



Sant La 
HAITIAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023



Dear Friends,

As a social service agency serving the nation's largest enclave of Haitian and Haitian-American residents, we are tasked to address the implications of immigration policies as they impact our local communities.

This year has been a difficult one for our residents as we deal with a prolonged housing affordability crisis, which has increased the demand for financial support, mental health counseling and food security services. The influx of immigrants from the border and from the Biden parole program has also increased the number of clients we serve.

As we commemorate the [50th anniversary](#) of the first reported U.S. landing of Haitian refugees, it is clear that the journey to ensure our immigrant population's successful adaptation to South Florida continues. In addition to providing access to food security and health services, we now offer programs tailored to the needs of our new immigrants.

Successful, evidence-based programs demonstrate that immigrants can lead successful and independent lives when they are provided with information, tools and strategies to adapt to their new environment. Our programs now include elements of cultural and social adaptation to ensure that newly arrived immigrants are well on their way to becoming well-adapted, fully integrated community stakeholders.

Fifty years later, Sant La has created a system that offers a safe place for newly arrived immigrants to receive culturally competent services as they gain a deeper understanding of their individual and collective rights and responsibilities in the U.S.

Sant La is proud to serve as the bridge to the American dream!

Gepsie M. Metellus
Executive Director

AGENCY STATS



15,988 CLIENTS SERVED IN 2022-2023

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

1,138 job seekers increased their employability options with resume preparation, online applications, employability orientation, referrals to training programs and job placements. **393** clients participated in tech literacy training.

390 clients were assisted with re-employment benefits filing or issues correspondence. **446** unemployment claims were successfully processed.

HEALTH & FOOD SECURITY

1,668 clients gained health insurance through Medicaid & Florida KidCare.

160 with health coverage through the Affordable Care Act.

1,670 families accessed Food Assistance.

2,891 clients benefited from meals distributed.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES

953 clients increased their financial capabilities through free tax preparation, financial coaching, consumer credit reduction, resolution of identity theft, and home-buyer education.

CORNERSTONE SERVICES

2,233 individuals were served through our cornerstone services, including information/ referral, care coordination, review of correspondence and naturalization/ passport and voter registration.

1,209 clients received assistance with Temporary Status and/or related applications.

241 clients received emergency rental assistance.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

1,523 visits for EDEN Place services through educational workshops, coaching, counseling, child behavior support and school advocacy

1,029 family visits for mental health services.

100 students participated in our after-school youth enrichment program

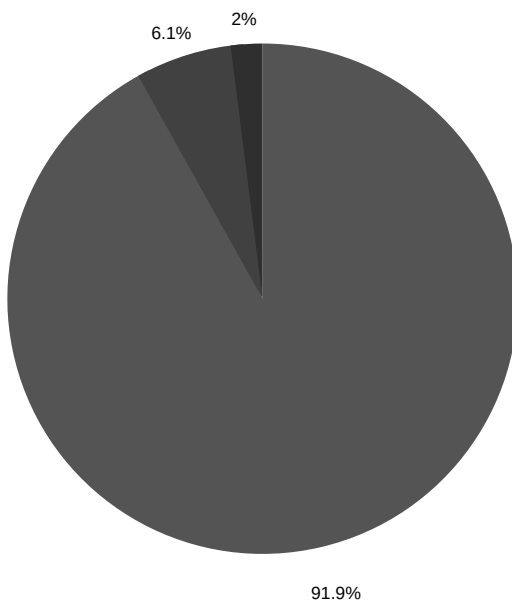
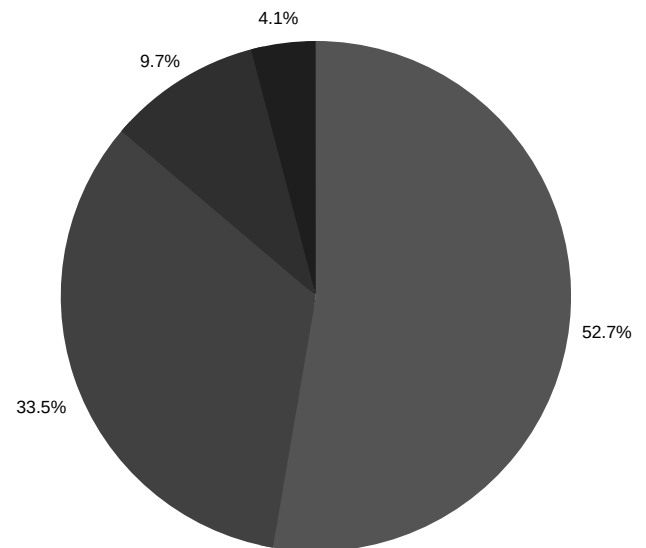
59 families fostered strong parent-child relationships through our parenting program.

316 elders participated in programming and activities for seniors.



INCOME

Government Funding	52.7 %
Foundation Grants	33.5 %
Contributions	9.7 %
Events (net expenses)	4.1 %



EXPENSES

Programs and Services	91.9 %
General and Administrative	6.1 %
Fundraising	2.0 %



CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

AN ASYLUM SEEKER FINDS SUPPORT TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

Two years ago, Ricardo Time, his wife and his 5-year-old son entered the U.S. through the Texas border, following a harrowing journey from Chile, South America. Together with thousands of other migrants from Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, they walked through jungles and faced violent bandits, determined to follow their North Star to the land where freedom awaits.

Upon his arrival in Miami, Ricardo came to Sant La. Still troubled by the nightmares of the journey, he was nonetheless determined to make his dreams a reality. At Sant La, we embraced Ricardo and his family, ensuring that as new migrants, they were fortified with the information, skills and support needed to become independent and self-sustaining.

Our legal partnership offered Ricardo's family the expertise needed to complete all required documentation to secure legal status in the U.S. Our Solidarite Miami initiative facilitated access to wrap-around services available at Sant La, allowing the family to live with food security, health services, education, mental health counseling and peace of mind. Our job

preparedness and job readiness program gave him the tools needed to be workforce-ready with tech literacy, resume preparation and financial coaching. As parents dealing with a new educational system, they were provided with information and support to enroll their son in kindergarten. And through our Pote Kole initiative, Ricardo learned important cultural adaptation strategies.

Ricardo grew committed to giving back by volunteering. He became a Miami-Dade County Certified Emergency Response (CERT) volunteer through Sant La's Nou Pare/CORE program, ready to assist his community in times of emergency. And he recently addressed participants at Sant La's 2023 Haitian American Community Agenda Conference about the experience of asylum seekers crossing the U.S. border.

Today, Ricardo and his wife are gainfully employed and living independently. He is grateful to Sant La for having accompanied him through a difficult time with the support he needed to live with dignity. He is still enrolled at the local adult education center, where he is working towards becoming a plumber. Ricardo considers himself a free man today and gives thanks.

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 World Central Kitchen



Sant La's mission is to empower, strengthen and uplift South Florida's Haitian community by providing free access to information and existing services to ensure its successful integration.

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