



# AYITI

## COMMUNITY TRUST

B a t i   Y o n   A y i t i   P i   D j a m

[www.ayiticommunitytrust.org](http://www.ayiticommunitytrust.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Haiti's First Endowed Community Foundation Fund Established

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2018- ***“Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.”*** Determined to move Haiti from aid to development, a group of Haitians in Haiti and the diaspora along with some friends of Haiti, came together to establish the first grant making community foundation in the country.

The launch of ACT was announced this morning at an information session in Port-au-Prince with international donors hosted by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) is the country's first endowed fund, building on Haiti's assets and driven by Haitians' needs locally while providing resources for sustainable solutions. ACT is registered in Haiti and operates as a grant-making community foundation. Registered as 501(c)(3) organization in the U.S., ACT has partnered with The Miami Foundation, the largest community foundation serving Miami for more than 50 years. The fund will provide sustainable support to Haitian organizations in Haiti within three interconnected pillars: environment, civic education, and entrepreneurship.

The Ayiti Community Trust is built on thoughtful and responsible leadership, transparency, and accountability. ACT is governed by a robust board, made up of 25 prominent Haitians and friends residing in Haiti, the United States, and Canada.

With its initial focus on sustainable solutions for Haiti's water challenges, the Ayiti Community Trust believes in innovative, integrated, and sustainable models to improve water availability, accessibility, distribution, and environmental renewal and protection. ACT believes in partnerships and in leveraging the resources from the best organizations to avoid duplication, benefit from economies of scale, and achieve measurable results with long-term impacts.

As stated by the Chairman of the Board, Ghislain Gourage, Jr. **“Haiti's status quo is not acceptable. With ACT we can begin to shift the position of philanthropic power.”** Together we will pursue a sustainable future for Haiti. To learn more information about the organization, visit <http://www.ayiticommunitytrust.org>.

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# AYITI's First Community Foundation Endowed Fund

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# BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AYITI



## **Environment**

Effective integrated management of Haiti's precious natural resources creates conditions that strengthen climate resiliency, improve livelihood opportunities, and raise long-term economic prospect for generations of Haitians.



## **Entrepreneurship**

Increased access to tools and knowledge for entrepreneurship that support a lucrative livelihood, creates employment, and contributes to sustainable economic growth in local community.



## **Civic Education**

Widespread civic education among Haitians, grounded in historical and culture values, would positively impact the quality of life in the community while building a robust civil society.

# INITIAL FOCUS: WATER



## SOLUTIONS

The Ayiti Community Trust believes in innovative, integrated and sustainable models, to improve water availability, accessibility/distribution, and environmental renewal/protection.

**Challenge:**  
Inadequate government investment in water and sanitation infrastructure

**Challenge:**  
Inability of water utility agencies to provide safe drinking water or even water for basic use.

**Challenge:**  
Increasingly depleted resources due to deforestation and climate change

**Challenge:**  
Lack of effective integrated management of this precious natural resource.

# EXECUTIVE TEAM



**Ghislain Gouraige, Jr.**

Haitian-American, **Board Chair**

Ghislain works at UBS Financial Services Inc. as a Private Wealth Advisor to High Net Worth Families, Endowments and Foundations. He has 25 years of experience in the financial services industry and has worked with Merrill Lynch, and Citibank respectively.



**Michele King Soffer**

Haitian-American, **Board Vice-Chair**

Michele is currently one of the directors of New Hope 4 Haiti (NH4H) in Les Cayes, Haiti. In addition to NH4H, Michele sits on the board of 3to5days.org, a non-profit organization focused on providing sustainable solutions for clean water.



**Dr. Guerda Nicolas**

Haitian-American, **Board Secretary**

Born and raised in Haiti, Dr. Nicolas is a Clinical Community Psychologist, currently working as a Professor at University of Miami, School of Education and Human Development. She has been implementing a Haitian Mental Health Program in various regions of Haiti for the past 23 years.



**Pierre Jonas Imbert**

Haitian, **Founding CEO**

Born, raised and educated in Haiti, Pierre has served as Senior Advisor for Barr Foundation's Global program in Haiti. Prior, he was appointed Deputy Director for the California's Department of Social Services. Before his years in state government, Pierre was Executive Director of the Boston Haitian Multi-Services. He brings unique expertise to ACT team and is poised to leverage two decades of executive experience in not-for-profit, philanthropy and government to ACT.



**Rebecca Mandelman**

**Vice President for Strategy and Engagement at The Miami Foundation**

Rebecca serves in a cross-functional capacity, directing development efforts, managing internal and external engagement strategies and guiding the public affairs and communications efforts. Prior, she served as deputy executive director of the Americas Business Council Foundation.

# BOARD MEMBERS



**Dannie Augustin**  
Haitian-American

Dannie is owner of Nothing Bundt Cakes, a gourmet bakery spreading its wholesome goodness to Plantation/Weston, Florida. Prior to launching in 2017, she served for five years as Quality Project Manager at NextEra Energy, managing strategic initiatives across the corporation.



**Sarah Bouchereau**  
Haitian-American

Sarah currently serves as Chief of Staff for BME Community, a network of community-builders inspired by black men. As a key member of the Operations Team, Sarah helps to create and manage BME's relationships with champions in business, philanthropy, and media.



**Hannah Brandes**  
Friend of Haiti

Patricia (Hannah) has led philanthropic entities for more than twenty years, including the largest private foundation in New England. Her experience in systems thinking, strategy, evaluation, network design, and facilitation underpin her passion for climate, social justice & global equity.



**Oswald J. Brandt II**  
Haitian

Born in Port-Au-Prince, Oswald held senior positions in a diversified group of companies with interests in: coffee export, product manufacturing, commercial banking, and wholesale distribution of automobile spare parts. Oswald have been a long time Rotarian and interest in mental health.



**Dominique F. Carvonis**  
Haitian

Dominique is an entrepreneur and consultant with over 35 years of hospitality experience in multicultural environments. She is the President of the Board of Directors of MAC S.A., an investment and development group in Haiti, and is passionate about promoting destination programs in emerging markets.



**Pascale Charlot, J.D.**  
Haitian

Pascale is the Dean of The Honors College, at Miami Dade College providing vision, leadership, and strategic direction to its unique academic program which is a pipeline to the best institutions in the United States. Pascale also serves on the Wolfson Campus Executive Cabinet where she works collaboratively to



**Wendy Francois**  
Haitian-American

Wendy is a native of Miami and graduate of Columbia University. She is a transactional attorney and lover of arts and culture. As a Haitian American she looks forward to contributing to the establishment of long-term giving in Haiti.



**Patrick Glemaud**  
Haitian-American

Patrick is an entrepreneurial, business-minded lawyer with over 20 years' experience in corporate commercial transactions, mergers and acquisitions in the Oil, Gas and Mining, and Mineral Extraction sectors. He serves as in-house counsel to U.S. companies and Senior Counsel to the Department of Justice Canada (DOJC).



**Beatrice Dalencour-Turnier**  
Haitian

Beatrice is a Psychologist and Counselor who is passionate about Haiti, psychology, and women rights. In 2013 she opened a center for personal and professional development: KasiK, where she accompanies peoples, institutions and communities in the development of their psycho-social and psycho-emotional competences, aptitudes and capacities.



**Natacha Janac**  
Haitian-American

Natacha is currently a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at Albizu University. She serves as the Chair of the policy council of Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Service Head Start/Early Head Start program. She is a member of the (CAA) Community Action Agency board of directors.



**David Lawrence Jr.**  
Friend of Haiti

In 1999, David retired as publisher of The Miami Herald after a 35-year journalism career to work in the area of early childhood development and readiness. He currently chairs The Children's Movement of Florida and is the founding chair of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. He is also the Co-founder of Haiti Tec.

# BOARD MEMBERS



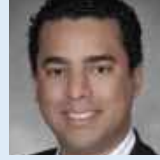
**Roman Lyskowski**  
Friend of Haiti

Roman worked as a photographer and photo editor at the Miami Herald for over 25 years, where he was Director of Photography for the last six years prior to retirement. Roman works on freelance photo projects and with Rise Up Florida!, a non-partisan and progressive grassroots movement.



**Joanne Maislin**  
Friend of Haiti

Joanne "Jojo" is the President of C432, a boutique management-consulting firm that helps institutions, companies and individuals make a meaningful difference through private sector investment, job creation, capacity building and community engagement in new markets in Haiti.



**Patrick F. Martin**  
Haitian-American

Patrick is a litigation lawyer who focuses his practice on employment law matters, representing employers of all sizes before state and federal courts, as well as administrative agencies such as the Department of Labor, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Florida Commission on Human Relations.



**Commissioner Jean Monestime**  
Haitian-American

Commissioner Monestime was elected as Miami Dade's District 2 commissioner for two consecutive terms since 2010 and served as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners for two years. He is currently President of JEMO Realty, and JEMO Enterprises, LLC,



**Maryse Pénette-Kedar**  
Haitian

MPK has made outstanding contributions in the corporate, government and education sectors in Haiti. She is also the President and Co-founder of Fondation Progres et Development (PRODEV), a Haitian led organization committed to education.



**Bennett Rathbun**  
Friend of Haiti

Bennett Rathbun is Co-Founder and Executive Director for Hope on a String, a growing nonprofit organization that works to empower youth and communities in Haiti through music and the arts. In addition, Bennett is an advisor and investment committee member for



**Richard J. Roy**  
Haitian-American

Richard is Founder of an investment firm based in Miami, Florida. He received his master's in Business Administration from Columbia University. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Baptist Health South Florida.



**Abner Septembre**  
Haitian

Abner is a Sociologist, and received his Masters at the University of Ottawa. He is a founding member of the Association des Paysans de Vallue and an expert in community development and management. Enhancing the lives of those living in rural mountain communities is the central focus of his work at Vallue.



**Trabian Shorters**  
Friend of Haiti

Trabian is co-author of New York Times bestseller "REACH: 40 Black Men Speak on Living, Leading and Succeeding" and founding Chief Executive Officer of BMe Community, a national network of all races and genders committed to building more caring and prosperous communities.



**Jean-Pierre Trouillot**  
Haitian-American

Jean-Pierre Trouillot leads KPMG's deal advisory practice in Florida, where he has more than 25 years of experience providing business consulting to clients in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, divestitures and public offerings, domestically and abroad.



**Jonathan Vilma**  
Haitian-American

Jonathan is an entrepreneur, investor and media personality. He is a former American football linebacker and Super Bowl Champion. He founded the Jonathan Vilma Foundation in 2010, which funds and supports the Academy for Peace and Justice in Haiti.





## **Matt Anderson**

**Vice President and Private Client Associate  
U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management**

Matt Anderson is a Vice president and Private Client Associate at U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management. In this role, he is responsible for connecting high net worth individuals and institutions to solutions that can help reach their financial goals. His approach combines the client experience of a boutique private bank with access to extensive resources, including traditional, specialty asset, alternative, and capital market investment solutions as well as customized credit and banking offerings. Matt is *on the board* of the United Way of Miami-Dade, Seraphic Fire, the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Foundation, MCCJ, and the Ayiti Community Trust. In addition, he is a member of the Posse Foundation Leadership Circle, the Florida International University President's Council, the Lowe Art Museum Public Outreach Committee, and the Wolfsonian-FIU Directors Circle.



Matt graduated from the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst with a Marketing degree in 2007. *Matt's awards include: The Education Fund Public School Achievement Award, Haitian Chamber of Commerce Top 20 Under 40, Miami Today Unsung Hero, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Rising Star, and the FIU Center for Leadership Emerging Leader Award*

## **Samuel Ludington**

**Deputy Director, Program Development  
Children of Inmates, Inc.**

Inmates, Inc. a Miami-based nonprofit organization which provides comprehensive care coordination and family reunification opportunities for children in the state of Florida impacted by parental incarceration. In this capacity, Sam oversees all day to day operations, program development, government relations and statewide expansion efforts for the organization. In his four years with the organization, Sam has helped to lead the organization's statewide expansion with an investment from the Florida State Legislature. Sam is an active member of his home church where he began as a student in Kindergarten, Holy Cross Lutheran in North Miami, serving on the Board of Elders, Young Adults Ministry Leader and Vice President of the Governing Board. He is a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois with a Bachelors of Economics and completed a Master's in Biomedical Sciences from Barry University. Sam is a graduate of the Leadership Miami Program for emerging leaders in Miami, Leadership Florida's Connect Florida for the top 40 under 40 in the state and is currently in the Miami Foundation's Miami Fellows, an intensive leadership development program for the sixteen (16) most promising leaders in Miami. The son of a Haitian-American single mother, Sam is extremely proud of his Haitian heritage and gone to Haiti every December for fifteen (15) years to coordinate an annual Christmas Party for children in Carrefour, Haiti. He is currently a lay representative of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors. Recently married, one of Sam's greatest joys is being husband to his wife Stefanie.



# A TRUSTED COMMUNITY

**An endowed  
fund for Haiti**

The **Ayiti Community Trust** offers a centralized hub for Haiti's community joining together to support Haitian-led organizations as they improve livelihoods, protect the environment, and encourage a sense of responsibility for the community.

**Building a  
legacy for future  
generations**

**Dedicated  
sustainable &  
long-term  
redevelopment**

**Partnering with  
a community of  
experts**



The Adventures of  
**JUNIOR & RUBBLE**

ISSUE 1, 2 AVAILABLE NOW!  
ISSUE 3 COMING SOON!



**AYITI**  
COMMUNITY TRUST  
Dèl Yon Ayiti Pi Djam



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 GET IT ON Google Play   
Available at  **amazon**

**PREMYE FON  
DIRAB POU AYITI**

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