

Sant La's Legacy Gala

Celebrating the Legacy of Haitian
"Boat People" in South Florida!

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Sport of Kings, Gulfstream Park
901 S Federal Hwy,
Hallandale Beach, FL

Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our incredibly special Legacy Gala! Tonight, we commemorate the landing of the first boat carrying Haitian



refugees to our shores. We have dedicated an entire year to honoring the memory of pioneers who led the way for others seeking refuge from a brutal dictatorship. This anniversary marks the beginning of an incredible journey that has transformed South Florida's social, cultural and political landscapes. The arrival of Haitian refugees by boat was followed by history-making events that have impacted federal jurisprudence as well as local advocacy efforts for immigrant justice.

Tonight, we celebrate gratitude by honoring the village which stood in solidarity with refugees whose journey to freedom withstood unprecedented obstacles. This evening we uplift and remember the sacrifices of brave women and men, institutions and businesses who provided shelter, advocacy and invaluable support to our Haitian brothers and sisters. Some are able to grace us with their presence and others will receive this honor posthumously.

May our Legacy Gala stand as a reminder that while our journey has felt lonely at times, let us remember that in our darkest hours these unforgettable orbs of light shined ever brightly to guide our passage and uplift our spirits. Let's celebrate them tonight!

In Solidarity,

Gepsie M. Metellus
Executive Director

Herve Bony
Board Chair

Evening Program

Mistress of Ceremony

Dr. Shirley Plantin, U-Turn Youth Consulting

National Anthems

Sheila Be

Welcome

Herve Bony, Board Chair

Reflections

Rev. Dr. Gaston E. Smith
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Greetings

Miami Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava

Occasion

Gepsie M. Métellus, Executive Director

Legacy Awards

Sant La Board Members and Thamara Labrousse,
Development Committee Co-Chair

Acknowledgements

Eurika Ketant, Development Committee Co-Chair

Entertainment

Ambiance Creole
Daniella Viotti, The Living Statue
DJ Nicky Mix

Board of Directors

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Dr. Marlène César-Berrouet, FNSP Program Director
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Rose T. Mainville, Youth & Family Services Coordinator
Karine Mompremier, Family Services Director
Soraya Papayoute, RCSWI, Youth & Family Counselor
Alphonse Piard, Financial Literacy Services Director
Oslaude Rousseau, Financial Coach
Guibert St. Fort, Program Coordinator
Evelyne Sylvain, Benefits Specialist
Nadeige Theresias-Joisil, Youth Development Program Director
Jinia Williams Dauphin, Mental Health Program Director
Jean Faustin, Custodian
Herman Rivas, CPA, Accountant

Acknowledgements

Event Planning

Léonie Hermantin, Kenta Joseph, Rose Mainville,
Gepsie M. Métellus and Karine Mompremier

Haitian Marketplace Silent Auction

LéonieHermantin
Rose Mainville
Karine Mompremier

Décor

Chef Louisa Ponthieux

Graphics and Program Book

Kenta Joseph

Power Point Presentation

Karine Mompremier

Entertainment

Ambiance Creole
Daniella Viotti, The Living Statue

Music and 360 Photo Booth

DJ Nicky Mix

Open Bar

Bacardi

Photography

Ricardo St. Cyr

Videography

Island TV

Sponsors

Platinum

Green Family Foundation
JP Morgan Chase & Co.

Gold

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
One United Bank

Silver

Health Foundation of South Florida
Miami Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien, District 2

Bronze

City of North Miami Mayor Alix Desulme
Comcast
Jackson Health System
Miami Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine-Cava

Benefactor

American Airlines
Cola Choucouné
Fatima Group
Florida Power and Light
Football Unites
Publix Super Market Charities

Sponsors

Friends

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Judge Joseph Farina
Katia Saint Fleur and Associates
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Miami Parking Authority
Law Offices of Hans Ottinot
Pedro Gassant, Esq.

Table Sponsors

Eurica Ketant
Florida Blue
Florida Rising
Herve Bony and Patrick Martin
Gepsie M. Metellus
Primary Medical Care Center
Scarlet Pereira
Thamara Beliard Rodriguez and Donard St. Jean

Silent Auction Donors

FOKAL
Gepsie M. Metellus
Leonie Hermantin
Maggie Saintil
Sandy Dorsainvil

Wine Sponsor

Top Shelf

Open Bar Sponsor

Bacardi

Legacy Honorees

Sant La's Board and staff salute these outstanding individuals and organizations who have played a pivotal role in the advocacy and support of early Haitian refugees.

Individual Honorees



Claude Charles migrated to South Florida in the 70's and spent 10+ years leading local efforts to address the needs of the growing population of Haitian refugees.



Steve Forester, Esq. has dedicated his entire career to defending the rights of Haitian immigrants. He served in multiple capacities at Miami's Haitian Refugee Center and led campaigns creating HRIFA, HFRP and TPS.



Rev. James E. and Jolene Jenkins Under the leadership of the late Senior Pastor Rev. Jenkins and First Lady Jolene Jenkins, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church became a sanctuary for Haitian asylum seekers and activists.



Dewey W. Knight Jr. As the deputy and later interim Miami Dade County manager, the late Dewey Knight Jr., was a strong but quiet force supporting Miami's Haitian community, going above and beyond the call of duty.

Legacy Honorees



Ira J. Kurzban, Esq. is a civil rights and immigration lawyer whose commitment to defending the rights of Miami's Haitian refugees has earned him national and international accolades. His experience and expertise has been memorialized in the seminal *Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook*.



Jack Lieberman The late "Radical Jack," was a fearless and tireless force in defense of Haitian refugee rights. He joined the Haitian Refugee Center and worked with other Haitian groups to activate massive mobilizations/protests and galvanize public opinion in support of Haitian refugees.



Pastor Jacques Mompremier was the first director of the Haitian Refugee Center until 1977. Leading this charge was bold and risky—he would have to provide for his flock, defend them in the face of the U.S. government and accept that he would not be able to go back to Haiti, not even to visit family, under the brutal Duvalier dictatorship. We honor his legacy today by unveiling Sant La's Jacques Mompremier Legacy Scholarship.



Eduardo Padron, Ph.D went to great lengths to ensure that Miami Dade College was a launching pad for Haitian migrants who believed in the power of education. Through his advocacy, Miami Dade College became the beacon of hope and ladder to educational and economic opportunities for Haitians.

Legacy Honorees



Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson led her sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, to the call for service as Haitians landed on our shores, providing care packages replete with items critically needed by refugee women imprisoned at the Krome Detention Center. Congresswoman Wilson continued to amplify our community's demands for equal treatment and never abandoned our cause.

Institutional Honorees



Archdiocese of Miami Under Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy's tenure, South Florida's Archdiocese witnessed massive migration by sea from Cuba and Haiti and spoke forcefully on behalf of their rights to remain in this country. The church created iconic institutions for the settlers including Notre Dame D'Haiti Catholic Church and the Pierre Toussaint Center.



Church World Services of South Florida responded to the needs of Haitian refugees providing much needed clothing, shelter and food. Thanks to CWS many Haitian immigrants were reunited with family members and receive much-needed support.



NAACP has worked for over a century to ensure the political, educational, social and economic rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination, and as such, they galvanized into action when Haitians were denied political asylum.

Legacy Honorees

Poitier Funeral Homes

Poitier Funeral Homes We owe an eternal debt of gratitude to Miami's Black-owned funeral homes that offered dignified funeral services, free of charge, to the thousands of refugees who perished at sea.

Range "a living service for the living"

Range Funeral Home The late Miami Commissioner and activist, M. Athalie Range, "Ma Range," fought tirelessly to defend the civil rights of Miami's Black community and never hesitated to assist the Haitian community when the cost of burial became too costly.

Sant La in Numbers

Founded on December 6, 2000

Launched on June 15, 2001

People

- 22 Staff Members
- 15 Board Members
- 3 In-house Partners
- 26 Volunteers & Interns
- 25 Neighborhood Advisory Group Members

Services*

- 11,595 clients served
- 905 clients received tax preparation & financial coaching
- 800 job seekers received employment services
- 495 clients received re-employment assistance
- 1,920 received health security support
- 1,731 clients received food security
- 1,010 visits for mental health services
- 679 EDEN Place workshops and services
- 253 clients received rental assistance
- 133+ received TPS-related assistance
- 100+ received tech literacy education in Creole
- 40 elder Creole-speaking first responders trained and certified
- 40 clients received support via Grandet Branche/Silver Connections

Initiatives

- 10+ White Papers and Documentation Projects
- 400+ episodes of Teleskopi viewed by 500,000+ households
- 16-member Haitian Philanthropy Coalition
- 8-cohorts of the Sant La Fellows
- Countless successful advocacy efforts for policies and investments that benefit the Haitian community

Funders & Partners

- 47+ Impact Investors
- 100+ Community Partners

**Numbers reflect those served during fiscal year 2021-2022.*

Impact Investors

Sant La's Board and staff gratefully acknowledge the following partners who support our work:

1199SEIU Florida
AETNA
Allegany Franciscan Ministries
BAC Funding Corp
Bank of America Foundation
Bank United
Career Source South Florida
Carnival Foundation
The Children's Trust
Citi Foundation
City of Miami
City of North Miami
Coral Gables United Church of Christ
Doral Cops
The Ethel and George Kennedy Foundation
Florida Blue
Florida Blue Foundation
Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète (FOKAL)
The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation
Greater Miami Jewish Federation
Green Family Foundation
Health Foundation of South Florida
Humana
Jackson Health System
The John S. & James L. Knight Foundation
The Kathleen Kennedy Foundation
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Miami-Dade County Mayor and Commission
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
The Miami Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Peacock Foundation
Related Philanthropies
Rethink Food
Royal Caribbean
Share Our Strength
United Way Miami
Wells Fargo Foundation

Community Partners

Working to Uplift the Haitian Community!

Association of Exchange and Development of Activities & Partnerships

Avanse Ansanm

Association of Haitian Educators of Dade

Ayiti Community Trust

CACEC

Caribbean Audio Visual and Cultural Preservation

Center for Haitian Studies

Center for Information and Orientation

Community Access Center

Concerned Leaders of Little Haiti

COVID-19 Haitian American Coalition

Family Action Network and Movement (FANM)

Gang Alternative

Haitian-American CDC (Little Haiti Housing)

Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida

Haitian-American Elderly Center

Haitian American Foundation For Democracy

Haitian American Faith-Based Network

Haitian-American Leadership Organization

Haitian-American Nurses Association

Haitian-American Professionals Coalition (HAPC)

Haitian American Voter Empowerment Coalition

Haitian-American Youth Organization

Haitian Child and Community Center

Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance

Haitian Heritage Museum

Haitian Ladies Network

Haitian Lawyers Association

Haitian Medical Association

Little Haiti Collaborative

Little Haiti Cultural Complex

Little Haiti Football Club

Little Haiti Optimist Club

National Haitian American Elected Officials Network

NSL Dance Ensemble

Our Little Ones

Pierre Toussaint Catholic Center

Prosperity Social and Community Development

Sosyete Koukouy Miyami

Tradisyon Lakou Lakay

Community Partners

Working to Uplift South Florida!

Advocacy Network on Disabilities	Greater Miami Chapter of The Links Inc.
Americans for Immigrant Justice	Jewish Community Services
Anti-Defamation League	Juvenile Services Division
Axis Helps South Florida	Kristi House
Barry University	Legal Services of Greater Miami
The Beacon Council	Miami Bridge
Borinquen Health Centers	Miami Climate Alliance
Capital Good Fund	Miami Dade College
Catalyst Miami	Miami Dade County Office of New Americans
Career Source South Florida	Miami Dade County Public Schools
Catholic Legal Services	Miami Homes for All
The Cleo Institute	Miami Workers Center
Concerned African Women	Partners for Self Employment
Dibia Dreams	Radical Partners
Early Learning Coalition	Parent Engagement Network
Epilepsy Foundation	St. Thomas University
Equity and Advocacy Collective	South Florida Black Prosperity Alliance
Florida Immigrant Coalition	The Women's Fund
Flippany	Together for Children
Florida International University (FIU)	Unidos
FIU Neighborhood Help	University of Miami
Florida Rising	World Central Kitchen
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce	
Hispanic Unity	



GREEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Green Family Foundation provides grants to support programs that empower entire communities. Our goal is to enable underserved communities to achieve sustainability and self-reliance by alleviating the cycle of poverty and disease.



We proudly support Sant La programs.
Congratulations on 23 years of
empowering the Haitian community.



From community banking to community building

At JPMorgan Chase we're making a difference in the communities where we live and work by supporting the neighborhoods, businesses, programs and ideas that are moving our communities forward.

We proudly support Sant La and applaud its commitment to Florida's Haitian community.

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jpmorganchase.com/impact



**KNIGHT
FOUNDATION**

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freedom of expression

an informed citizenry

**engaged, equitable and
inclusive communities**


Get updates and
learn more here:





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We're the nation's largest Black-owned bank, working to help close the racial wealth gap, raise financial literacy, and build Black economic growth. We proudly support Black-led and Black-benefiting organizations. We proudly support Sant La!

**3275 NW 79th Street
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www.oneunited.com**





Commissioner Marleine Bastien

Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 2



Sant La has been at the forefront of serving, representing, and advocating for our families with pride and determination. I am proud to join you in saluting Haitian pioneers who labored to build our community for the past 50 years, trailblazing a path for future generations. We celebrate your commitment and leadership and wish you continued success in all your endeavors.



Commissioner
MARLEINE BASTIEN
Miami Dade County
District 2

DISCOVER

AGED
8 YEARS
UNDER THE
CARIBBEAN
SUN



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PWOJÈ 12 DESANM

50 Years Forward: The Legacy
of Haitian Boat People

December 12, 2022, marked the 50th anniversary of the first documented arrival of Haitian refugees fleeing Haiti by sea. This anniversary marks the beginning of an incredible journey that has transformed South Florida's social, cultural and political landscape. History-making events have since followed impacting federal jurisprudence, local advocacy efforts for immigrant justice and treatment of asylum seekers in healthcare, education, employment and housing.

Pwojè 12 Desanm wishes you a Happy Anniversary with a series of commemorative activities and events throughout 2023.

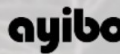
For more information scan the image or visit:

bit.ly/Pwoje12Desanm

SCAN ME



COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE:



KEEPERS OF THE LEGACY

SOUTH FLORIDA'S HAITIAN AMERICAN ELECTED OFFICIALS

FORMER ELECTED OFFICIALS



CURRENT ELECTED OFFICIALS





Health Foundation of South Florida proudly supports the Sant La, Haitian Neighborhood Center.







We are honored to stand with you, as we work together to ensure every South Floridian has an equal opportunity to live a healthy life.



www.hfsf.org

Don't have health coverage?

You may still qualify for a 2023 health plan.

-  Experienced a **change in your income**
-  Lost **prior insurance**
-  Had a **baby**
-  **Moved**
-  Changed **marital status**
-  Had another **qualifying life event**

You can get health coverage if you:

- Are a U.S. Citizen
- Are a U.S. Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)
- Are a Cuban or Haitian entrant
- Have a Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Have a work or student visa
- Many other statuses qualify!

Call to find out about your Special Enrollment deadline!

Call **786-541-0602**
or visit FloridaBlue.com
Florida Blue North Miami beach Center
13665 Biscayne Blvd
North Miami beach, FL 33181

Florida Blue 
Your local Blue Cross Blue Shield



*Congratulations Sant La
on 23 years! Wishing you
continued success!*



Miami-Dade County Mayor
Daniella Levine Cava

We salute the legacy of
Haitian Americans and
congratulate Sant La on its
continuous success.



City of North Miami Mayor
Alix Desulme

Thank You Sant La
for your commitment and
service to the community.



COMCAST

Proud Supporter of Sant La!

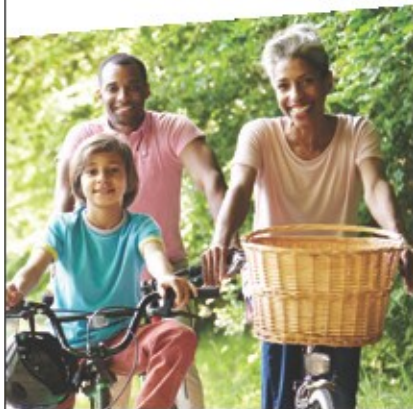


Florida Rising Stands With Sant La

Celebrating and Uplifting the Contributions
of Haitian Immigrants in South Florida!

 321.800.2095  floridarising.org    @FLRising

Your well-being
is our priority.



April is National Minority Health Month. At Jackson Health System, we take pride in providing world-class services for everyone, and are attuned to the special healthcare needs of minority communities.

Visit JacksonHealth.org for more information.

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*Mistress of
Ceremony*

Dr. Shirley Plantin
U-Turn Youth Consulting

 Sant La
www.santla.com



*Music & 360
Photo Booth*

DJ Nicky Mix

 Sant La
www.santla.com



The Living Statue

Daniela Viotti

Visual/Performing Artist



Musical Entertainment

Ambiance Creole



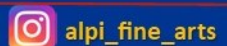
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*Sant La's
Legacy Gala*

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