by one of the region's top philanthropic institutions, the Miami Foundation. Known as the Fon Letènite (Forever Fund), once established, the endowment is set to be a powerful mechanism for Ayiti's development.

Email giving@ayiticommunitytrust.org to learn more about planned giving to ACT.



OUR DECLARATION

**WE ARE ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION -
UNITED TO PROTECT OUR LAND AND SEA,
PRESERVE OUR LEGACY, AND BUILD A
PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR AYITI.**

A IS FOR AYITI

WE HONOR THE INDIGENOUS NAME
OF THE PLACE WE CALL HOME.
WE RECLAIM OWNERSHIP OF OUR
HISTORY AND EMBRACE A NEW
NARRATIVE FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Connect.



AYITI
COMMUNITY TRUST

@ayiticommunitytrust