

ANNUAL REPORT



***Helping Haitian Immigrants
Integrate Successfully in South Florida***

2003-2004



SANT LA

Haitian Neighborhood Center

ABOUT US...

Board of Directors:

Board Chair

The Honorable Fred Seraphin

Vice Chair

Commander Gary Eugene

Secretary

Larry Gragg, Esq.

Treasurer

Michael O'Rourke, CPA

Development Committee Chair

Berta Blecke

Program Committee Chair

Dr. Jean Gordon

Administrative/Finance Committee Co-Chairs

Jim Ellison

Charles H. Vodicka

General Board

Eric Accime

Michelle Austin, Esq.

Sam Diller

Karen Basha Egozi

Thomas Eugene

Cheryl Little, Esq.

Kara MacCullough, Esq.

Paul Philip

Carline Paul

Frank Rabbito

Advisory Board

Dr. Rudolph Moise

Olga Connor

Kathleen Kennedy-Olsen

Our History: The Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La, was founded in December 2000 by a group of community leaders and service providers who were concerned about the chronic gaps in the provision of services to the Haitian/Haitian American community of South Florida. Sant La's goal is to address these gaps, which result from the community's social isolation and lack of awareness about available community resources.

Our Funders: Sant La launched its operations in June 2001 with start up grants from The Kennedy Foundation, The Knight-Leigh Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Sun Sentinel, the McCormick Children's Fund, the Fisher Island Philanthropic Fund, the North Dade Medical Foundation and the Roblee Foundation. To date, other funders include the Allegany Franciscan Foundation, the Dade Community Foundation, the Peacock Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, First Data Western Union Foundation, the United Way of Miami-Dade, Miami-Dade County Department of Human Services, the Department of Community Economic Development, the Alliance for Human Services, the Department of Children and Families, the Coral Gables Congregational Church and the Juvenile Assessment Center.

Our Board of Directors: Sant La is led by a 21 member broad-based community board with representatives from the Haitian community, the business community, and key public and private agencies. Sant La's Board of Directors is chaired by the Honorable Fred Seraphin, County Court Judge.

Our Mission: Sant La's mission is to empower, strengthen and stabilize South Florida's Haitian community by providing free access to information and existing services, and to ensure its transition from a struggling immigrant community to a successful and stable one.

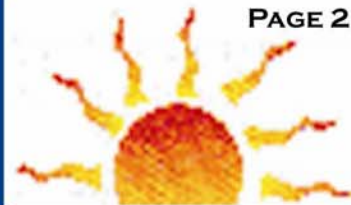
Our Constituency: Sant La serves members of the Little Haiti community, the Haitian community of South Florida, the community at-large, other non-profit organizations, and governmental and educational institutions in South Florida.

Our Objectives: Sant La's objectives are to provide information, referral and follow-up services in the areas of social services, education, housing opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, healthcare access and legal services. Sant La has worked to meet these objectives by:

- Partnering with existing community based organizations and government agencies.
- Providing training and staff development for neighborhood based organizations.
- Working to strengthen neighborhood leadership.
- Becoming the central intake and referral point for neighborhood residents.
- Advocating on behalf of the Haitian/Haitian American community's needs on the local state and national level.
- Conducting research and evaluation of the community's needs and making corresponding policy recommendations.
- Providing data and research on the Haitian community of South Florida.
- Conducting on-going outreach and information via radio and television.

Our Staff: Sant La boasts a professional team of academic, linguistic and culturally competent staff members, agency representatives reporting at Sant La, as well as interns and Americorps Vista volunteers.

2003 - 2004 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS...

As our proudest moments of 2003 are far too many to name in the confinements of this column, I will highlight the five which our staff agrees are our greatest accomplishments. They are: the creation of our N.A.G.(Neighborhood Advisory Group), our participation in the Greater Prosperity Campaign, the Little Haiti Community Collaborative Strategic Action Forum which we organized and hosted in collaboration with three partnering agencies, the publication of our South Florida Haitian-American Community Resource Directory and our establishing partnerships with several clinics and organizations aimed at serving our Haitian-American constituents.

The creation of the Sant La Neighborhood Advisory Group (N.A.G), brings us much pride. It is made up of fourteen business owners, residents and stake holders from the Haitian-American community of Little Haiti. Its members are active, consistent and dedicated to improving their neighborhoods by articulating neighborhood their concerns and advocating on behalf of their communities.

Our support and participation in the Human Services Coalition's Prosperity Campaign is our second important worthwhile undertaking. We helped our Haitian-American community by completing and e-filing tax returns and successfully securing over \$350,000.00 in Earned Income Tax Credit and Income Tax refunds. This service was provided to our clients, free of charge, with the assistance of our partners, Little Haiti Housing Association, Fanm Ayisyen Nan Myami and Human Services Coalition.

The Little Haiti Community Collaborative's Strategic Action Forum, a one-day event held on July 19, 2003 at Miami Edison Senior High, brought together over 125 community stakeholders, concerned about the social, cultural, economic and political well-being of the Haitian/Haitian-American population. Its objective was to create a blueprint to be utilized in the implementation of a community agenda.

Another worthwhile project is the publication of the South Florida Haitian-American Community Resource Directory, created in furtherance of Sant La's mission to inform the community and foster a greater collaborative spirit among providers of social services to the Haitian community. It is a comprehensive guide which includes information about service providers as well as professional organizations. It is our hope that such a resource guide will encourage greater access to organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Haitian community.

We've established new partnerships with clinics and organizations located outside of Little Haiti, but aimed at serving our Haitian-American constituents. These new partnerships helped us in successfully serving an impressive annual caseload of over 1,000 clients.

In our fourth full year of operations, we continue to pursue our mission to empower, strengthen and stabilize South Florida's Haitian community and facilitate its successful intergration into the Miami-Dade Community.

Quotes from our Visitors:

"Congratulations! This is where I found the real smile of Haiti!!! I feel like I am at the National office of Tourism of Haiti."

G. Eugene

"Sant La is the best Haitian organization. The staff is very professional and friendly."

M. St. Armand

"Sant La, Ô beautiful! I love it. Courtesy, Professionalism, Excellent appearance that commands respect."

M. Alexis
CACEC

"What a resource for the community! You exemplify what an organization should strive for- Higher Standards"

M. Alonzo
Bank of America

"You have done such a great job and in such a short time! I am proud to be one of your supporters."

K. Kennedy-Olsen

"I am proud to say that Sant La has helped my mom and dad fill out their income tax return. May God keep blessing this company. Thank you."

The Elizee Family

"Thank you for the wonderful experience! We were able to acquire a lot of knowledge about the Haitian Community. We appreciate your time. Hope to work with you in the future!"

P. Andrews,
Nursing student-Barry University

"Thank you for all of the wonderful help, resources and information that you have provided to us for our research in how to help the Haitian community."

C. Meriweather,
MSW Student, Barry University



SANT LA

Haitian Neighborhood Center

Partnerships

Community Prosperity:

ACCION

CASA

Human Services Coalition

Minority Development
and Empowerment

Opa-Locka Community
Development Corporation

Overtown Youth Center

World Relief

.....

Little Haiti

Community Collaborative:

Center for Haitian Studies

Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami, Inc

Little Haiti Housing Assoc., Inc

Haitian Neighborhood Center,
Sant La

Women Alliance of
Miami-Dade and Broward

.....

CBO Roundtable:

Center of Information
and Orientation, Inc.

Center for Haitian Studies

Catholic Charities
Pierre Toussaint Center

Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami, Inc

GALATA

Haitian Organization of Women

Haitian Neighborhood Center,
Sant La

Little Haiti Housing Assoc., Inc

Women Alliance of
Miami-Dade and Broward

Youth Expressions

OUR PROGRAMS...

Information and Referral

Our comprehensive Client Services program offers information and referral services to the Haitian community of Little Haiti and the Northeast corridor, in order to reduce information gaps, connect individuals to services and provide follow-up monitoring for our clients.

Outreach/Education

We have successfully designed and implemented an outreach and education program to assist Haitian families and inform the community about important initiatives, programs and opportunities in support of children and families.

Capacity Building Workshops/Technical Assistance

In addition to the on-going training opportunities for non-profit service providers, the technical assistance program at Sant La is designed to work with existing or emerging agencies, to develop program plans, mission statements, staff and management capacity, as well as other crucial components of a non-profit organization.

Financial Literacy

Sant La has designed a financial literacy program to educate clients on various aspects of financial responsibilities. This program is designed to properly prepare participants to manage checking and savings accounts, understand a credit report and enroll in savings and investments programs such as 401K plans, retirement plans, and an Individual Development Account.

Civic Engagement

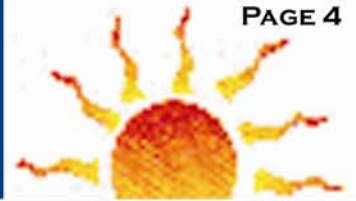
The Little Haiti Community Collaborative organized a very successful strategic action forum which brought together Little Haiti residents and stakeholders to create a blueprint for sustainable civic engagement in the Haitian community of South Florida. While access to healthcare is the primary focus of this collaborative, members have expanded their focus to issues related to educational excellence, quality affordable housing, community development, and civic engagement in the Haitian community.



Community Partnerships

In keeping with our goal to foster and promote active collaborative relationships, Sant La has established three partnerships. *The CBO Roundtable* consists of neighborhood based service providers who wish to improve coordination of services. *The Little Haiti Community Collaborative* focuses on health access. *The Little Haiti Partnership for Community Prosperity* promotes financial security. These partnerships sustain neighborhood-based advocacy projects and activities beyond funding cycles.

2003 - 2004 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR PROGRAMS...

Haitian American Archives/ Resource Library

The first of its kind, Sant La's Haitian Archives houses information and studies on the Haitian community of South Florida. The Archives are housed in conjunction with a resource library focused on providing non-profit agencies with resources, data and non-profit tools.



Health Access: Little Haiti Community Collaborative

Sant La is one of five community organizations that comprise this Collaborative. Supported by Community Voices Miami and the United Way of Miami-Dade County, its mission is to improve access to health care for residents of the Little Haiti community by encouraging the utilization of preventive health services, identifying and articulating the primary and secondary barriers to health care in the Haitian community and advocating for culturally sensitive and culturally responsive health services.

The Collaborative's strategic goal is to facilitate the creation of a primary health center in the Little Haiti community.

Research/Documentation

Commissioned Reports: Sant La has been involved in a number of documentation projects and has produced numerous publications prepared through research tools such as surveys and focus groups. Our commissioned reports were as follows: *Crime and Crime Reporting In The Haitian Community* for the Florida Attorney General's Office; *Elderly Access to Healthcare Services* for the United Way of Miami Dade; *Neighborhood Services for Children and Families* for the Children's Trust.

Working Paper Series: Sant La has produced a number of analyses related to Haitian community issues, including: Community Risk and Protective Factors; Service Needs and Gaps; Elderly Needs; Crime and Crime Reporting; and Healthcare Access.

Advocacy

Through its advocacy efforts, Sant La documents the circumstances facing Little Haiti residents, identifies the emerging neighborhood's needs and priorities, analyzes neighborhood-level gaps in services and proposes jurisdictionally appropriate solutions based upon input from residents and service providers. The goal of Sant La's advocacy work is to continue to inform policy-oriented research as well as strategic decision-making and investments in Little Haiti.

Community Leadership and Involvement

Alliance for Human Services

Alliance for
Community-Based Care

Knight Foundation

MDPS Biracial/Tri-Ethnic
Committee

Human Services Coalition

MDPS Strategic Planning
Council

Tools For Change Microloan
Program Advisory Group

Power U

Community Action Agency

Early Childhood Coalition

Coral Gables
Congregational Church

ACCION

Sant La Publications

South Florida Haitian-American
Community Resources Directory

Haitian-American Media Guide

Haitian-American Fact Sheet

Working Papers Series

- Crime and Crime Reporting in Little-Haiti and in the Haitian/Haitian American Community in Miami-Dade County
- Elderly Needs in Little-Haiti and in the Haitian/Haitian American Community in Miami-Dade County
- Analysis of Service Gaps in Little-Haiti and in the Haitian/Haitian American Community in Miami-Dade County
- Healthcare Access in Little-Haiti and in the Haitian/Haitian American Community in Miami-Dade County
- Risk and Protective Factors in Little-Haiti and in the Haitian/Haitian American Community in Miami-Dade County



SANT LA

Haitian Neighborhood Center

Sant La's N.A.G. Members:

Gabriel Demosthene

Daniel FilsAime

Hemler Francois

Nemour Jn. Baptiste

Steve Lauriston

Sony Leo

Lyndon Louimeus

Joseph B. Mondesir

Josette Paris, Principal

Gulano Paul

Gary Petit-Homme

Jackie Senate

Patrick Simeon

Roland St.Gerard

Sant La's Vista Volunteers:

Brunine David

Zakary Laporte

ABOUT OUR N.A.G.

The Neighborhood Advisory Group was created at Sant La in March of 2003. Its mission is to improve the quality of life in the Haitian community, by increasing new approaches to community development. The N.A.G.'s motto is *One Goal, One Voice, One Community*. Its members strive to help their community create schools that will educate their children well, streets that are safe and

clean, more jobs and better economic development, affordable and habitable homes. This proactive organization is operated in collaboration with HAFI, COIN, CHS, Catholic Charities, WADB, LLHA and FAMN. Ms. Sheba St Hilaire, Sant La's Neighborhood Services Coordinator, is the on site support staff and N. A.G. member.



AMERICORPS VISTA VOLUNTEERS

Three volunteers, Melodie Sanon, Brunine David and Zakary Laporte, joined the staff of the Sant La staff in the third and fourth quarters of 2003, as part of the Americorps Vista Program. In existence now for over 35 years, the Americorps Vista's objective is to help bring communities and individuals out of poverty by addressing issues such as public health education, the environment, public safety and employment. Its nearly 6,000 members, who serve in hundreds of nonprofit organizations and public agencies throughout the country, accomplish the organization's goals by developing and mobilizing resources that create long-term sustainable benefits at a community level, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities, or bridge the digital divide. All members must meet a certain minimum requirements and must agree to serve full-time for a minimum of one year.

2003 - 2004 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR STAFF...



Executive Director
Gepsie M. Metellus



**Director of Research
& Strategic Planning**
Leonie M. Hermantin



**Neighborhood Services
Coordinator**
Sheba St Hilaire



**Special Projects
Administrator**
Desiree Marrero



**Outreach Services
Coordinator**
Sophia Lacroix



Executive Assistant
Elizabeth Erie



Client Services Manager
Gislaine Toussaint
AUG 2001-APR 2004



Executive Assistant
Lily Jules
FEB 2003-OCT 2003



Health Coordinator
Nadine Louissaint
JUL 2002-JUL 2003

Our Volunteers...



**Americorps
Vista Volunteer**
Marie Brunine David



**Americorps
Vista Volunteer**
Zakary Laporte

Our Student interns...



Julie Jean-Baptiste



Germina Fritz

Miami police trailblazer a symbol of Haitian pride

BY DRAEGER MARTINEZ
dmartinez@herald.com

Gary Eugene has made a career of blazing new paths in his 18 years as a Miami police officer. He was the first Haitian-American sergeant, lieutenant, captain and now commander, one of only nine in the department's top brass. Along the way, Eugene has also become the department's ambassador to Haitian



COMMUNITY LIAISON: Miami police Capt. Gary Eugene, right, with Sgt. Nathan Daniels. Eugene is set to become a commander of his latest assignment. "It's about time grown to more than 100 people."

In Transition: Sent to Linters Second Year Hoping to Change Plans



...the first time in his career...
...the first time in his career...
...the first time in his career...

Area groups awarded grants Funds targeting healthcare access



GRANT AWARDS: Harve A. Majul, left, president and CEO, United Way of Miami, with officials of community coalitions at a United Way Community Voices Capacity Building Grant breakfast meeting July 18. From left are Dolores Durey, Center for Family and Child Enrichment; Carol City Business Enterprise; Families R Us Care Centers; West Dade; Leonie Herrmann, The Haitian Round Table; Little Haiti; Walter Frierson, Community and Family Coalition 2000; West Perrine; Begoña Calcedra, North Beach Coalition; North Beach; Jessica Perlmutter, United Way of Miami-Dade; and William Ross, Wynwood Community Advisory Group/Borinquen Health Center, Wynwood.

Special to The Herald
The Haitian Round Table in Little Haiti, and the North

move will allow it to involve...
Alliance of Dade and the Co-

Victim of injustice takes tiny step toward justice



...the first time in his career...
...the first time in his career...
...the first time in his career...

Little Haiti service agencies now have 'super umbrella'

...the first time in his career...
...the first time in his career...
...the first time in his career...

SANTLA: FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

...the first time in his career...
...the first time in his career...
...the first time in his career...

sun-sentinel.com

MIAMI-DADE

MS • SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2002 7B

Haitian leader wins fellowship

She is one of 24 in national plan for management

BY MADELINE BARÓ DIAZ
MIAMI BUREAU



"It's about what leadership is and what leadership does," Metellus said of the program. The fellowship involves a series of workshops in the United States and

sues such as race, citizenship, immigration and globalization. In the second year, fellows collaborate on projects in their communities that put theories of democracy in action. Projects by fellows in previous years have included family-based care programs for vulnerable children and

ita Sandosham, manager of the program. "We know that the post 9/11 world is full of complexities and frustrations, and it's vital that America's leaders be guided by the lights of learning and reason. That can only happen if they have the ability to listen to views that