

# ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR  
2006—2007

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5000 Biscayne Boulevard  
Suite 110  
Miami, FL 33137  
Phone: (305) 573-4871  
Fax: (305) 573-4875  
E-mail: [info@santla.org](mailto:info@santla.org)  
[www.santla.org](http://www.santla.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GEPSIE METELLUS

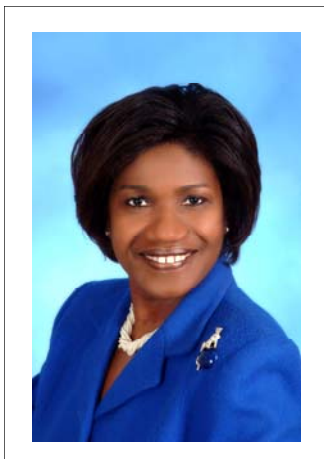
As Sant La celebrates the completion of another year of service to South Florida’s Haitian community, I am proud to report that we continue to build momentum, experience programmatic growth and effectively aid more clients every year. This annual report will highlight some specific numbers and accomplishments, but I’d like to take a moment to talk about how these numbers translate to real life, and how we are daily addressing our mission *to empower, stabilize and strengthen South Florida’s Haitian community by providing access to information, existing programs and services, to ensure its transition from a struggling immigrant community to a successful and stable one.*

As a central access point for information, referral and linkage to services, Sant La Neighborhood Services staff first came in contact with “Mrs. X.” when she was referred to us by a family member. She was a working single mother of three, diagnosed with breast cancer that subsequently necessitated three surgeries, which left her facing monumental physical and economic challenges. We were able to help her navigate an intimidating barrage of red tape to establish her eligibility for public assistance and obtain disability benefits. Through CBS 4’s Neighbors

4 Neighbors, she received some essential pieces of furniture for the children, and was linked by our staff to safe and affordable low-income housing.

“Mr. Y.” heard about Sant La’s tax services from word of mouth in the neighborhood. He had been denied the Earned Income Tax Credit for the past three years. Our staff determined that he was eligible for this, and helped him to compile the required documents for the IRS. His returns were reviewed, resulting in a refund of almost \$4,000, with the possibility of more money to come for two additional years.

“Ms. Z.”, a single mother who was eight months pregnant with her fourth child, requested assistance with health benefits. Our community health workers discovered that she had been denied three consecutive Medicaid requests, had no insurance for her children, alarming personal health issues and financial instability. Through extensive coordination and correspondence with the Department of Children and Families, Florida KidCare and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), our health workers were able to procure for her the Medicaid and Food Stamp benefits for which she was qualified, approval of Kid Care



coverage for her children, and LIHEAP benefits. These results came within a week of the client’s delivery. The positive outcomes in this case were not only a success story but also a joyful relief.

Reflecting back on the many similar successes we have won for our community during these past six years, I would like to take the time to focus not only on our accomplishments, but also on the giant network of friends, family and supporters who make our work both possible and worthwhile, especially our collaborative partners who invest time and energy to sustain our neighborhood-based projects and activities beyond funding cycles.

And I’d like to end with a special mention of our dedicated Staff for the work they do – often difficult, not glamorous, but always vital.

**What our clients are saying:**

*“We appreciate all the services at Sant La. The employees are always happy to serve us.”*

*“Without Sant La I don’t know what can I do. Any problem I have when I come here they always ready to help me and also with smile and pleasure. I love Sant La.”*

*“I commend you on the work you do for the Haitian community. Not only tax prep but the information and referral as well. I am extremely satisfied”*

*“You helped me very well with everything. I learned a lot of things that I did not know.”*

*“Many thanks. God will always make Sant La progress. Sant La lives up to what you say on Teleskopi.”*

*“Mwen renmen sèvis-la anpil. Mèsi!”*

**Our Services:**

*Building momentum, accessing resources, strengthening our community*



Sant La Community Health Workers take part in many health fairs.

Sant La’s current initiatives are purposeful, mission-driven and collaborative strategies to empower our constituency with the knowledge and skills necessary for self-sufficiency.

- **Information and Referral:** 4,800+ clients were served through our unique model of information, referral and follow-up case management.
- **Teleskopi:** Our weekly television program, Teleskopi, the only one of its kind, reaches 250,000+ households in South Florida, and is Island TV’s top-watched show. This year we celebrated our 100th episode!
- **Income Tax Assistance:** 759 low income clients received free tax preparation and e-filing, accessing benefits such as the EITC and CTC. Over \$1,314,416 was refunded to our community, making Sant La the #1 VITA site in the county!
- **Financial Literacy:** Our financial literacy model met the needs of Haitian individuals and businesses through 14 presentations in community venues, 18 television programs and individualized counseling, and has helped chart a course for financial security for about half the clients noted above.
- **Educational Achievement / Youth Violence Prevention:** With community stakeholders, Sant La is a driving force for community involvement, policing, parenting education, culturally sensitive family and youth counseling services, after-school programming to increase academic success, and the provision of constructive alternatives. In FY 06 – 07 we convened 20 community focus groups and a well-attended February Community Forum to discuss youth violence, intervention and prevention.
- **Civic Engagement:** We educate and facilitate resident involvement in a community that has historically feared civic participation. Our 48 presentations, forums, workshops in churches and other community locations provided an opportunity to discuss issues and strategies for the integration of Haitian - Americans in the civic life of our community.
- **Publications:** We have published five Working Papers, and are currently compiling two more and an oral history project archiving valuable information about our unique community. These efforts significantly contribute to the body of research and data about South Florida’s Haitian community, and are heavily utilized for academic research by students, other non-profits, and governmental entities.
- **Advocacy:** Our efforts inform local, state and national policies and investments that impact our community’s quality of life.

**SANT LA IN THE COMMUNITY**



Sant La’s Civic Engagement Graduates from North Miami Adult Education Center



Participant at Back-to-School event



Sant La volunteers partner with Hands On Miami during the holidays

***Our Leaders:***  
*Moving our mission forward*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Board Chair**

Karen Basha Egozi  
*Epilepsy Foundation of Florida*

**Vice Chair**

**Chair, Development Committee**

Thomas Eugene  
*Mortgage Industry*

**Secretary**

Jean F. Renazile  
*Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida*

**Treasurer**

**Co-Chair, Administrative/Finance Committee**

Jim Ellison  
*Businessman*

**Chair, Nominating Committee**

Berta Blecke  
*Community Volunteer / Child Advocate*

**Chair, Program Committee**

Rulx Jean-Bart  
*Miami-Dade College*

**Co-Chair, Administrative/Finance Committee**

Charles H. Vodicka  
*InSource, Inc.*

**GENERAL BOARD**

Kerry Allen  
*Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe*

Ashaki Bronson

*Bank Atlantic*

Sam Diller

*Little Haiti Housing Association*

Commander Gary Eugene

*City of Miami Police Department*

Dr. Anthony Gonzalez

*Surgeon*

Walter Harvey, Esq.

*Ruden McCloskey*

Ralph Kenol, Esq.

*Attorney*

Eric Ocasio

*Bacardi USA*

Frantz Olivier, Esq.

*Attorney*

Michael O'Rourke, CPA

*Berenfeld, Spritzer, Shechter & Sheer*

Maria J. Pascal

*Washington Mutual Bank*

Guy Pierre

*MeLife Financial Services*

Ana Sejeck

*Early Childhood Initiative Foundation*

The Honorable Fred Seraphin

*Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida*

Marie Jo Toussaint, Esq.

*Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office*



**Board Chair Karen Egozi, North Miami Councilman Jacques Despinosse, Executive Director Gepsie Metellus**



**Young visitors share the joy of reading**



**Community Health Workers Christy Lubin, Josette Josue, Margaly Maxius**



**Director of Neighborhood Services Sophia Lacroix and Friends**

**STAFF**

Executive Director .....	Gepsie M. Metellus
Community Involvement Specialist .....	Karine Auguste
Receptionist / Clerk .....	Junie Dareus
Director of Development .....	Carol Foster
Community Health Worker .....	Josette Josue
Director of Neighborhood Services .....	Sophia Lacroix
Community Health Worker .....	Christy Lubin
Community Health Worker .....	Margaly Maxius
Director of Financial Literacy Programs .....	Alphonse Piard

## Our Financials: *What fuels our efforts*

HAITIAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, SANT LA, INC.

5000 Biscayne Boulevard  
Suite 110  
Miami, FL 33137

Phone: (305) 573-4871  
Fax: (305) 375-4875  
E-mail: info@santla.org

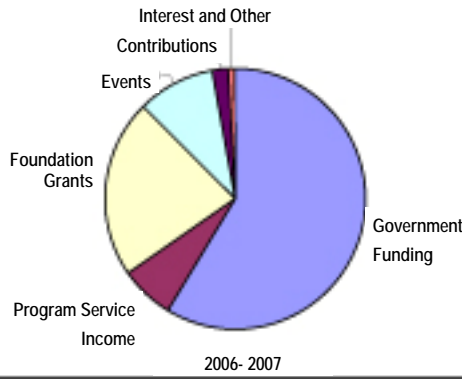
**Sant La is on the web!**  
[www.santla.org](http://www.santla.org)

*"Vwazinay se dra blan"...*

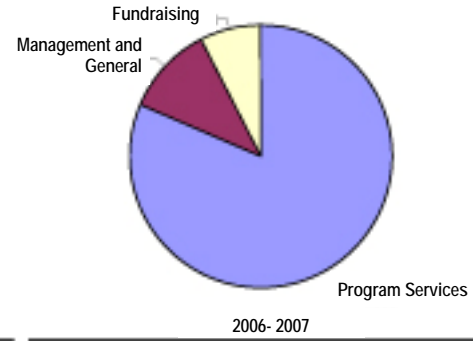
*Sant La, your best neighbor!*



INCOME 2006-2007



EXPENSES 2006-2007



	2006-2007		2006-2007	
Government Funding	544,770	58.6%	Program Services	681,304 81.5%
Program Service Income	61,059	6.6%	Management and General	92,684 11.1%
Foundation Grants	206,748	22.2%	Fundraising	61,751 7.4%
Events	91,932	9.9%		
Contributions	16,478	1.8%		
Interest and Other	8,672	0.9%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>929,659</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>835,739 100%</b>

### *Our Funding Partners: Leading the way through strategic investment in our mission*

Sant La is extremely appreciative of the following supporters:

**Foundations**

- Allegany Franciscan Ministries
- Dade Community Foundation
- First Data Western Union Foundation
- Health Foundation of South Florida
- The Ethel and W. George Kennedy Family Foundation
- John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- Lennar Foundation
- Marguerite Casey Foundation
- Peacock Foundation, Inc.
- Publix Charitable Foundation
- United Way of Miami-Dade

**Corporate**

- Akerman Senterfitt



**Community Forum on Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention**

- Bank of America
- Baptist Health South Florida
- BlueCross BlueShield of Florida
- Commercebank
- Florida Power and Light
- Great Florida Bank
- Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Greenberg Traurig, LLP
- InSource

- Meridian International Group
- Northern Trust Bank
- Ocean Bank
- Terra Group
- Totalbank
- Wachovia Bank
- Washington Mutual

**Governmental**

- The Children's Trust
- City of Miami
- Florida Healthy Kids Corporation
- Miami -Dade County
- Miami Parking Authority