

BUILDING THE FUTURE

25 YEARS OF IMPACT IN HAITI



ANNIVERSARY REPORT





In loving memory of HELP
Board President [Bernard Fils-
Aimé](#) (1953-2020)

Bernard was a lifelong
defender of Haiti and Haitians.
His 15 years of service to HELP,
first as a donor and then
as a board member, left us
better prepared to face the
challenges and embrace the
opportunities ahead.



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Our mission is to create, through merit and needs based scholarships, a community of young professionals and leaders who will promote a more just society in Haiti.

We envision a Haiti where every Haitian has access to quality education, the opportunity to live up to their potential, and the ability to contribute to a just and prosperous society.

If you want to learn more about HELP and how you can get involved, call us at 646-485-8667 or email admin@uhelp.net.

25 YEARS OF IMPACT

We have often compared HELP to a three-legged stool, the legs of which are our students, our staff, and our supporters. Weakness in any of these is enough to make the institution crumble, so HELP owes its longevity equally to each of these groups, and to their belief in our mission to create a more just society in Haiti.

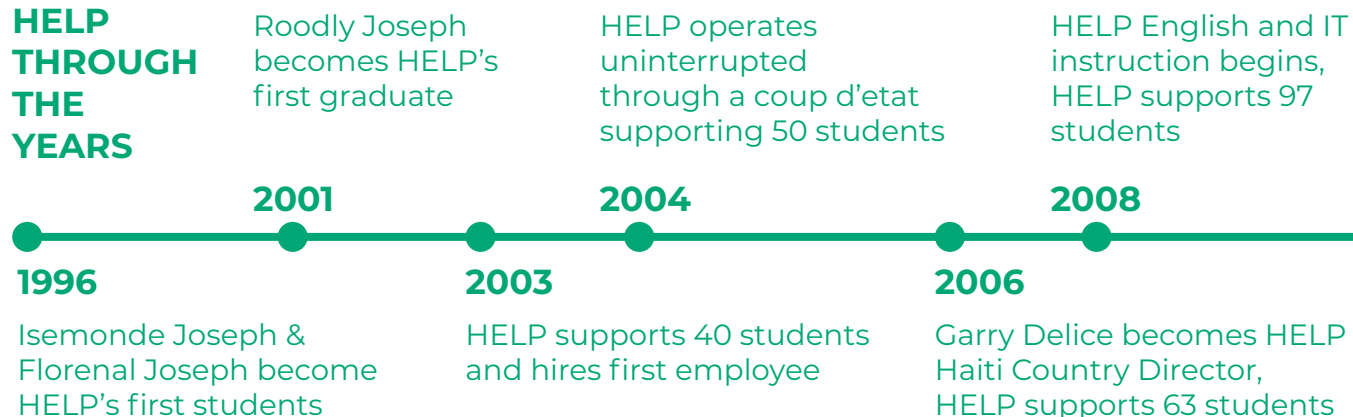
Early on, we realized that training one hundred lawyers, engineers, or agronomists was necessary but woefully insufficient. So, we were delighted to discover that leadership could be taught just as effectively as mathematics or language. Thus, we count on HELP students, past and present, to use the knowledge and confidence they have gained at HELP, to accomplish our mission.

We have learned that education is the most reliable answer to so many of the ills of any society, but it is never easy or quick. So, as we celebrate 25 years of education and accomplishments, we acknowledge that even with close to 300 graduates who have started over 30 institutions in Haiti, in many ways we are just getting started. HELP has built a critical foundation for achieving our mission and now embarks on the next 25 years with a focus on expanding our impact.

A student once asked us if we thought Haiti could truly change. When we asked her what she thought, she quickly replied, "Of course Haiti can change, because we are actors, not objects." Students, staff, and supporters, we are all actors, regularly inspired by one other on our shared journey to a more just Haiti.

- *Conor Bohan, Founder & Executive Director and Garry Delice, Country Director*

HELP THROUGH THE YEARS



FLORENAL JOSEPH

HELP ALUMNUS | AGRONOMY '02

Florenal and his siblings were raised by a single mother who barely attended school, but she was committed to educating her children. Florenal was committed to his studies, earning a place at a scholarship high school. There, Conor Bohan was Florenal's English teacher and Garry Delice was the school principal. Florenal was one of the earliest students to receive a scholarship from HELP. "I went to college thanks to them," he says.

Since graduating from Quisqueya University, Florenal has earned his Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology from SUNY Medical Center and currently teaches biology at Brooklyn College and genetics and molecular biology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Florenal also hosts a radio show in New York about current affairs in Haiti called "Podium des Jeunes" that is geared toward young people. Recent episodes featured an analysis of the new Haitian constitution and an interview with Haitian author, entrepreneur, and politician Jerry Tardieu. "This organization not only helped me achieve my dream of an education, but today they are providing scholarships to the most needy and intelligent students in Haiti. The work that HELP is doing in Haiti is not only influencing the lives of the students that benefit directly from the program, it is influencing Haiti as a whole."



HELP incorporated in Haiti, NY office opens, HELP supports 115 students

2010

2010

2 students perish, HELP center destroyed, many injured in earthquake

Citizenship & Leadership curriculum begins, Career & Alumni Services unit created, HELP supports 120 students

2011

2014

HELP's student-led recruiting campaign reaches over 100,000 students at 1,000+ high schools

First KOREM contribution from alumni Ginel Dorleon (computer science '14), HELP supports 167 students

2015

2016

HELP's 20th anniversary walk-a-thon held in Port-au-Prince, HELP supports 173 students

Alumni giving program KOREM surpasses \$100,000 in total contributions. KOREM fully funds 2 scholarships annually

2021

2021

50 new students welcomed as HELP returns to full capacity after reducing capacity due to COVID-19

OUR IMPACT

6

Fulbright Scholars

280

Graduates

80%

Living in Haiti

97%

Annual Retention Rate
2016 - Present

\$9,800

Average Alumni Salary
\$743 National Average Salary

[Learn more about our
25 years of impact here.](#)

A LEGACY OF GIVING

Like the rest of world, HELP has experienced both loss and growth in this difficult year. In August 2020, HELP's beloved Board Chair, Bernard Fils-Aimé, passed away from COVID-19.

As we mourn his passing, we are also celebrating his legacy and his investment in Haiti's future. Together with Bernard's family, HELP has established the inaugural [Bernard Fils-Aimé Memorial Scholarship Fund](#), which currently supports four exceptional students and continues to grow.

We are honored to share their successes with the Fils-Aimé family and all of Bernard's friends who are fulfilling his dreams and his vision. Thanks to them, these promising young people have the opportunity to alter the course of their lives.

One of the many ways in which Bernard influenced HELP's trajectory was in spurring engagement from local partners, spearheading HELP's first contribution from a Haitian business in 2005. HELP continues to build on this legacy, adding more local contributors each year (see p. 41).

Haitian businessman, Stephan Coles is part of the growing wave of support.

"HELP continues to inspire young people to lead, to grow into well-prepared citizens,

ready to serve their community at every stage of their life," Stephan says.

Today, we receive close to \$250,000 a year in direct support from businesses in Haiti, who in turn benefit from an educated workforce. In April 2021, HELP launched the Haiti Advisory Board (introduced on p. 51) to strengthen and deepen HELP's relationship with leaders in the Haitian government, businesses, civic organizations, and the diaspora.

As we reflect on the successes of the last 25 years, we wish to thank each of our donors, staff, partners, HELP's Board of Directors, and the Haiti Advisory Board whose sacrifices make all of this possible.

We look forward to our next quarter century of growth, we remain optimistic about our mission, and we are proud of the achievements of each of our students and graduates.

YMCA DOLBRUN

FINANCE '24

Ymca (pronounced “Eem-ka”) is determined to succeed. Born in Port-au-Prince, Ymca was raised by her father after her mother grew ill and left the city. Ymca remained with her father until age 12, when she moved to Gonaives to be with her mother. Despite the disruption to her education, Ymca remained focused in school and earned top grades. The director of her middle school was so impressed, he offered to pay Ymca’s high school fees when her mother could not afford the tuition. Ymca continued to excel even when her mother could no longer work, and her benefactor fell behind on tuition payments. “I had to be successful,” Ymca says, “for my mother, for myself.”

Now a HELP student, Ymca is studying finance and hopes to support orphaned children after she graduates. “I received help to be here, so I want to help others in turn.” Ymca says she especially appreciates HELP’s career services and internship program. “It’s a great way to learn more and prepare for your career. If we take advantage of that, we will come out with a lot of experience.”

Ymca is currently one of four students sponsored by the Bernard Fils-Aimé Scholarship Fund, named after our late Board President and made possible by the generous commitment of his family and friends.

“I received help to be here, so I want to help others in turn.”

– Ymca Dolbrun | Finance '24
Bernard Fils-Aimé Scholarship Student



SCHNAÏDINE NICOLAS
LAW '22 | DKD CO-FOUNDER



ACADEMICS

As HELP grew more established and supported more students, it became clear that while the university degree programs were comprehensive and our students were academically prepared, there were a few gaps. Due to inadequate resources in secondary schools, most students arrive at HELP without any background in computer literacy, English, or civics and leadership. HELP saw that by addressing these gaps, students would have a smoother path to success in the classroom, in the workforce, and in building the futures they envision for themselves and their communities.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



From lessons in Excel to overseeing coding club and managing HELP's 50-station computer lab, the HELP IT department is integral to student success. In 2008, HELP opened a computer lab at the Center and began offering basic computer literacy classes to students.

Most Haitian universities and secondary schools don't have computer labs, so students lack the access and training to work productively and efficiently in university and beyond.

HELP's two-year IT curriculum is required for all HELP students and covers basic computer skills; Microsoft Office Suite; effective research methods; graphic design; database creation; and how to create, run, and manage a website. In addition, the IT Department runs a programming club where students learn both C++ and Python, creating coding projects in both languages.

HELP IT training not only helps students achieve academic success, it prepares them with the

ancillary computer skills needed for the workplace.

HELP student Don Fred Adonaï Laguerre (education '21) had so little experience with computers before HELP that he had one of the lowest scores in his IT class freshman year.

Adonaï now uses his newfound computer skills to handle online communications for a youth group in his hometown.

"Before coming to HELP I did not understand computers. Through HELP's IT program, I realized there was a lot I could achieve. I use the knowledge I gained every day," Adonaï says.



"I came into the English, IT, and Leadership courses with apprehension. I had never had a computer or leadership class and my English classes in high school weren't very good. But now I'm improving, and I see just how useful these courses are in the life of a student and a professional. Just to do a homework assignment you need a mastery of computers, and if that assignment requires research, most of the best information is in English."

— Fasner Fils Aime | Civil Engineering '22



JOVANIE PADE

HELP ALUMNA | EDUCATION '19

Jovanie earned her degree in education from Quisqueya University thanks to a scholarship from HELP.

“Without HELP, my life would be so hard. HELP was a blessing for me. If I didn’t attend HELP, I wouldn’t have the same opportunities I have right now. Some of my friends from high school went to university and are working, but they don’t have the same salary as I do. It is difficult in Haiti to finish school, attend college and find a job.”

While attending university, Jovanie interned at HELP in the student affairs office. Today, she works as an Education and Outreach Manager for [Lakou Kajou](#), an educational multimedia platform represented by Fondation MWÉM in Haiti. She develops content, leads training for teachers and school directors, and manages relationships with partners.

“My HELP scholarship means that a weight was lifted from my family’s shoulders and they didn’t have to worry about me. And, because of this opportunity, I am able to contribute to future students through the alumni giving program.”

“This programming [career services] is unique to HELP. My internship exposed me to the realities of my career. It was life-changing.”

– Peterson Jean | Management '16 | HELP IT Manager

SMYRNE SAINTIL

HELP ALUMNA | LAW '07

When Smyrne was a child, her father fell ill and her mother struggled to support the family. They moved in with relatives, and Smyrne grew up with the support of her aunts, uncles, and cousins. Despite limited financial means, she finished high school at the top of her class, and credits her family for always supporting her schoolwork and pushing her to do better.

“My mom didn’t finish high school, she attended vocational school instead. My father completed high school, but he couldn’t afford university. I am the first person in my family to complete university,” Smyrne says. “My high school principal told me about HELP and encouraged me to apply for a scholarship. Without her, I never would have found the program and I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Now, after graduating in 2007, Smyrne gives back to her community through her work for HELP. She works as the Student Affairs Director, ensuring that all HELP students are able to make the most of their opportunities and succeed both at university and after graduation. “If I had gone to vocational school, I would only have been able to get a customer service job. With my degree from HELP, I have a successful career.”



LEARN AS OUR STUDENTS DO

Take a few minutes to try out this Language Week game from Deputy Academic Director, Nancy Audain.

What is a contranym?

Use the space provided to write the definition and list 10 contranyms

Let's GO!!

Con·tra·nym | /'kɑntrənim/ | noun

ENGLISH

Started in 2008, this 4-year curriculum sets students on a path to fluency by graduation. Going beyond vocabulary and grammar, HELP’s English as a second language program leads students through literary analysis, critical thinking, and creative expression all while perfecting their conversation and comprehension skills. In structured literature groups, students read and discuss books such as *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, and *Aya: Life in Yop City* by Marguerite Abouet and Clement Oubrerie. Josué Pierre (agro-economics '21) says, “I’m now able to do critical analyses on texts and books in English, which is allowing me to do academic research in English and access materials that aren’t readily available in other languages.”

The English department also hosts “Saturday Activities” like game nights, variety shows, and debates where students can practice English in a more casual social setting. English has proven to be vital with 74% of HELP alumni reporting English proficiency is a requirement for their job.

“English was very tough for me,” Sebacien Cater Cesar (management '15) recalls, “I even considered quitting the program because of it; but my English teacher and my advisor encouraged me to stick with it and gave me targeted help to succeed. Now, after five years in the workplace, I see just how important English proficiency is, perhaps even more important than my degree. I’ve never regretted all the effort I put in; HELP English and Leadership prepare you for the best positions in the Haitian job market. I was lucky to find HELP and to receive a great education. I am proud to be able to support myself and help my family and others around me.”



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

HOW
MANY DID
YOU GET?

LEADERSHIP & CIVIC EDUCATION



The cornerstone of HELP academics is the Citizenship & Leadership program. Developed by HELP Academic Director Meaghan Balzer, Citizenship & Leadership is a four-year curriculum. In the first two years, students develop their personal leadership abilities before learning how to use these skills to affect positive change in their community and professional circles. The program is rooted in Asset Based Community Development, which teaches leaders to see the assets that already exist within a community and use them to address a community's problems.

The program also covers topics like civics, human rights, and service, and includes several extra-curriculars such as the women's empowerment group and the student council.

To put into practice the theories learned in the classroom, all Citizenship & Leadership students participate in one of nine, student-run service projects. The projects cover a range of issues from the environment to human rights, literacy, and education. Students plan the group's objectives

and activities for the year, partner with community organizations, and report on their impact.

A 2017 independent assessment found that as a result of HELP service projects, HELP could count over 2,000 direct beneficiaries.

Josue Pierre (agro-economics '21) said "At HELP, I feel my classes are putting me on a path of innovation. They allow me to develop my sense of leadership and expand my relationships with others. Through my leadership class, I worked on the human rights service project. I was responsible for project logistics; we conducted surveys on student treatment at schools, organized film screenings and discussions on women's rights, and provided a training session to young people from our local partner, the TOYA Foundation which focuses on empowering girls. Overall, I've learned to be more involved and live HELP's mission of serving my community with professionalism."



"HELP Leadership is a continuous learning experience as we are encouraged to think about how we can build and affirm ourselves as the country's next generation of leaders. I look forward to every class and discussion, and I never leave empty-handed in terms of ideas and insights."

— Winifred Ulysse | Economics '20

RODNEY ROMAN

HELP ALUMNUS | INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING '19

When Rodney found out about HELP in the 9th grade, he became determined to win a scholarship. Although he had no access to books or materials beyond what was given to him at school, he did everything necessary to ensure he had the grades to apply for HELP, joining study groups with classmates who had more resources and devoting all his energy to schoolwork.

At HELP, Rodney had everything he needed to thrive and he quickly turned his attention to helping the next generation of students in his hometown of Lascahobas.

“There was no library when I was in high school, so in 2017 I created a team of HELP students to enter a young leaders contest sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince.”

The team put together a plan to build a community library in Lascahobas, they won a \$2,000 grant and then used the money to get matching funds.

“I talked to the director of my high school and he allocated a room for us and a donor contributed the first set of books, then we helped pay for the furniture,” Rodney recalls. Today, in addition to books and study space, the library offers tutoring for schoolchildren.

“Thanks to HELP, I learned English and leadership skills and made more connections. It was easier to get a job since I had assets to offer. HELP, its visibility, and its network are great resources. When you say you are a HELP student, people understand that you didn’t have a lot of opportunities but you have great potential, that you are smart and can accomplish great things. Today, I am an industrial engineer, working as a plant manager at NABATCO. I use the tools I learned in the leadership program to better manage my team so we can accomplish our goals. And with my salary and experience, I can now support my little brother in university.”



BEVERLY PIERRE
MANAGEMENT '15





STUDENT PROJECTS

HELP's holistic approach to scholarships and personal development provides students with the skills, experience, and confidence to forge their own path and make a difference in their communities. Often, students don't wait until graduation to get involved; their work shows that a better future is possible for Haiti, starting now.

Here are just three of the many projects launched by current HELP students.





STAEI TOUSSAINT

LAW '24

Stael plans to practice law and help other students pursue their education. Stael grew up in Carrefour, a densely populated suburb of Port-au-Prince. Stael's mother died six years ago and his father, who never completed secondary school, works as a tailor earning a monthly income of just \$40.

In this difficult environment, school was Stael's only outlet and he used academic competitions to stay engaged. Although he showed extraordinary abilities in secondary school, maintaining the highest average in his class, his future remained uncertain. When he heard about HELP, he says, "I immediately saw an opportunity. But when I arrived, I found much more than a scholarship."

Now in his third year at HELP, Stael has more than succeeded, with an overall average of 82 in the notoriously difficult law program.

Despite the turmoil of the last year, Stael remained engaged. "During the shutdown I took online courses in Criminal Law, Civil Procedure, Legal Methodology, Business Law, Administrative Law, Family Law, and Property Law. Reflecting on the chaos caused by political protests and Covid-19, Stael says HELP's values go far beyond their students.

"I grew to understand that HELP's pillar of "sacrifice" exists not only for the scholarship holders, but also for the administration and faculty. They made many efforts to help continue the program and without them the students would have felt isolated and lost. At HELP we learn to discover the way to success. Today the rest of my family is very proud of me, and they take me as an example," says Stael.

"So many young people deserve opportunities like the ones offered by HELP," he says.

DWA POU'M KONN DWA'M

DKD | THE RIGHT TO KNOW MY RIGHTS

DKD was founded by Jeffnie Jean Louis along with fellow HELP students, Schnaidine Nicolas, Mialove Barthelemy, and Lynn Virginie Denis (all law '22), to teach Haitian laws to HELP students and the public. The organization aims to expand citizens' knowledge of their legal rights and how to counter injustice. To accomplish this, the students organize trainings where attorneys, paralegals, and other legal professionals give talks and workshops on varying topics of law. The group also produces [YouTube videos](#) and brochures explaining citizens' rights as part of DKD's social media campaign.

Jeffnie was inspired to create DKD based on her experience with the law growing up. She says, "I used to witness many situations of abuse of authority as a teenager. Once, a family member was arrested and beaten up by the police for a crime someone else committed.

But what caught my attention at the time was the fact that it seemed normal to the population because they don't know what the legal process is in such a case."

The founders of DKD believe that for a more just society to exist in Haiti, people must know their rights and be able to advocate for themselves when faced with injustice. "Our goal is to make every citizen aware of the legal consequences of their everyday choices. We want everyone to know their rights and their duties as citizens," Jeffnie says.

The group is working on securing a permanent office, creating a website, and expanding their current programming across Haiti.





JEFFNIE JEAN LOUIS

LAW '22

Jeffnie is determined to help vulnerable women realize their legal rights. Jeffnie grew up in Carrefour with her mother, father, and older sister. Her father sold charcoal at the local market and was a loan officer in the community. When Jeffnie was 14, her father was robbed and lost all the assets from his business; a few days later he suffered a massive heart attack and passed away. It fell to Jeffnie's mother to make up the financial losses and repay the debt that resulted from the robbery. The family struggled to make ends meet.

It was just days after her father's death when a HELP recruitment team visited Jeffnie's school and she learned about the HELP scholarship program. She saw it as a sign from God and felt a wave of hope. She knew she could earn a scholarship to pursue her dreams.

In high school, Jeffnie excelled. When her teacher noticed her talent for English, he asked her to fill in as a substitute teacher at a private language institute, and within a few years Jeffnie was teaching all levels of English, ranging from preschool to adult students. She used the income that she earned from teaching to help support her mother and sister.

As she had hoped, this hard work and determination led to a HELP scholarship and Jeffnie is now a fifth-year law student at Quisqueya University. She remembers when her cousin was raped; the case was not pursued because the blame was placed on her innocent cousin, not the perpetrator. Since then, Jeffnie has always wanted to defend the disadvantaged and voiceless. She hasn't waited until graduation to get involved; she is one of the co-founders of the civil rights project DKD

which is already making its mark.

At HELP, Jeffnie most appreciates the nurturing environment. She says, "I never feel criticized or judged, instead I know the HELP staff, students, and alumni will always understand and support me." Once she completes her degree, Jeffnie hopes to work in private law and practice criminal law through DKD. She aspires to represent victims in sexual assault cases.

Jeffnie is one of ten students sponsored by the Haitian Timoun Foundation.

"Our goal is to make every citizen aware of the legal consequences of their everyday choices. We want everyone to know their rights and their duties as citizens."

**– Jeffnie Jean Louis | Law '22
DKD Co-Founder**

VALPLAST

[VALPLAST](#), founded by Nel-Ange St-Cyr (environmental management '21) along with fellow HELP students Sara Fleurinvil (environmental management '21) and Jonathan Paul (communication '20), works to protect the environment through recycling plastic waste.

VALPLAST addresses three needs in Haiti: better recycling practices, construction of roads, and the environmental education of young people in Haiti. "I first had the idea of setting up VALPLAST in 2018," Nel-Ange says. "But I was too afraid to start. I started recycling in my neighborhood in 2019, and I decided to make a plastic pavement prototype at home. I tried over ten times in a month. We melted the plastics and added sand, but we could never get a pavement. Until one day, we found a mixture that worked and it became our prototype."

In 2020, VALPLAST won the Impactathon: Join the Journey contest and received seed funding. Nel-Ange reached out to former HELP student, environmentalist, and SAKALA founder, Daniel Tilius to collaborate. When she introduced him to her idea, he immediately offered VALPLAST space at the SAKALA Community Center in Cité Soleil to scale up the project. The group is now improving the process of making pavers so that it is more efficient and sustainable.

"Working on VALPLAST taught me not to give up even if everything is difficult in Haiti, it helped me to cross the streets of Cité Soleil despite the insecurity to motivate the young people who are recycling. It taught me that nothing is easy, it is simply necessary to set a goal and work every day to achieve it."





NEL-ANGE ST-CYR

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT '21

Nel-Ange is part of the next generation of environmental activists, working to improve how Haiti manages natural resources and preserves the environment. Growing up, she was dismayed by the heaps of garbage she saw in the streets of Port-au-Prince. “Ever since I was little, I’ve felt a sense of responsibility,” says Nel-Ange. “Every time I walk along the road, all I see is trash, trash everywhere, that’s what’s motivating me.”

Nel-Ange arrived at HELP with the dream of becoming an environmentalist to address the multi-layered problems around her, including a lack of education on the importance of the environment and poor infrastructure. “One of the projects we are working on is to transform refuse into other products that can be used,” says Nel-Ange. She is also interested in projects for reforestation, particularly after the massive loss of trees following Hurricane Matthew. “Our environment has a lot of problems,” she says.

As an educated Haitian, and a protector of the environment, Nel-Ange feels an obligation to help change destructive habits, expand people’s knowledge, and motivate everyone to be better stewards of Haiti’s natural resources. “I want to become a leader,” she says. “I want to be a person who is engaged.”

“Ever since I was little, I’ve felt a sense of responsibility... I want to become a leader. I want to be a person who is engaged. Nothing is easy, it is simply necessary to set a goal and work every day to achieve it.”

— Nel-Ange St-Cyr | Environmental Management ‘21
VALPLAST Co-Founder

OUR DEEPEST THANKS

Thank you from the entire HELP community for your generous support, for believing in our students, and for believing in Haiti as we do. Your support makes these stories, and so many more, possible.



VANUELA FATAL
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING '22



FRANTZ HIMPREVIL
PSYCHOLOGY '23



ISABELLE JOSEPH
EDUCATION '16



JEAN KENSLE FIGARO
ECONOMICS '17



AUDYL CORGELAS
EDUCATION '18



DAANA ROC
COMPUTER SCIENCE '19



VERLANDA ALEXANDRE
PSYCHOLOGY '20



JEAN GARDY PHILISTIN
AGRONOMY '19



ANIOLA VIL
ACCOUNTING '11



PETERSON JEAN
COMPUTER SCIENCE '16



JACQUELINE ANDRÉ
MANAGEMENT '20



ROMEL BITO FENELUS
ECONOMICS '22



GUSLY JEAN-CHARLES
ECONOMICS '22



EMMANUEL RICHEMOND
MANAGEMENT '14



NISHINA PRÉVILON
EDUCATION '19



DIEUBON ALFRED

AGRONOMY '24

Dieubon wants to bring modern farming practices to his community. Born in Drapeau in rural north-east Haiti, Dieubon is the 10th of 11 children. With limited access to healthcare, five of his siblings died in childbirth.

“I was born in the most despised area of the country,” he says. When he was 2 years old, Dieubon’s family moved to Vallières so the children could attend school. Dieubon studied hard and earned a scholarship to high school. The support only covered tuition, though, so Dieubon raised chickens and crafted woodcarvings to sell on the streets before school to pay for books and other supplies.

When one of his older brothers moved to Port-au-Prince and met a HELP graduate, Dieubon found out about the scholarship program.

“It’s like I was going to die of thirst and all of a sudden I found a big glass of ice water,” he says. Now a third-year student, Dieubon is studying agronomy at Quisqueya University. Having grown up helping his dad farm their land, Dieubon hopes his degree will allow him to share his knowledge with other farmers.

“I will be able to cultivate the land better and educate people in my community,” he says.

Dieubon is also taking advantage of the HELP curricula. Before attending HELP, Dieubon knew nothing about computers but has already learned plenty from HELP’s IT course. He enjoys the debates in the leadership course and has made a lot of progress in his English.

“The leadership classes will help me to better understand

others and to actively participate in the development of my community, especially since my dream is to represent my district in parliament to develop this area that the government has so neglected,” he says.

For now, though, Dieubon is channeling his newfound skills and lifelong passion for the land, into a reforestation project in Vallières.

“[HELP’s] Leadership classes will help me to better understand others and to actively participate in the development of my community, especially since my dream is to represent my district in parliament, to develop this area that the government has so neglected.”

**– Dieubon Alfred | Agronomy ‘24
JAPEVAL Founder**

JARDIN PEPINERE DE VALLIÈRES

JAPEVAL | VALLIÈRES' NURSERY GARDEN

Founded by Dieubon Alfred (agronomy '24), JAPEVAL is a reforestation project that aims to strengthen the environment and restore the once lush forests of Vallières. Following rampant deforestation over the last several decades, Vallières now faces many issues related to environmental health, agriculture production, and community health.

JAPEVAL hopes that with a more robust tree population, Vallières will begin to rebuild a more sustainable ecosystem and reap long-term benefits.

"In April 2020, the town of Vallières was flooding and I began to think about how I could help to bring a solution to the region," Dieubon says.

"After much analysis and seeking input from friends, family, and residents of the region, I concluded that deforestation was the root cause of many of the area's problems: agricultural issues,

charcoal production preventing new tree growth, unsanitary water sources, and disappearing rivers."

To rebuild the tree cover, the students behind JAPEVAL are helping local growers plant trees throughout Vallières. Already, the nursery has distributed 10,000 seedlings of a broad variety of fruit and forest trees for residents to plant in their yards. But this is only the beginning of JAPEVAL's intended impact on the community.

Long-term, the students hope to reintroduce rabbit populations and diversify the types of plants they grow, adding pineapple trees and parasol trees.

"We want every child to be proud of growing up in Vallières," Dieubon says. "We aim to work elsewhere in Haiti in the future, but the project started in Vallières because Vallières is home. Through my work with JAPEVAL, I am a more engaged citizen in my community."



"Through my work with Jardin Pepinere de Vallières, I am a more engaged citizen in my community."

– Dieubon Alfred | Agronomy '24
JAPEVAL Founder



VALENCIA BRUTUS

HELP ALUMNA | MANAGEMENT '18

Valencia grew up in Cité Soleil. Often referred to as the poorest neighborhood in the Western Hemisphere, Cité Soleil is an impoverished and densely populated area in Port-au-Prince where few children can afford to finish secondary school. Despite the hardships of her early life, Valencia persevered in school and earned a HELP scholarship which opened up a whole new future for her.

Valencia is grateful for both the financial support and the life lessons that she learned through HELP, saying “One of the most important things that I’ve learned is the five pillars of HELP: respect, rigor, courage, sacrifice, and service. If you cultivate those values in your life, they will make you stand out from the crowd.”

Today, Valencia has a degree in management and is the HR Assistant at Rhum Barbancourt, a position that she found through HELP’s career services and internship program. As the first employee from Cité Soleil to work for Barbancourt, she sees herself as a role model for others that come from Cité Soleil.

“Now my neighbors want their children to go to school, study hard, and become someone who can contribute to our society. Education is the way to succeed,” Valencia says.

“One of the most important things that I’ve learned is the five pillars of HELP: respect, rigor, courage, sacrifice, and service. If you cultivate those values in your life, they will make you stand out from the crowd.”

– Valencia Brutus | Management '18

WINIFRED ULYSSE
ECONOMICS '21



A decorative border of tropical foliage, including palm leaves and hibiscus flowers, runs vertically along the left and right edges of the page. The background is a solid, deep blue color.

ALUMNI PROJECTS

At HELP, success is also measured by the growth and impact of alumni initiatives which provide evidence of the long-term ripple effects of each HELP scholarship. All over the country, HELP alumni are working for a better future. To date, there are over 30 businesses and organizations started by HELP graduates.

ACTIVEH

ACTION TOWARD INITIATIVES AND VOLUNTEERING FOR EDUCATION IN HAITI

In 2011, three HELP students were selected to attend the annual WISE (World Innovations Summit for Education) conference in Qatar. There, Anne-Martine Augustin (electrical engineering '14), Ronel Lefranc (agronomy '14), and Daphnée Charles (agro-economics '13) noticed that students from other countries had access to professional development opportunities and were more involved in their communities through formal service opportunities. The three students returned home with an idea. Combining their new observations with their experiences of HELP service projects, internships, and career services, the trio developed the plan. [ACTIVEH](#) would be a pan-university civic organization providing professional development, internships, and volunteer opportunities to Haiti's young people.

"Internships were not part of the culture here," says Ronel Lefranc. "Students would get out of school and apply for jobs that typically ask for two to five years of experience—and they don't have any. We're creating internship programs and some even lead to full-time employment."

"Many students come to Port-au-Prince for university, then go home. They don't build a peer network," explains co-founder Anne-

Martine Augustin. "ACTIVEH encourages network building through training programs and internships. And this network gives university graduates a sense that they can make professional connections—and stay in Haiti."

Today, ACTIVEH has over 500 members and is helping to create a culture of paid internships and giving back. It builds community ties as students invest in their futures, and businesses and organizations invest in workforce development and strengthen the local hiring pool.



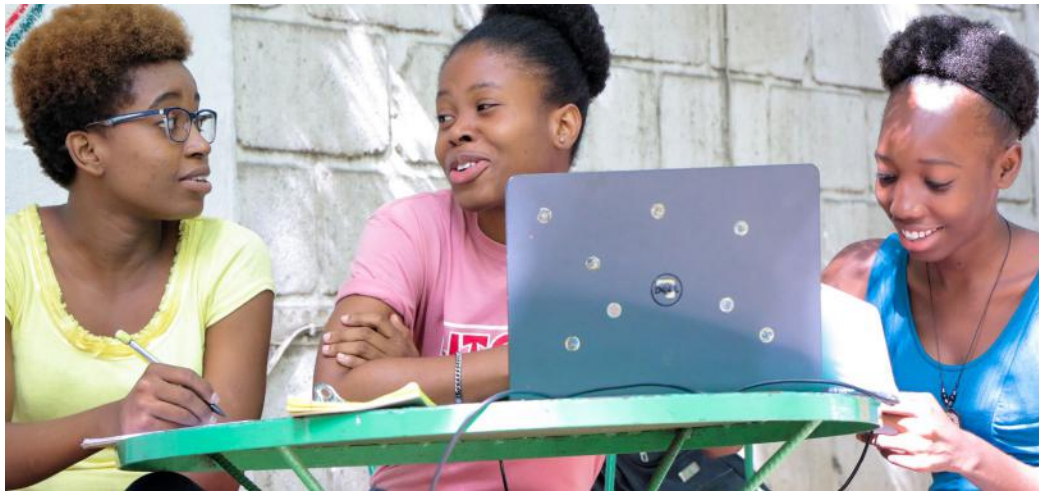
"More important than all the financial support, the biggest impact HELP had on me was to make me aware that I cannot succeed by myself. I must be engaged in my community. HELP grew and grew that little light inside of me, that desire to give back to my community."

— Anne-Martine Augustin | Electrical Engineering '14
Fulbright Scholar, Co-Founder of ACTIVEH

MAXIMAX

Founded in 2016, [MaxiMax](#) provides educational services to Haitian students, job seekers, and companies. Three HELP graduates, Marc R. Claude (accounting '08), Jerry Fevrin (accounting '11), and Jacques Kelly Durandisse (agro-economics '10) saw that many of their peers at university lacked the guidance and support to finish their thesis or take advantage of scholarships for master's degrees.

"We got the idea after we completed graduate studies abroad and returned to Haiti. We wanted to give back and saw that educational inequality was a key problem," says Marc. "We launched MaxiMax to help Haitian youth access and finance their post-secondary and post-



graduate education abroad in order to improve their career prospects and social utility upon returning home."

Named after the economic term "maximax criterion" which seeks to maximize payoffs, the group mentors students to overcome hurdles and maximize their potential. Services include support for undergraduate thesis (a graduation requirement in Haiti), applications, scholarships, entrance tests for international programs, and preparing for the job market.

"Our goal was to develop human capital, but we saw that there were few local educational institutions, banks, or government entities funding graduate studies abroad. To date, MaxiMax has helped secure \$1.2 million in scholarships for over 20 students who have studied all over the world from North America to Europe and Asia. Last year we had one client earn a Fulbright scholarship just as another was graduating with an MBA from the University of Oxford!"

MaxiMax has expanded to offer corporate support with consulting, team building, training seminars, and research and publication.

"As HELP alumni, we have worked to scale up some of the core values we originally learned during our time at HELP. We continue to promote academic excellence and values of community and leadership," explains Marc.

"Our goal was to develop human capital, but we saw that there were no local educational institutions, banks, or government entities funding graduate studies abroad. To date, MaxiMax has secured \$1.2 million in scholarships for 30+ mentees who have studied all over the world."

— Marc R. Claude. | Accounting '08
Co-Founder of MaxiMax

RONEL LEFRANC

HELP ALUMNUS | AGRONOMY '14

When Ronel was 13, he was awarded a scholarship to high school, but the school was in a different town.

“Three of us from my hometown received scholarships, so we rented a room together. That was the first time I lived away from my parents. I had to take care of everything – do my laundry, prepare my food. Usually, we would go to school without eating in the morning, and in the afternoon we’d go to a cafeteria to get a meal. I was very motivated by the idea that education was my only option to become someone. If you do well at school, you can become whatever you want. I knew that I had to work hard, even if I was hungry.”

This perseverance paid off, and Ronel was the first in his family to complete high school. With a scholarship from HELP, Ronel found the support he was missing in high school.

“For someone like me, who didn’t know anyone in Port-au-Prince, having the dorm was one of the best aspects of the HELP program. For many students that are coming from the countryside for university, housing is one of the biggest challenges.”

In HELP leadership classes, Ronel learned about Haiti’s history of brain drain.

“We talked about how over 80% of educated Haitian professionals are living abroad, so when you look at Haiti you see a real leadership crisis. We are the citizens of this country, and we are the ones who must take care of it. No one else is going to do it for us.”

This notion stuck with him, and the idea of giving back

became his passion. After graduating from Quisqueya University, he obtained a Master’s degree in Global Development and Social Justice at St. John’s University in New York.

Today, he works as the Program Director at the Partnership for Local Development, an NGO that works with locals on a holistic approach to community development. Ronel is also the CEO and co-founder of ACTIVEH, a pan-university civic organization that provides internships, professional development, and networking.

“These skills are not taught at the university, but are very important to succeed in the job market. This is where you can see the impact of my training at HELP. HELP is working with the brightest students, and ACTIVEH offers opportunities for any student who needs more support and development.”

“Over 80% of educated Haitian professionals are living abroad, so when you look at Haiti you see a real leadership crisis. We are the citizens of this country, and we are the ones who must take care of it.”

— Ronel Lefranc | Agronomy ‘14
CEO & Co-Founder of ACTIVEH





HAITI TECH SUMMIT

Deemed the “Davos of the Caribbean,” the [Haiti Tech Summit](#) is the largest in the region, bringing together thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, celebrities, and creatives to address humanity’s greatest challenges through tech and entrepreneurship. The Summit boasts over 200 international attendees, including Google, Paypal, and Facebook, and is a part of a 13-year initiative to turn Haiti into an international tech hub by 2030.

Daphnée Charles (agro-economics '13) collaborated with Haiti Tech Summit founder Christine Souffrant on the inaugural event in 2017 and is now the Summit’s Community Manager.

“I met Christine in 2010 when I was studying at Dartmouth as part of HELP’s study abroad program,” Daphnée says. “Christine was a fellow student there and we’ve been great friends ever since, working together on several projects. In 2017 we set a goal to host the largest tech summit in the Caribbean each year through 2030, hoping to change the narrative about Haiti and help position the country as a hub for a tech revolution.”

“In my role as Community Manager, I make sure local Haitians understand the importance of the Summit, that they participate and take full advantage of everything offered throughout the week. I also ensure that young entrepreneurs and university students are not prevented from attending due to ticketing requirements. In addition, I supervise the team of 50 volunteers and oversee the annual business pitch contest.”

The Haiti Tech Summit offers opportunities for networking and business development.

Daphnée explains, “The Summit has been eye-opening for many in Haiti. It has helped launch two incubators in Haiti, Banj and Alpha, the latter supported by the government and unveiled at the Summit by



the President of Haiti himself. The Ministry of Tourism also developed a partnership with AirBnB at the summit, and Google and Facebook have each launched programs in Haiti following the Summit.

Throughout the pandemic, I’ve seen so many people and institutions adapt quickly and move their work and programming to virtual spaces using some of the tools and technology we taught during Haiti Tech Summit sessions. When we first started, many said Haiti ‘wasn’t ready,’ but when the pandemic struck, it turned out that we had contributed to preparing Haiti to face the crisis. In this difficult year, I look back on this with a sense of pride.”

BESSY JEUDILUS

EDUCATION '23

Bessy is dedicated to improving education in Haiti. Since her integration into the HELP program, Bessy has grown to have a different perception of life. The Citizenship & Leadership and English courses offered by the program have helped her to collaborate with others and to live in a community.

“As soon as I arrived at HELP,” she says, “I felt in my bubble; no one judges you on your origins or financial situation. HELP has done a lot for me.”

Bessy grew up in Carrefour, a crowded neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, with her parents and three younger sisters. The family struggled to get by on her father’s monthly salary of \$50.

“Often my parents could not afford to pay my fees for high school, so there’s no need to tell you that university was not an option.”

Recognizing her potential, Bessy’s principal stepped in with a scholarship, allowing her to finish high school and apply to HELP. Bessy feels strongly that the education system in Haiti is in need of investment and reform. She believes she can contribute to changing the system by investing in teacher training.

“There are so many children who would be more fulfilled in school if they had good guidance. And teachers are not being properly trained, so there are accumulating gaps,” she says.

Bessy is working on the implementation of her teacher training project in pedagogy, civic engagement, and economic orientation, "Teach Lead and Change". It targets young teachers who have not received any basic training to teach in the Carrefour community. It aims to create a community of qualified, economically empowered, and entrepreneurial teacher-leaders who can guide their students toward fulfillment, growth and civic responsibility.



EDWINE ESTINFIL
EDUCATION '22

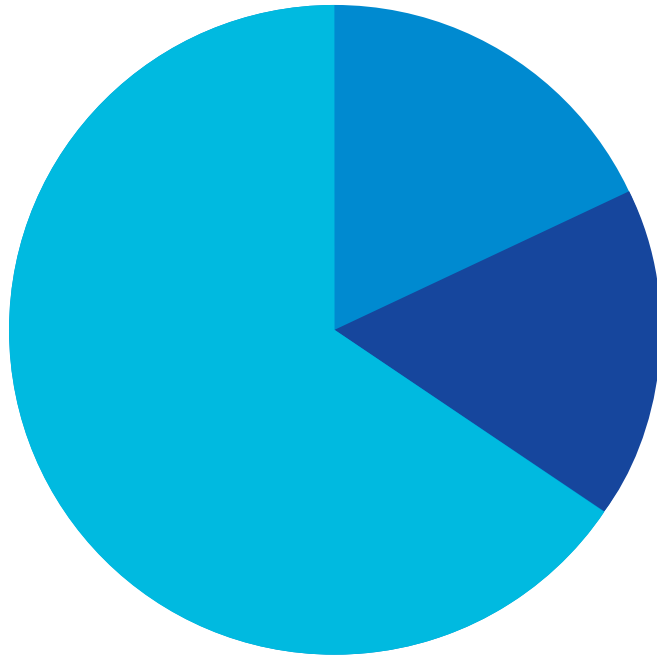


FINANCIALS

We are pleased to present
HELP's audited 2020
financial statement.
HELP's fiscal year runs from
August to July.

[Visit our website for details.](#)

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



Programs 66%
Fundraising 18%
Management 16%

ASSETS

Cash	As of 7/31/20 \$973,488
Unconditional Promises to Give	\$1,833,634
Employee Advances	\$158
Prepaid Expenses	\$81,979
Total Current Assets	\$2,889,259

Property and Equipment, Net	\$1,378,960
Unconditional Promises to Give, Non-current	\$1,209,341

TOTAL ASSETS **\$5,477,560**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$10,198
Accrued Liabilities	\$146,548
Current Portion of Note Payable	\$24,000
Paycheck Protection Program Loan	\$99,645
Total Current Liabilities	\$280,391

Note Payable Less Current Portion	\$138,000
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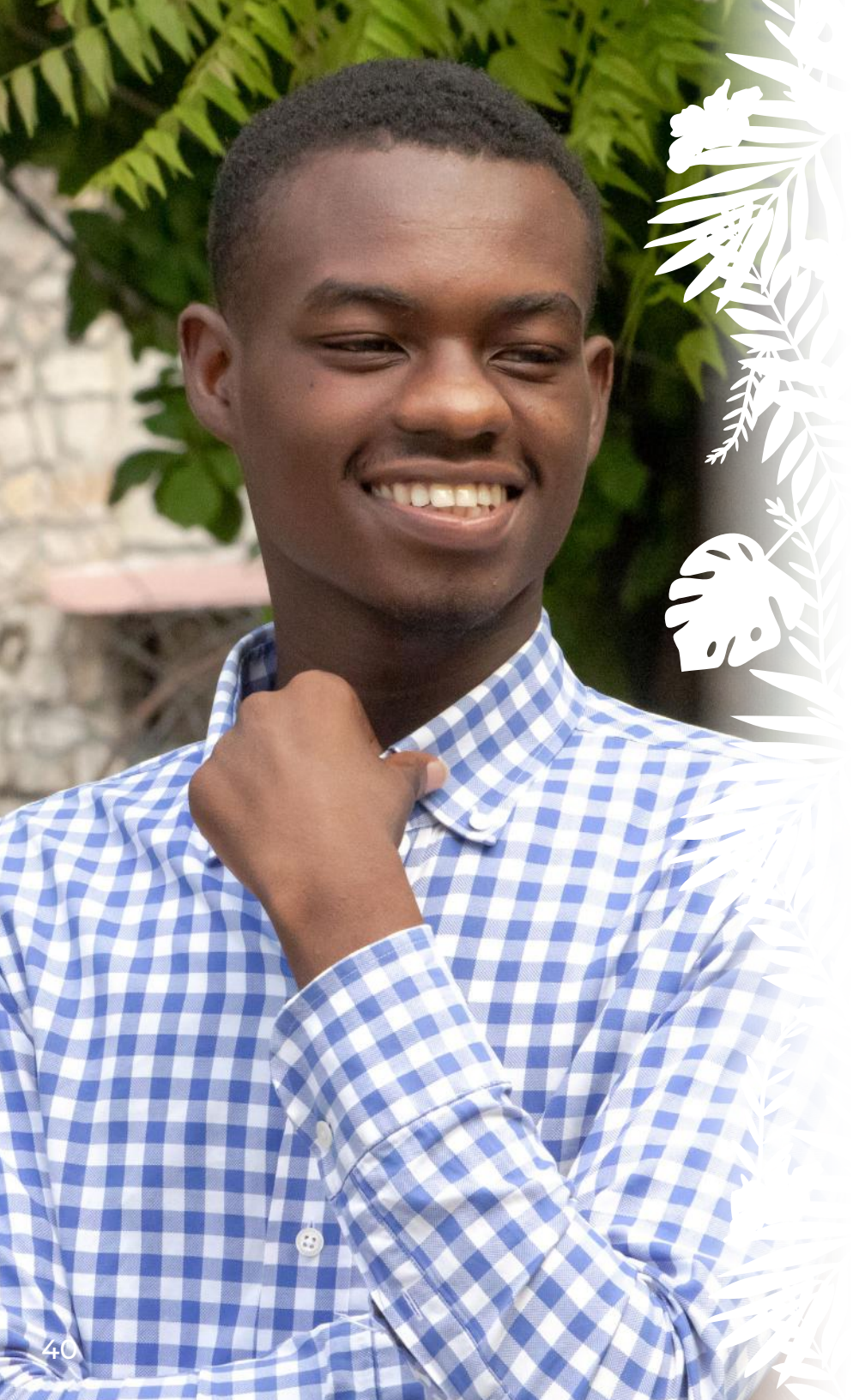
TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$418,391**

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,597,526
With Donor Restrictions	\$3,461,643

TOTAL NET ASSETS **\$5,059,169**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$5,477,560**



JUSTE-COEUR BEAUBRUN

ECONOMICS '24 | HELP STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT '21-22

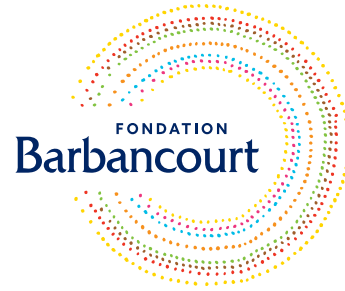
Juste-Coeur grew up in Mare-Rouge, a small northwestern town known for being the landing site of Christopher Columbus. His parents never completed high school, but they believed deeply in education. Frequently at the top of his class, Juste-Coeur received merit scholarships, allowing him to stay in school despite his family's financial hardships. When HELP recruiting staff visited his high school, Juste-Coeur saw a pathway to university that further strengthened his motivation to succeed.

Juste-Coeur's success wasn't limited to the classroom. At age 13 he volunteered for the local sports radio program as an assistant host, and just two years later was hired as sports director. There, he co-organized an inter-school soccer championship.

Now starting his third year with HELP, Juste-Coeur says HELP has reinforced his goals: working for a fairer Haiti and reducing the stigma surrounding poverty. Together with young people in his hometown, Juste-Coeur created the School of Leadership & Entrepreneurship Program (PLES) for local children, and helped coordinate the first Mole St. Nicolas youth project competition in July 2020. With fellow HELP students, Juste-Coeur recently created MyKolleg, a mobile app for job postings, a marketplace, and a fundraising tool. The MyKolleg app is available in the Google Play Store and has nearly 2,000 users. Looking back on the past year, Juste-Coeur says, "With the extraordinary support of HELP - my dorm, stipend, advisor and counseling sessions - my worries are reduced."

He added, "Although I struggled with the many changes during the pandemic, the support of my advisor and the HELP network allowed me to adapt and find the courage to persevere. In my free time, I was able to do constructive things for my community, including a radio broadcast to educate others about Covid-19 and share my knowledge about economics and leadership."

THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT HAITIAN PARTNERS



OUR DONORS

AUGUST 2019 - JULY 2020

KEY ♦ five years' consecutive giving | ♦♦ ten | ♦♦♦ fifteen

\$100,000 +

Anonymous Donor
Open Society Foundations ♦
W.K. Kellogg Foundation ♦♦

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Citi ♦
Dan McDonough, Jr.
Haitian Timoun Foundation ♦♦♦
Helen Bodian & Roger Alcaly ♦♦
Porticus
U.S. State Department ♦♦

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Artists for Haiti
Cross Catholic Outreach
Elizabeth & Frank Blake ♦♦
Fonds Nationale de l'Éducation

Joan and Pablo Sorensen
Reginald F. Lewis Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Adaptiv
Ansara Family Fund ♦
Bernard Fils-Aimé
BRANA/HEINEKEN ♦
Derek Jean-Baptiste ♦
Digicel Foundation ♦♦
Groupe Coles
Groupe Sogebank/Fondation Sogebank
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Leslie Sosnowski
Margaret & Matthew Balitsaris
Pilgrim Family Charitable Fund
Professional Security Services
Ruth & Julian Schroeder

Sara & Paul Beinstein ♦
Susan Wilson ♦
Susanne Larson
The Garner Foundation
The Trio Foundation
Will Reynolds

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bruce Ratner
Digicel Corporation
Gwenn Mayers & Steven Axelrod ♦
Joan & Alfred Goldberg
Openflows Community Technology Lab
Paré Family Foundation
Paul Martin
Pooja Bhatia & Sumit Agarwal
Ruth Hudson
Sirely Shaldjian

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

[Open Society Foundations](#) has been a critical partner for HELP since 2010, providing over \$800,000 in grant funding for student scholarships and civic engagement opportunities. In 2020, George Soros launched the visionary Open Society University Network to integrate teaching and research across higher education institutions worldwide. The network offers shared curricula, tele-education courses, joint degree programs, and rigorous research partnerships with the goal of bringing resources to the most vulnerable students, including refugees, incarcerated people, and

highly disadvantaged groups. HELP is the only member of the network in Haiti and the first non-university institution invited to join this prestigious group, which offers an exciting platform for future programming growth.

RHUM BARBANCOURT

In honor of the 25th anniversary of HELP, [Rhum Barbancourt](#) has generously committed to a five-year partnership to support higher education in Haiti. As one of Haiti's oldest companies and an iconic brand recognized worldwide, Rhum Barbancourt is supporting university

scholarships and the Thierry Gardère Admissions and Recruitment office at HELP, which is the first step for all applicants who aspire to receive a HELP scholarship. The partnership with Rhum Barbancourt dates back to 2007, when HELP received its first donation at the direction of its late CEO, Thierry Gardère. His daughter Delphine Gardère, the current CEO of the company, shares his dedication to educating Haiti's future workforce. The company not only provides financial support, it also employs HELP graduates, who in turn mentor others in a virtuous cycle of success.

St. George Church ♦
Theresa & Brad Joss
Université Quisqueya ♦

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Alston & Bird
Amy & Donald Hebb ♦
Amy King
Anonymous Donor
Antoinette Sebastian ♦♦
Arthur Pontau
Benjy Toussaint ('17)
Beverly Pierre ('17)
Brenda & Jason Atkins
Carolyn & Milton Frye ♦♦
Clifford Charles
Country Club Recovery LLC
Daana Roc ('19)
Daniel Woods
David Frankel ♦
Dorn Family Fund
E-Power
Ecole Supérieure d'Infotronique d'Haïti

Elizabeth & Alan Detmeister
Elizatha Antoine ('17)
Gladys Xiques
Greta Greathouse
Hilary & Peter McGhee
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Hope & John Comerford ♦♦
Hyon & Timothy O'Brien
Jane Chalmers & Frank Greve
Jean Gardy Philistin ('19)
Jean Kenslé Figaro ('17)
Jennifer MacCormack
Knox Tithing Fund
Landy Elismé ('18)
Linda Frey & Noah Goldberg
Margo & Anthony Viscusi
Marie Joséphine Brice ('17)
Mary Jean & Daniel McDonough ♦♦
Nathan Cummings Foundation ♦
Network for Good
Niamh Bohan
Paulo Cunha
Penelope Bender ♦

Penelope Clute
Peterson Jean ('16)
Pierre-Victory Saint-Louis ('14)
Priscilla Myrick & Thomas Cutillo ♦
Rebecca Jacques Leblanc ('16)
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
of South Florida
Sabina Dankwa
Sai Lun (Alan) Li ♦
Sandra Anojulu
Sonia & Roger Celestin ♦♦
Stephen Bohan ♦♦
Stephen Helpern
Sue & Robert Barger
Susan Wagner
Thomas Adams ♦
UBS Employees
Union Congregational Church
Vicki Friedberg & William Pollock

Up to \$1,000

Your contributions have made a difference in the lives of our students and the future of Haiti.

W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

For the last decade, the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#) has been a transformational partner for HELP, investing in program scale-up to expand education, internships, and leadership opportunities for promising yet economically disadvantaged students in Haiti. The Foundation has awarded over \$6 million to conduct programmatic strategic planning, support scholarships, provide practical work experiences for students, and invest in the construction of a new campus. Further, the Foundation provided critical seed funding that allowed three HELP alumni to establish a new association to

mobilize students' passion as a force of change. This organization, Action Toward Initiatives and Volunteering for Education in Haiti (ACTIVEH) is now a national effort that connects students with internships and volunteer opportunities in schools, local governments, and nonprofit organizations.

ARTISTS FOR HAITI

In the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake, actor Ben Stiller and art dealer David Zwirner saw an unmet need to address long-term recovery efforts in Haiti. The two men co-

founded [Artists for Haiti](#) to support humanitarian relief and recovery, with a special focus on health and education initiatives. The group raised over \$13.6 million for Haiti through an inaugural art auction at Christie's in New York – a record for a charity sale at the auction house. After Stiller and Zwirner visited in 2013, they launched an ongoing partnership that has provided nearly \$2 million to fund student scholarships, support essential program staff, and purchase the very first HELP property on Rue Garoute. Artists for Haiti has contributed to the education of 31 students to date, who have made contributions across all sectors of Haitian society.

KOREM: \$100,000 AND COUNTING

SUPPORT ME AND I WILL SUPPORT YOU

In 2009, HELP began creating an alumni contribution program so that HELP graduates could give back to the program. The idea was to create a sustainable funding source and increase the number of students HELP can educate. With support from IDB and Columbia University Business School, the incoming freshman class of 2010 signed contracts agreeing to donate a percentage of their income to HELP for a fixed number of years and KOREM was born. The KOREM name is derived from a creole phrase meaning “support me and I’ll support you” and it was coined by HELP student Cassandra Pierre (education ’18).

In 2015 the first of these KOREM students graduated, found work, and made their first KOREM donations. A little more than five years later, KOREM is no longer novel. All incoming freshmen sign KOREM contracts and contributions from alumni roll in each month. In February 2021, we surpassed \$100,000 in KOREM contributions and HELP Alumni are supporting two students’ scholarships through KOREM.

Of KOREM’s success, HELP Executive Director Conor Bohan said, “This remarkable achievement is a testament to the success of our alumni, and their commitment to sharing that success with the next

generation of Haitian students like them. This shared success is the essence of HELP.”

Rebecca Leblanc (management ’16), alumna and current HELP employee reflected, “I was accepted to HELP from the waiting list. I am happy to contribute under KOREM so another student from the waiting list can be offered a scholarship like me.”



“This remarkable achievement is a testament to the success of our alumni, and their commitment to sharing that success with the next generation of Haitian students like them. This shared success is the essence of HELP.”

— Conor Bohan
HELP Founder & Executive Director

KOREM | ALUMNI SUPPORTERS

2015-2021

Abiel Abdonel Devilme
Abischamma Grand Jean
Adler Barreau
Andjella Jean-Jacques
Audyl Corgelas
Béatrice Pierre
Benjy Toussaint
Beverly Pierre
Carline Maxime
Cherlan-Miche Philippe
Claudia Francis
Daana Roc
Daphning Pierre
David Joseph Jean
Didenique Jocelyn
Djimy Saintil
Ebillson Grand Jean
Ed Philippe Jean
Elizatha Antoine
Emmanuela Francois
Fabiola Rosier
Faldherbe Beaussejour
Féry Brunis
Floriane Hyppolite
Francine Paul
Frantzdy Mathieu Junior Thermitus
Frantzso Louis
Gerald Fils Paul
Ginel Dorleon
Godson Sylne
Isabelle Joseph
Ismaelle Pierre

Jacqueline Andre
James Pierre-Louis
Jean Davidson Blanc
Jean Gardy Philistin
Jean Kenslé Figaro
Jean Kerson Julmeus
Jean Marcelin Beau brun
Jean Widny Lordeus
Jephthé Samuel Guervil
John-Wesly Amy
Josué Celiscar
Jovanie Pade
Jupille Facile
Kathie Nephta Desir
Kervin Desland Templier
Ketsia Michel
Landy Elisme
Leonardo Virgo Charles
Lescarmel Durand
Louvemise Senatus
Lucien Ludrenson St-Phar
Ludmille Lyvert
Marie Joséphine Brice
Max Junior Jean
Melissa Guerrier
Michaelle Duprena
Mischena Pierre-Louis
Nelson Exil
Nephtaly Andoney Pierre-Louis
Nikelson Michel
Nikenson Romage
Nishina Previlon

Nocheca St-Clair
Obed Maurice
Peterson Jean
Pierre Charles Plaisir
Pierre Richard Etienne
Pierre Victory Saint-Louis
Rebecca Jacques Leblanc
Régine Lubin
Renaud Bousto Cenatus
Rodney Roman
Ronick Romulus
Rose Lubnie Kenania Piverger
Roseline Duclair
Rosemyfa Moreau
Rosy James Jhonson Antoine
Sébacien Cater César
Snaicah Sainval
Steeve Maxilien
Stéphanie Rubin
Sterline Thomas
Suze Midrène Moise
Valencia Prisca Brutus
Valery Adison Delice
Verlanda Alexandre
Vilrisson Fontil
Weetherson Pierre
Winifred Ulysse
Yanchie Gaspard
Yveline Julme
Yvelt Calixte





NIKELSON MICHEL

HELP ALUMNUS | ECONOMICS '19

From the moment Nikelson set foot on the HELP campus for orientation in 2015, a world of possibilities opened up for him.

“I saw all the people working in different fields, and it was a light bulb moment. It inspired me and I saw that I could continue helping people and accomplish my professional goals. I was always told that I should become a priest, but at HELP I saw that I could serve the world in even bigger ways.”

While HELP may have changed Nikelson’s vision of the future, it is his mother who provided the motivation and determination to succeed in primary and secondary school. “Growing up, life was not easy,” Nikelson says. Raised by a single mother, who was an orphan, the family struggled financially. Things got markedly worse when Nikelson’s father arrived and took him and his sister to the remote island of La Gonâve. There, the children were largely neglected and did not attend school for several years until their mother was able to bring them home.

“My mother is my model, my inspiration to become better, to become better than my father, better than my environment. Growing up, when everyone else wanted to play soccer, I wanted to be at the library. My mom saw that and supported me. And the best way to give back to her was to be the best in the class. Each grade I got was a gift for my mom.”

At HELP, Nikelson found a new kind of support. “In the dorm I got much more than a room. The other students became a family, and I got the opportunity to build a

network - it’s priceless.” Nikelson also points to the library and career services department as key elements of his time at HELP.

“I did three or four internships while I was at HELP that allowed me to be a more competitive candidate when I graduated. Because of my internships, I was able to apply for jobs right after graduation.”

Today, Nikelson is a research economist at CHRAD in Port-au-Prince where he works on business plans for local enterprises and consults with NGOs on implementing monitoring and evaluation plans for their projects. He still uses the skills he learned in his HELP classes.

“The HELP IT course taught me Microsoft Excel, which I use every day. And I find myself using a lot of the tools I learned in leadership class as I navigate the interpersonal relationships at work.”

Jean Lucien Ligondé, Director of CHRAD, was so pleased with Nikelson’s work that he spontaneously wrote a check to HELP.

“HELP has given us one of the best employees I’ve ever had,” he says. “So I had to contribute, to say ‘thank you for educating and training Nikelson’. All Haitian companies should do the same, because it is businesses who benefit from having quality employees.”

To date, there have been over 30 businesses and organizations started by HELP graduates and countless more are reaping the same rewards as CHRAD.

HAITIAN TIMOUN FOUNDATION

AN INTERVIEW CELEBRATING 18 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

The below are excerpts from an interview by HELP student **Jeffnie Jean Louis (law '22)** with **Rick Barger, the founder of the [Haitian Timoun Foundation](#), and Conor Bohan, Founder and Executive Director of HELP.**

Jeffnie Jean Louis: Pastor Rick, I would like to know more about your first trip to Haiti. How was it? Why were you there?

Rick Barger: My first trip there was in 1997. Our son, Rob, was in the Peace Corps, which had just started back up in Haiti and he was stationed in Jacmel. My wife, my daughter, and I went to Haiti to visit him, and I fell in love with the country. I encountered so many courageous, wonderful, joyful, talented people confronted by circumstances that just weren't fair. Out of that experience, the Haitian Timoun Foundation (HTF) emerged.

Jeffnie: It is a beautiful city. My parents are from Jacmel. From 1997 to now in 2021, have your motivations changed? Or do you still feel the same commitment to improving Haiti?

Rick: No, my motivation hasn't changed at all. If anything, it's doubled down. I continue to be called to help combat the lack of justice in Haiti. After 1997, my wife and I have tried to live a life that is good to the planet and that is

a life of justice and generosity. We always ask ourselves what resources that we have can be given away to others to promote justice? When I have to sit down and think of things that I would give up, the last thing before my family is my relationship with Haiti.

Jeffnie: That is touching. Speaking of your relationship with HELP, I would like to know how you found out about each other's work.

Rick: Conor and our son Rob were colleagues when they were in Haiti. As we were getting HTF set up with its values and mission, we decided we wanted HTF to be a grassroots organization. Rob told us about Conor, and we visited HELP for the first time in 2003 when it was just a couple of tables. We had a good meeting and then we walked out, and I said, "This guy thinks he'll never see us again. He probably has people come through all the time blowing smoke." Everyone was moved by what we'd seen, and we knew we needed to go back and stand by HELP. So we went back and pulled out \$20,000 and sent it to HELP.

The next visit my wife went with me, and we met a group of students. We sat in the HELP headquarters at the time in a circle with a group of students and they were looking at

us very suspiciously. They asked us, "What's in this for you? Why are you doing this?" And my wife said, "We just want to hear your dreams and help your dreams become reality."

Conor: We owe this entire relationship to Rick's son Rob. He was a good friend of mine in the early days in Haiti and he was the one who connected us. The entire relationship is due to his introduction.

We did a presentation for HTF for their annual meeting in early October of 2018 and in preparation for that meeting we ran some numbers. We found out that HTF had donated over one million dollars to HELP over the course of the relationship. But the thing for me that has always been more impressive than the money is the presence that HTF has. HTF has brought between 1,500 and 1,600 people to Haiti for the first time who then become supporters of organizations like HELP.

Jeffnie: These are extraordinary numbers.

Rick: My mission is to see that those in Haiti have the opportunities that they should have, but don't because of a lot of injustice. We say that 90 minutes from Miami is a scandal of our shared humanity, that we have a country without the same resources and

opportunities. I have led graduate courses of theological students that I've brought to Haiti, and I tell them, "At the end of this there are two things I'll be happy if you get out of this. The first one is, if you were born in the United States, in the game of life on this planet you were born on third base with a 50-foot lead toward home. The second one is, to whom much is given, much is expected. So, what are you going to do with this when you get back?"

Jeffnie: Mr. Bohan, what do you remember from HTF's first visit to HELP?

Conor: Garry Delice says we ran HELP in the early years out of our pockets and desk drawers. HELP started informally in 1996 and we hired our first employee in 2003. Very shortly after we rented our first HELP Center, HTF came.

For the first visit, Rick brought 6 people. I remember the enthusiasm of HTF, which was apparent from the beginning. After that first trip, two things happened. HELP continued to develop in a big way and HTF continued to develop in a big way. Over the years, we have grown together.

Jeffnie: What other events early on in the relationship helped it to succeed?

Rick: In 2012 we had two HELP students come to the United States and do a tour to meet people and generate interest. Supporting university students does not have the same emotional pull as supporting young schoolchildren. The success of the tour had

about what you have accomplished?

Rick: We're proudest of the students' successes after graduating from the program. The entire track record of HELP; the impact that education and economic development have on people's lives. I'm very proud of what HELP has become and for playing a part in making that happen.

Conor: For me what stands out in the history of the relationship is the people of HTF, their generosity, and the relationships they've developed with HELP staff and students.

Jeffnie: Any final words as we mark HELP's 25th Anniversary?

Rick: We look for things to get better so we can resume our trips to Haiti, and we congratulate you on where you are. It's only just the beginning of what's to come.

Jeffnie: I want to let you know how grateful I am for this partnership that I am a beneficiary of. You have accomplished so many great things, and I hope there will be more and more great things to come!



nothing to do with anything HTF did; it had everything to do with the students' stories.

Jeffnie: What stands out to you about this partnership? What are you the proudest of

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JACQUES KELLY DURANDISSE

HELP ALUMNUS | NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT '10

Jacques grew up in lush Léogâne with his mother and sister. Jacques' mother worked hard as a domestic cook to give her children more opportunities than she had.

"If I failed, it was like my mother failed. So, I didn't feel I had the right to fail. I had to push hard to succeed through education," he said.

"Before joining HELP, life was challenging," Jacques says. "You get home from school and you don't find food. Your most basic needs aren't fulfilled. I think these were the daily challenges of the majority of the HELP students growing up. We also didn't have power on a regular basis. The HELP scholarship made life immediately easier. It covered all my daily needs like food, laundry, housing, supplies, and books, and I was better prepared to address academic challenges once my basic needs were met. It was a privilege the other students at my university didn't have."

With this weight lifted, Jacques threw himself into his coursework, spending long hours in the HELP library and computer lab. His work paid off: Jacques was consistently ranked in the top five students in his class of over 100 students throughout his university career.

Today, Jacques works as a procurement specialist for the local Water Department and together with his sister, Jacques is now able to support his mother in her retirement.

He is also the co-founder of the consulting firm MaxiMax and a honey production company in Léogâne that teaches the community how to harness the environment for sustainable economic and ecological development. In 2018, the project won a \$10,000 grant from Digicel's "Working Together for Change" initiative.

HAITI ADVISORY BOARD

New in 2021, HELP's Haiti Advisory Board is a collection of committed and active volunteers who have demonstrated strong support for HELP's mission and methods. The Haiti Advisory Board provides advice and counsel to strengthen the program.

It also works to deepen HELP's local connections, including with business, civic, and media organizations, to create more opportunities for HELP's students and alumni.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Darline Alexis

Darline is a professor and Secretary-General at Quisqueya University.

Marc Alain Boucicault

Marc-Alain is the founder of Banj, an entrepreneurship hub in Port-au-Prince.

Nathalie Brunet

Nathalie is an author and entrepreneur with expertise in communications, business operations, and start-ups.

Stephan Coles

Stephan is the co-CEO of Groupe Coles, a leading private industry and commerce conglomerate, employing over 3,500 people across Haiti.

Fabiola Coupet

Fabiola is a writer, storyteller, and the host of a radio talk show, "BibiNètalkole," in Port-au-Prince.

Carel Pedre

Carel is a journalist, producer, philanthropist, and a key figure in Haiti's entertainment industry where he is best known as host of Radio One's Carel in the Morning.

Kesner Pharel

Kesner is a prominent Haitian economist and the CEO of consulting firm Group Croissance, which he founded in 1994.

Elice Orest (industrial engineering '14)

Elice is a graduate of HELP and president of the HELP Alumni Association. He is a Plant Manager at Pacific Foods in Haiti.

Ambassador Danielle Saint Lôt

Danielle is the founder of the Danielle Saint-Lôt Haiti Women's Foundation and currently serves as Haitian Ambassador for Women's Empowerment.

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THANK YOU

On behalf of our students, staff, board and the entire HELP family - thank you for 25 years of growth and impact. It is only through your loyal support that these stories are made possible.

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