



AYITI

COMMUNITY TRUST

Building a Sustainable Ayiti

2020 Annual Report





Building a Sustainable Ayiti



Cap-Haïtien, Ayiti

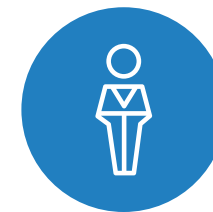
ACT Highlights 2020



ACT Awards 2020
Grantee: Lakou Kajou



Commemorated Bois Caïman with Ayiti Connect historical event



Dr. Guerda Nicolas, PhD, appointed as President



Established the Dessalines Society, honoring philanthropists



Hosted First Virtual Fundraiser, Nou La Pi Rèd Soiree, Honoring Jan Jak Dessalines



ACT welcomes New Chief Operating Officer & expands staffing



A Message From Our Chairman

As we reflect on the past year, we are overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude to all of the members of the Ayiti Community Trust (ACT) Family. 2020 was unlike any other year. The pandemic that has yet to leave us has changed so many facets of how we live, work, and interact with each other. What has not changed was the commitment shown by our donors, volunteers, Friends of ACT, and our board members. Collectively, you have demonstrated a level of resilience, determination, and a will to support ACT and its mission that is nothing short of amazing.

As with so many non-profit organizations, the lockdown affected our activities in ways that were unanticipated—but we successfully pivoted. We kept to the calendar of events and meetings, moving them to online platforms. Our very first online fundraising gala, Nou la Pi Red: Still we Rise, reached tens of thousands of people in the US, Haiti, Europe, South America, Australia, Asia, and Africa, thus expanding ACT’s donor and friend-raising base. ACT’s Ven Pou Ven young supporters used their online platform of Ayiti Connect to educate, elevate, and empower Haitians in the diaspora to shape new narratives about Haitian culture and life. Our pivot to new platforms is a testimony to our resilience and adaptability and fuels the pursuit of our mission for 2021. We applied for and were awarded relief from the CARES Act that has enabled us to move ahead.

Our grantmaking reached new heights with over 80 organizations submitting applications. Through the diligence of our grantmaking committee, we selected the 2020 grantee: Universite Quisqueya – [Project Lakou Kajou](#), which is using our grant to develop new content to educate children in Ayiti about the everyday actions that they can take to protect the environment.

This was a year for identifying and making connections with Haitian organizations in the diaspora, yielding over 40 sponsors for the online gala, Nou la Pi Red, and a database of organizations with whom ACT can partner to fulfill its mission of sustainable development support to Ayiti.

Collectively, our donors and sponsors enabled ACT to carry on with its activities within budget and to preserve its capacity to make new grants in 2021.

We have brought new members to our boards and committees, contributing to ACT’s goal to become a stronger, more capable organization.

It was quite a year. So much has changed and yet our mission to support and sustain development in Ayiti through a permanent endowment that will invest in civic education, the environment and entrepreneurship will not change. Our ACT family is strong, and resilient. We are building legacy for Ayiti. Despite all of the obstacles we can say “Nou la Pi Red”.

All the best,

Ghislain Gouraige, Jr.
Chairman of the Board



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ACT at a Glance

Mission

To support and sustain development innovation in Ayiti in the areas of civic education, environment, and entrepreneurship.

Vision

A permanent endowment to support Ayiti's long-term development.

Strategy

Mobilize Haitians and friends of Ayiti to invest in Haitian-led asset-based innovation using a community foundation model backed by an endowment.



Pillars



Civic Education

People who are self-aware, competent, and purposeful are best able to sustain a nation. We support community-building projects aimed at fostering leadership development, public stewardship, and re-engaging Haitian citizens to actively collaborate to promote the greater good of Haitian society.



Environment

We believe that integrated management of Ayiti's precious natural resources promotes conditions that strengthen climate resiliency, creates livelihood opportunities, and expands long-term economic prospects for generations of Haitians. We support innovative projects that aim to reverse or proactively prevent environmental degradations while engaging Haitian communities to adopt behavioral patterns that protect the environment.



Entrepreneurship

Haitians have demonstrated a clear entrepreneurial spirit, but challenges have stunted the growth of this important economic sector. We support organizations that work to increase entrepreneurial capacity using effective skill building strategies to support entrepreneurs working to revitalize the economy of Ayiti.

Leadership

FOUNDERS

Guerda Nicolas, PhD
Co-Founder

Pierre Jonas Imbert
Co-Founder

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ghislain Gouraige, Jr.*
Chairman

Richard J. Roy*
Vice-Chair & Treasurer

Natacha J. Janac*
*Communications
Committee Co-Chair*

**Beatrice
Dalencour Turnier***
*Communication
Committee Co-Chair*

Oswald J. Brandt, II
*Governance Committee
Co-Chair*

Patrick F. Martin*
*Governance Committee
Co-Chair*

**Mireille Chancy
Gonzalez***
*Fundraising Committee
Co-Chair*

Matthew Anderson*
*Fundraising Committee
Co-Chair*

Guerda Nicolas*
*Grants Committee
Co-Chair*

**Patricia Hannah
Brandes***
*Grants Committee
Co-Chair*

**Maryse Panette-
Kedar*+**

Jonathan Vilma*+
Dannie Augustin*

Sarah Bouchereau*
Pascale Charlot*+

Wendy Francois*+
Jean Monestime*

Jean-Pierre Trouillot*
Abner Septembre*+

Trabian Shorters*+
Michele King Soffer*+

Joanne Maislin*+
Samuel Ludington*+

Dave Lawrence*+
Roman Lyskowski*+

Bennett Rathbun*
Rock Soffer*

STAFF

Guitele Nicoleau, EdD
Executive Director

Ireqlá Qláifá
Executive Administrator

* Founding Member
+ Friends of ACT

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Committee Highlights

A summary of accomplishments from Committee Co-Chairs

Grants Committee

The grants committee is charged with the responsibility of recommending grants for approval by the executive committee and the board of directors and reporting the outcomes of such grants. After a thorough review of over 80 letters of interest, the committee selected and featured Project Lakou Kajou, an initiative of one of Ayiti's top higher education institutions, Université Quisqueya.

In 2019, we awarded a grant to the Ile à Vache Project in collaboration with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). This project is in the final stages and is expected to be complete by the year 2021.

The grants committee continues to evaluate its grant review and selection processes to ensure the identification of organizations doing innovative work in Ayiti.



Guerda Nicolas, PhD
Grants Committee
Co-Chair



Patricia Hannah Brandes
Grants Committee
Co-Chair

Fundraising Committee

The purpose of the fundraising committee is to develop and implement strategies to build the endowment and secure funding for the operations of the organization. In 2020, we hiked up many mountains; and with each climb, ACT's friends journeyed by our side. We extended our reach to new audiences and deepened our connection to the Haitian diaspora. The funds we raised enable us to build the endowment and offer grants to organizations innovating in the areas of civic education, environment, and entrepreneurship.

We express our deepest gratitude to our generous donors, members of the Dessalines Society, and distinguished Board of Directors. You all have been a catalyst in the effort to shine a light on Ayiti's richness.

Together, we...

- Created dialogue through our online Ayiti Connect events, a series drawing meaningful connections to Haitian culture and excellence
- Hosted our first virtual fundraising event, the Nou La Pi Red Soiree, honoring Jean Jacques Dessalines, grossing over \$50,000
- Acquired sponsorship from over 50 Haitian businesses and professional organizations
- Held two successful online giving campaigns: Give Miami Day & Giving Tuesday



- Successfully auctioned off our original SOLEIL NOIRE Painting, contributed in-kind by Philippe Dodard



Mireille Chancy Gonzalez
Fundraising Committee
Co-Chair



Matthew Anderson
Fundraising Committee
Co-Chair

Lakou Kajou

Learn more about the phenomenal work of our 2020 grantee.

The deterioration of Haiti's natural environment poses serious threats to the well-being of current and future generations. The main issues are climate change, soil erosion/deforestation, and poor sanitation. These long-term environmental issues are sometimes overshadowed by pressing social concerns such as political turmoil, poor infrastructure and poverty. But environmental and social issues are closely linked. Poor sanitation exposes already weakened populations to serious diseases. Climate change and deforestation contribute to food insecurity and insufficient flood control.

The hope of solving these problems lies in the education of the citizens of Ayiti, who need practical means of concrete actions. Ayiti's new generation is a good place to start. The "Keep the Lakou Green" campaign will use a positive story to help children learn practical actions they can take within their own families

to take care of the environment. The campaign will be a call to action that will have a positive impact on the environment in Haiti while actively engaging children and families to build a better future for their country. To do this, we will build on the popularity of LAKOU KAJOU to teach young Haitians how their families can act to protect the environment.

Lakou Kajou is an educational medium

for children and their families in Creole. Through the adventures of the characters, children have the opportunity to learn educational content such as literacy, math, science, the arts, etc. Lakou Kajou is a joint production of InnovEd, Blue Butterfly Collaborative (a US based nonprofit organization) and Muska Group (a Port-au-Prince based video production company). The program is supported by the W.K.

Kellogg Foundation, FOKAL and individual donors. Lakou Kajou's offices are located at Quisqueya University.

The public service campaign on the environment will be developed in Ayiti by a coalition of Haitian environmentalists and educators brought together by Lakou Kajou's team at Quisqueya University, with the support of Blue Butterfly Collaborative (BBC) and the Ayiti Community Trust.



Governance Committee

The objective of the governance committee is to ensure that there are mechanisms and structures in place to safeguard the organization and its donors to achieve accountability among stakeholders, the Board of Directors and management. During the course of 2020, the committee revised ACT's bylaws and committee charters, performed board member evaluations and voted on three new board members for 2021.



Patrick F. Martin
Governance Committee
Co-Chair



Oswald J. Brandt, II
Governance Committee
Co-Chair

Communications Committee

The communication committee exists to standardize the brand identity of Ayiti Community Trust and enact growth and evaluation mechanisms for efficient internal and external communications.

In 2020, this committee refined ACT's mission and vision statements, launched a redesigned website that better represent ACT's brand identity. In 2021, we welcomed a public relations associate and a Kreyol translator to widen our reach and increase the visibility of ACT.

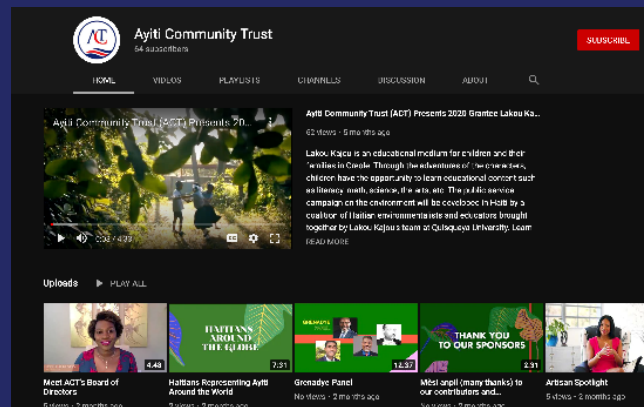
We launched our [YouTube channel](#), where you can recap our Nou La Pi Rèd Soiree highlights and partnered with online platforms such as Banj Haiti, Chokarela, Guy WEWE & Boudoir House.



Beatrice Dalencour Turnier
Communications
Committee Co-Chair



Natacha J. Janac, MS/M.Ed
Communications
Committee Co-Chair



ACT's Youtube channel with ### subscribers

Ven Pou Ven

Young Professionals Transforming the Narrative about Ayiti

The Ven Pou Ven (20/20) ambassadors are young professional Haitians and Friends of ACT dedicated to rewriting the narrative about Ayiti. Ven Pou Ven ambassadors are the 20/20 lens of Ayiti's future. Building on the collective wisdom of past trailblazers, ambassadors are responding to the charge of ensuring Ayiti's next 200 years of sustainable development. This movement challenging the notion of aid and reinstating the principle of hands working together to make lighter the load that is sustainable building and development. The Ven Pou Ven ambassadors commit \$20 a month or \$240 annually as their contribution to the

work of ACT and invite Haitians in Ayiti, the diaspora, and all friends of Ayiti to join this community of investors dedicated to building on Ayiti's assets.

The work of Ven Pou Ven is made possible because we work with over 50 volunteers, across various sectors with diverse skills and a passion for Ayiti. Together, these many hands have met to achieve some of ACT's grandest feats, like the time our 25 volunteers assisted us to steer the committee for our 500+ guest Gala Kanaval, 2019.

To our volunteers reading this note, mèsi anpil (thank you very much). This work is made possible because of you!

2019-2020 Ven Pou Ven Ambassadors

Tyra Montour
Atlanta, GA

Natalie Imbert
Boston, MA

Gilbert Saint Jean, Jr.
Miami, FL

Kristoffer Doura
Miami, FL

Claudia Gourdet
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Abner Septembre
Petit Goave, Ayiti

Anaëlle Seide
Boston, MA

Tahra-Lise Monplaisir
Port-au-Prince, Ayiti

2019 Gala Kanaval

On February 2, 2019 we held a fundraising event celebrating Ayiti and Haitian culture.



NSL Dance Ensemble Performance



Over 500



2019 Gala Awardees



We celebrated Tabou Combo's 50th Anniversary.

2020 Nou La Pi Rèd Soirée

On October 17, 2020, we held our first virtual fundraiser as a tribute in honor of Ayiti's revolutionary leader, Jean Jacques Dessalines.



Performance Headliner: Kapi of Tabou Combo



The Haitian American Founder, Wanda Tima



The Nou La Pi Red Soiree was hosted by Creative Directors Samuel Dameus and Tico Armand



Fundraising Committee Co-chairs and guest join in-person at the Little Haiti Cultural Center

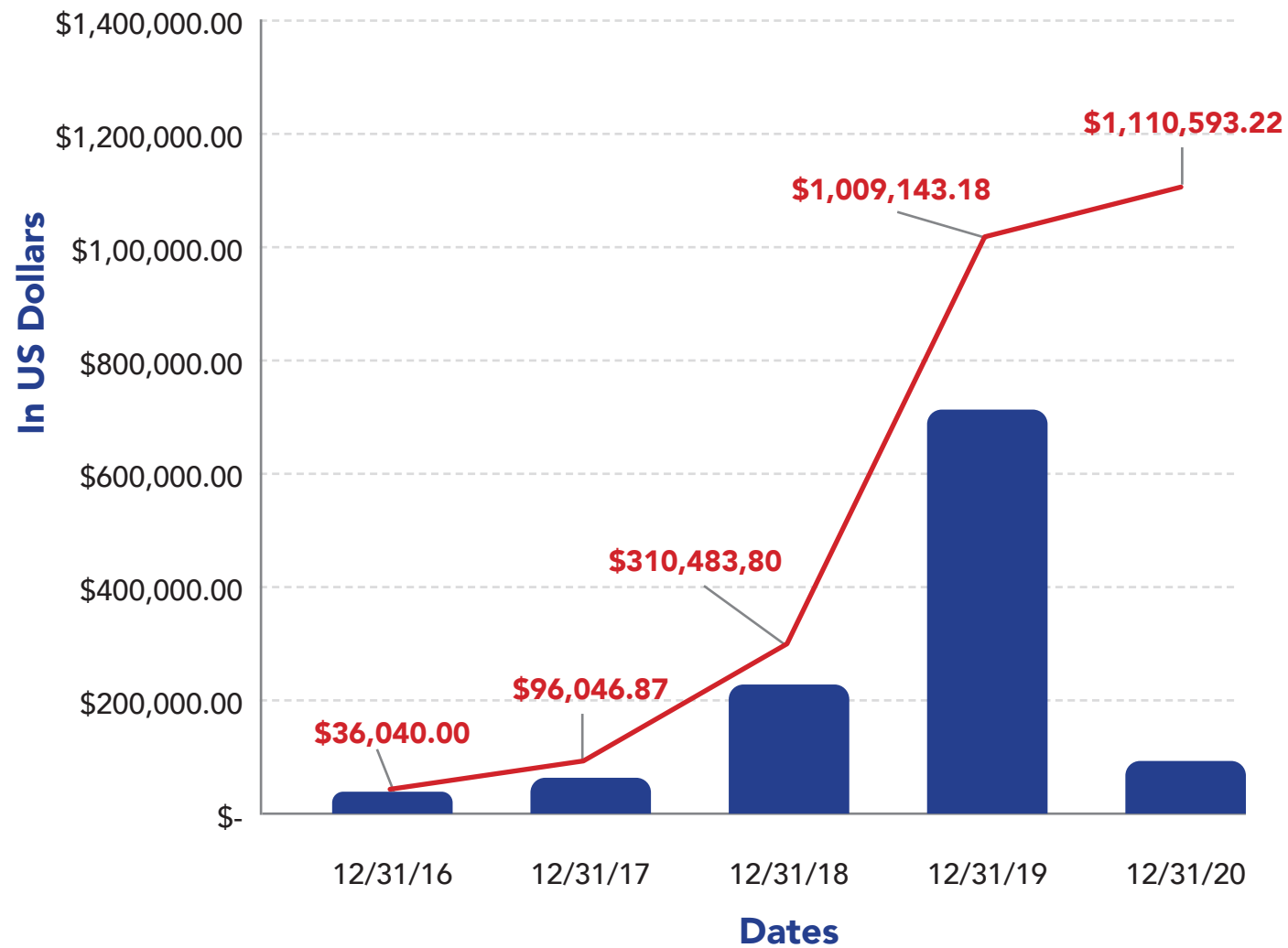


Words of wisdom from Dr. Solange Vivens

Financials

We are working hard to build Ayiti's first endowed fund established by Haitians for Haitians. Here is an overview of our financials.

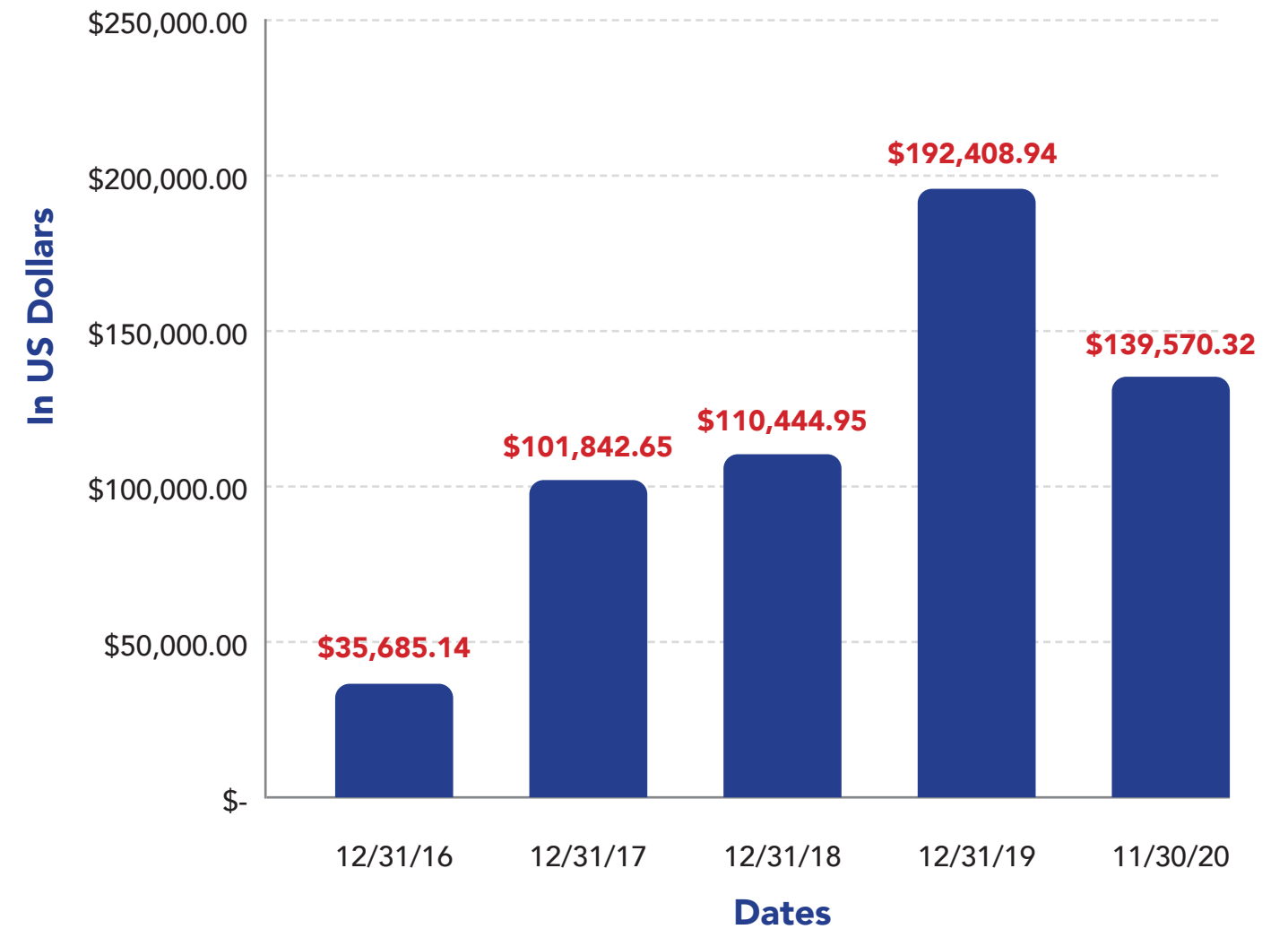
Total Donations to Ayiti Community Trust 2016-2020



Notes:

1. Includes all donations (endowment + capacity building)
2. Excludes grant as well as fundraising expenses

Assets Held at The Miami Foundation



Thank You!

We are grateful to all 2019-2020 sponsors!

2020 Supporters

AEDAP	Ghislain Gouraige, Jr.	Marie Claude Bayard	Proser, LLC
Aleksandra Chancy	Gilbert Saint Jean Jr	Marie Denise Gervais	Prosperity Catalyst
Alexa Madrid	Global Innovative Foundation	Marie Etienne	Rebati Sante Mentale Inc.
Angela Borges	Guerda Nicolas	Marie Louise Roy	Rebecca E. Faustin
Apollo Bank	Guerdy Réjouis-Abrara	Marie P. Woodson	Richard Roy
Ayasha Media	Guerline Sanon	Mary Ellen T. Gilroy	Rock Soffer
Barry Barnett	Guitele Nicoleau	Maryse Penette Kedar	Roman Lyskowski
Beatrice Dalencour Turnier	Haitian American	Matt Anderson	Rose Greene
Bennet Rathbun	Chamber of Commerce of Florida	Matthew Anderson	Samuel Dameus
Berdine Edmond	Haitian American Professionals Coalition	Michael L. Gerrard	Samuel Ludington
Breakthrough Miami, Inc.	Hannah Brandes	Michele King Soffer	Santra Denis
Carol Damian	Help for Haiti	Michelle Tidor	Severine Vieux
Carole Chancy	Herb Brown	Mireille Chancy Gonzalez	Sheldon Anderson
Chad Bissonnette	Ines Lozano	Monica Villard	Shirley Plantin
Chantel Nicolas	Irmgard Epstein Brierre	MultiMed-USA	SMF Law
Charlene Desir	Jacqueline Monash	Nadine Duplessy Kearns	Solanges Vivens
Chedline Edouard	Jacques Fombrun	Nancy Calixte	Sophia Stransky
Clinton McGrath	James Reimer	Nancy Metayer	Stefan Kénel-Pierre
CMS International Group, Corp	Janna Zinzi	Natacha Janac	Stuart Grossman
Coupet Quality Clinic	Jean Louis	Nathalie Cadet James	Suzanne Simpson
Dannie Augustin	Jean Monestime	Nathalie Tancrede	Suzie Stephen
Dave Lawrence	Jean-Marc Cuvilly	Nedgine Paul	Sydney Carpel
Delleperche Joseph	Jeanne Lascaze	Nina Kogan	Tatiana Magloire
Donald Soffer	Jessica Pauyo	Oliver Salgado	Tatyana Graesser
Edwidge Danticat	Joelle Cerge	Oswald J. Brandt II	Teresa Rivero
Evelyn Cadet	Jonathan Vilma	Papyrus S.A.	The Creative Esquire
FANM DJANM	JP Michel	Pascale D Auguste	The Green Family
Fayola Delica	JP Trouillot	Patrice Armand	Thomas van Straaten
Fokal	Kerline Jefferson	Patrice Leys	Trabian Shorters
Frantz Sainte	Kevin Lemke	Patricia Brandes	Tyra Montour
Frederic Toussaint	L'étage Magazine	Patrick Martin	Valencie Exceus
Galia Pennekamp	La Paix Bakery	Paul Lunis	Varzi Jeanbaptiste
Garry Toussaint	La Petite Pétra	Philippe Dodard	Yanick Bayard
Gaskov Clerge Foundation	Lissa Boucard	Pierre Edens Jean-Louis	Yolande Dreihann- Holenia
Genese Augustin	Louise Broadbent	Pierre Jonas Imbert	Yveline Alexis
Genese Galvan	Manoucheka Canlatte	Prajé Oscar Jean-Baptiste	Yvonne Agodeo Ourigou
Gepsie M. Metellus	Marcus E. St. John	Premium Realty & Insurance Services	

2020 Event Sponsors





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