

HAITIAN EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES



rebuilding Haiti, child by child
Haitian Educational Initiatives

IMPACT REPORT 2024



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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Sustaining Education Amidst Crisis: Resilience, Innovation and Hope

As Haiti confronts unprecedented levels of violence and instability, Haitian Educational Initiatives (HEI) stands unwavering in our mission to provide access to education for children in the Jacmel region of Haiti. This year, we not only sustained our programs but also introduced innovative solutions to meet the learning needs of our students in these very difficult times. To ensure the efficacy of our partners' work, we somewhat reduced total enrollment through graduation attrition, restraining our growth during the current volatile conditions.

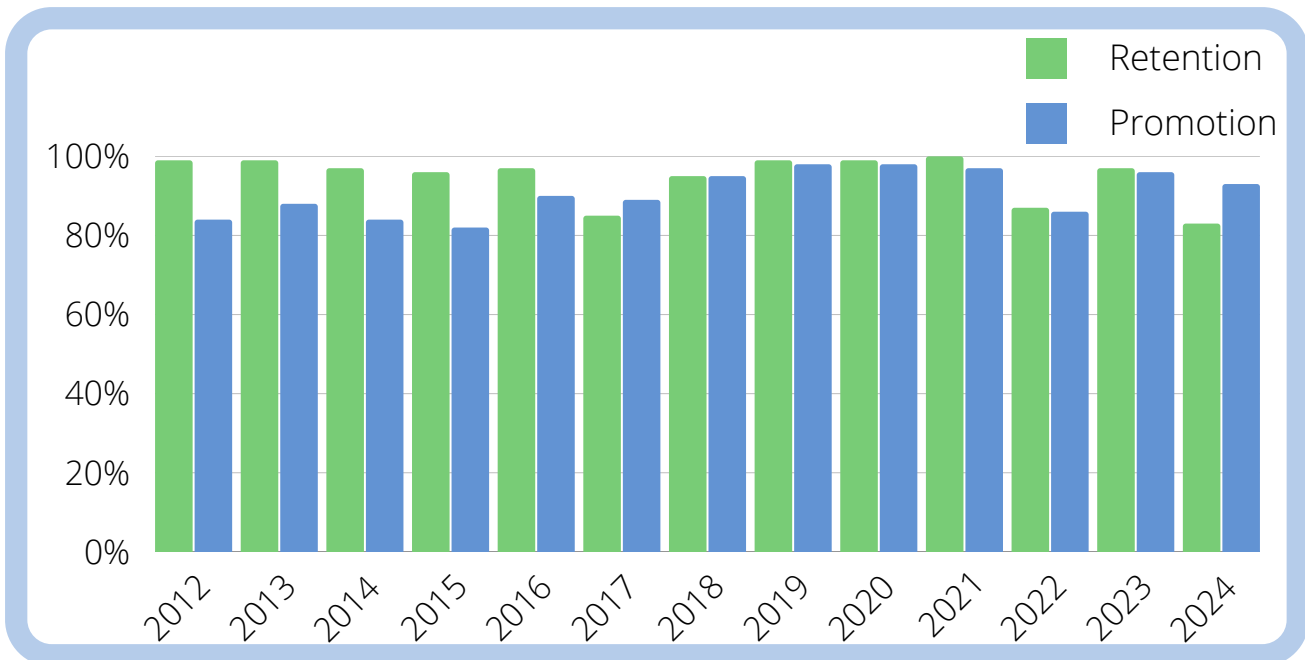
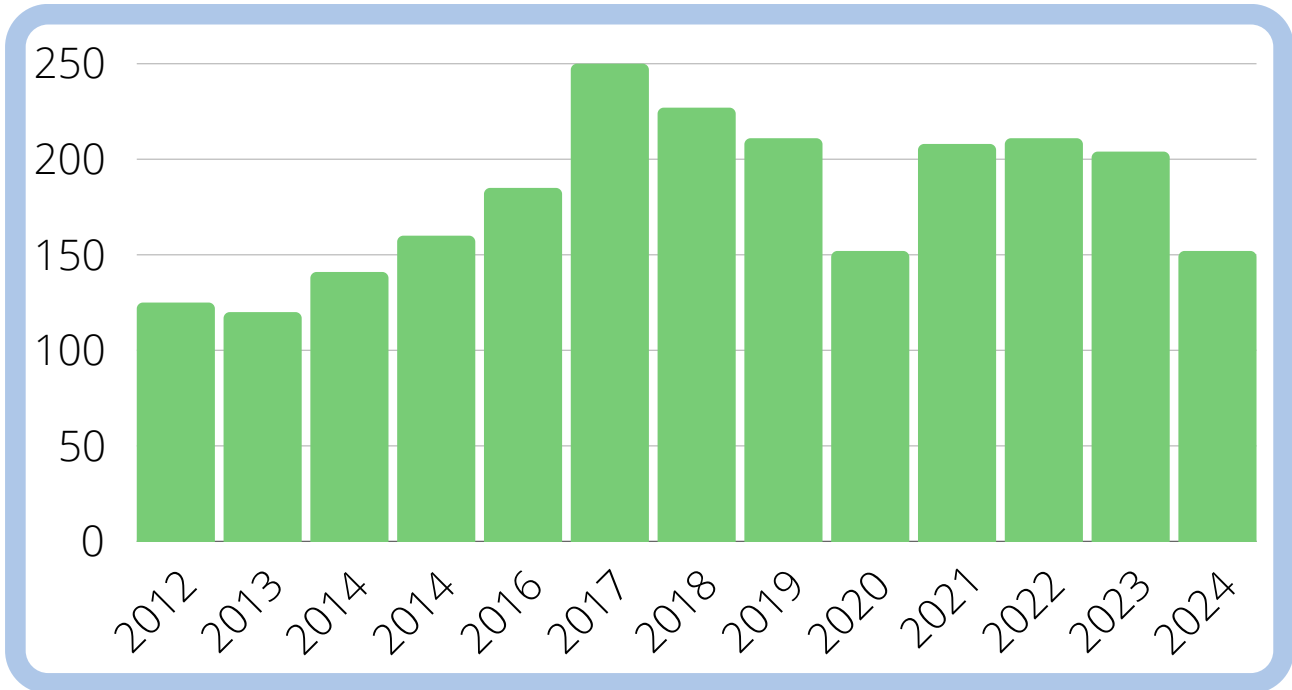
2024 tested our resilience, creativity, and commitment but also reaffirmed the force multiplier of partnerships. HEI's model is based on collaboration with trusted partners in Haiti who provide the care, programs, and facilities that support our children's education, funded by the generosity of our US donors. **Over 150 students** across primary and secondary levels are directly supported by HEI scholarships in a country with little public education. Our facilities provide safe spaces for the children to gather after school for homework, meals, and care. Our programs introduced vocational training to provide the prospect of employment.

This year, we witnessed the fruits of these efforts:

- **We retained 83% of enrolled students, 93% of whom were promoted to the next grade. Six students have graduated from high school** with ambitions to pursue higher education or vocational training. That brings our **total graduates to 23, 13 of whom are attending university in Jacmel.**
- Alumni returned to contribute their time and skills to mentoring younger students.

One of our most significant advancements in 2024 was the introduction, in partnership with World Tutors, of after-school tutoring provided via Starlink satellite internet technology. Students from our remote Haitian communities now have access to tutors from around the world, bringing tailored instruction in French, English, and Math directly to them. This initiative demonstrates HEI's ability to magnify our donors' transformational impact by overcoming barriers and creating pathways to learning, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Enrollment 2012 through 2024



Looking Ahead

The heart of HEI's work lies in the resilience of the Haitian people—the students who show up with determination to learn, the parents who trust us, the teachers who persevere against all odds, and the communities that stand together in the face of adversity.

In 2025, HEI is committed to expanding the World Tutors initiative, integrating more solar power, computer resources, Starlink capacity and classroom space to deepen the tutoring and after school programs. This could profoundly improve the prospect of our students emerging from the current disorder better equipped to attain economic stability and contribute to Haiti's recovery.

We will continue to strengthen partnerships with organizations like World Tutors, FJBJ and FIEH to create a sustainable, scalable model that bridges the gap between crisis and opportunity.

Meanwhile, we've continued to build our all-volunteer team here in the United States. We are delighted to welcome Caroline Racine to our Board with special responsibility for communications. A Haitian-American, Caroline resides in the Washington DC area and brings a distinguished background in corporate communications. Caroline is ably assisted by Orion Douglas, a very talented undergraduate at the University of Chicago with extensive skills in social media. As we push ahead to expand our donor base we will be seeking in 2025 to add a Board member to direct our fundraising initiatives.

As noted, your Board is all-volunteer which means that we minimize administrative expenses and maximize the donor dollars that go to Haiti. 92% of each dollar goes to fund scholarships, afterschool programs and salaries for our on-site partners in Haiti. That strong administrative performance is a key factor again earning our 'Platinum' rating from GuideStar for our stewardship of your financial support.

Gratitude and Hope

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and partners. Your belief in the power of education to transform young lives fuels our work every day. Together, we are proving that even in the face of adversity, education can be a light of hope and a tool for lasting change.

Thank you for standing with us as we build a brighter future for Haiti's children.

With gratitude and determination,



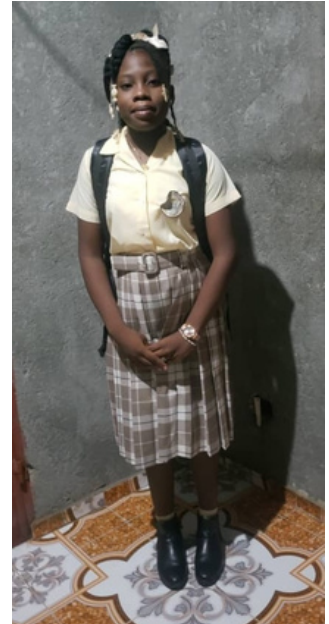
JAMES H. WHITCOMB, JR.
President

Our Partners and Programs

HEI partners with two Haitian-led organizations, Fondation Jean Bellande Joseph (FBJJ) and Foyer d'Initiatives pour l'Education en Haiti (FIEH), formerly Jacmel Scholarship Program. As teachers, school administrators, and dedicated caregivers, our partners are excellent role models for the 148 children currently enrolled in our programs (Fall 2024).

Fondation Jean Bellande Joseph (FBJJ), Cayes-Jacmel

The Joseph family foundation operates in the semi-rural region of Cayes-Jacmel, located about 15 minutes east of Jacmel. Led by Paul Brunet Joseph (Director), a history and geography teacher at the Cayes-Jacmel High School, seven members of the Joseph family and their associates have provided leadership and important services to their community since 2007. FBJJ's 52 children and 21 graduates primarily come from subsistence farming families in the mountain and coastal regions of Jacmel. This region suffers from food insecurity because of gang control of roads between Jacmel and Port-au-Prince, crippling transportation and severely inflating food costs. Materials for craft and dressmaking classes have become scarce, nonetheless FBJJ was able to provide these services:



- **Scholarships for 52 children to 26 area schools:** These funds cover tuition, uniforms, backpacks, shoes, books, and school supplies. FBJJ pays the fees, completes the paperwork, and oversees attendance and academic outcomes. As students graduated or moved, enrollment decreased from 61 in 2023-2024 to 52 in 2024-2025.
- **Weekly meals for 52 children:** We supply the only cooked meal many children eat all week. Good nutrition helps children resist disease and perform better in school. At home, these children eat only a cornmeal mush augmented occasionally with a vegetable or fruit. FBJJ provides a weekly meal of rice and beans, fried chicken or beef stew, and a vegetable or plantains with fruit juice.

- **Weekly computer literacy classes for 30 children aged 9-19** : Computers donated by Project Redwood allow students to learn Microsoft Word, Excel, and to use the Internet.
- **Cooking and baking classes for children 9 - 19 (when possible):**



Students learn to cook basic meals and to bake the cookies, cakes and other sweet treats they sell at school and in the market. They also use their skills at home to improve their families' nutrition. Soap-making is another lucrative project.

- **Enhanced job training opportunities for secondary school students (when possible):**

Ten students attended vocational classes in plumbing, tiling, advanced tailoring and dressmaking, and baking.



- **Summer camp:** Provided a safe space for meals, play, and to learn macrame, floral crafts, languages, reading, and theater arts.
- **Christmas and end of year parties for FJB's nursery school, Les Hirondelles (Swallows):** Children relish celebrations with song, dance, poetry, certificates, and small gifts as they participate in vital early childhood education.

Foyer d'Initiatives pour l'Education en Haiti (FIEH)

Administrator Peterson Jean-Pierre, Assistant Director Toussaint Pierre, and Coordinator Eddysson Pierre lead partner Foyer d'Initiatives pour l'Education en Haiti (FIEH). Peterson is a graduate of University of Haiti and is Director of Jakmel Ekspresyon, an arts and vocational school in downtown Jacmel. He also co-founded two community programs: the Pasquette High School and an agricultural co-operative. Despite decreasing resources, he oversaw these successful programs:



- **130 Scholarships to 49 local schools in 2024:** As with FJBJ, these scholarship funds equip the children tuition fees, uniforms, books, and school supplies needed to enroll in school. Our policy of consolidating and deepening the scholarship program to encourage better promotion and retention results means FIEH has enrolled 96 students in Fall 2024.



- **Remedial classes in math, social sciences, and French reading and writing:** Students facing national exams for promotion to middle and high school receive tutoring in small groups, as well as students who need extra help to catch up. World Academy Tutors has supplied tutors from around the world to teach students via Starlink.

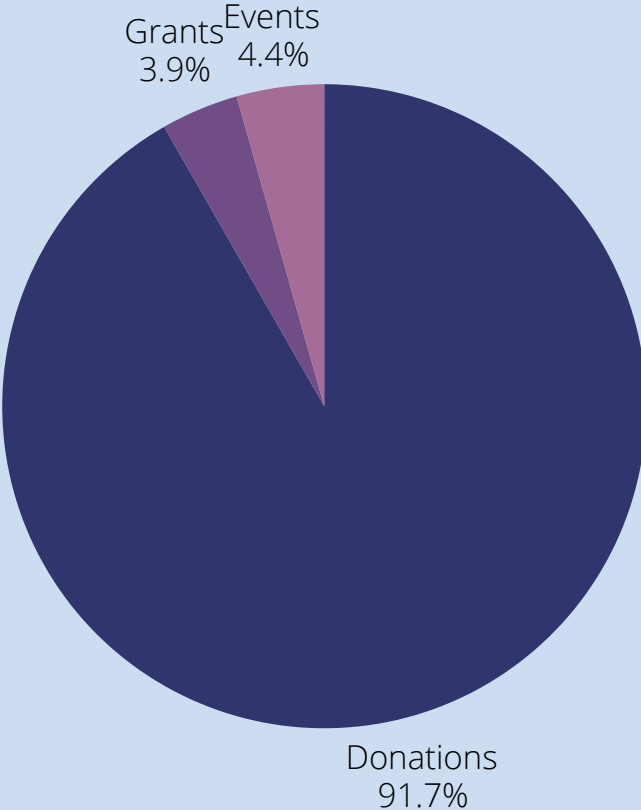
- **Meals:** Students who participate in remedial classes also receive healthy meals and snacks.
- **Summer camp for 83 students:** Provided a safe space for meals, play and learning floral arts, cooking, baking, macrame, and making saleable liquid products like soap, detergent, and vinegar as exercises in mathematics, physics, and chemistry.
- **End of the school year and Christmas parties:** To celebrate our students' courage and hard work in completing their classes despite hunger, lack of transportation, and the danger of violence, we held joyous parties with abundant food, music, poetry, and dance.



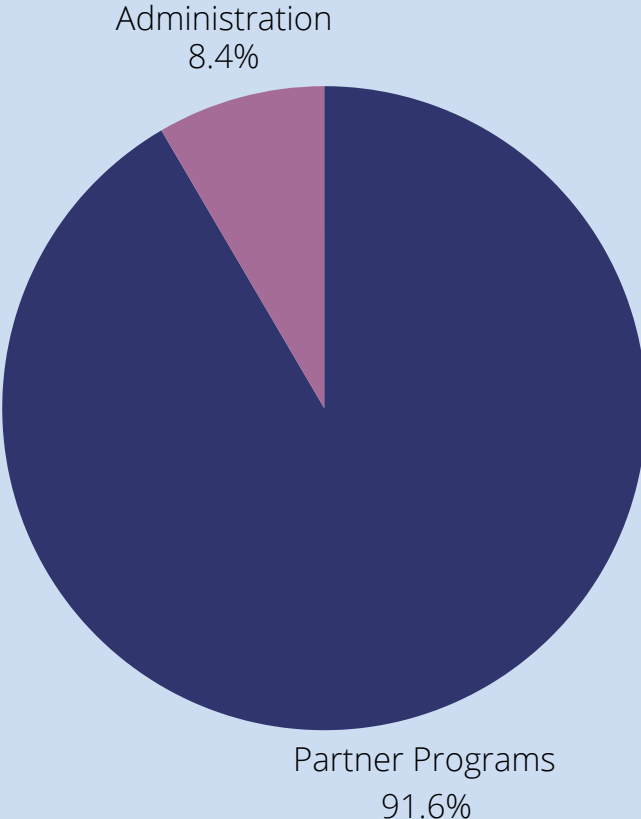
FIEH graduate Carfina is attending law school!

Our Financial Picture

Income 2024



Expenses 2024



INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY - 2024

Income		
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Donations	94,230	61,014
Grants	4,000	5,000
Special Events	4,503	18,520
Interest	8	11
Total Income	\$ 102,741	\$ 84,545
Expenses		
Partner Programs		
FIEH	45,307	47,729
FBJJ	47,955	52,445
Total Program Expenses	93,262	\$ 100,174
Administration	8,598	6,145
Total Expenses	\$ 101,860	\$ 106,319
Increase (Decrease) Reserves	\$ 881	\$ (21,774)

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

Current Assets		
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash	54,602	57,239
Funds Receivable	11,855	8,275
Prepaid Expenses	0	0
Total Assets	\$ 66,457	\$ 65,514
Current Liabilities		
Payables & Accrued Expenses	110	48
Total Liabilities	\$ 110	\$ 48
Charitable Funds		
Restricted Funds	10,000	10,000
Unrestricted Funds	56,347	55,466
Total Charitable Funds	\$ 66,347	\$ 65,466
Total Liabilities and Charitable Funds	66,457	\$ 65,514

Board of Directors

James Whitcomb, President

Jim is a Managing Director at Westbury Group, an investment banking firm headquartered in Westport, CT. He has advised corporate clients on mergers, acquisitions, and corporate finance in markets around the world. Jim is currently a Director of the British Schools and Universities Foundation and a Director of Zurich-based International Corporate Finance Group. He served as Director, President, and Treasurer of The Southport Conservancy, a 501c3 organization dedicated to the preservation of an historic Connecticut village. Jim was educated in England at Rugby School, received a B.A. in History from Williams College and an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. He and his wife live in Westport, CT.

Susan Whitcomb, Ph.D., Founder and Secretary

Susan founded HEI in December 2010 after serving as a volunteer teacher with Global Volunteer Network in Jacmel. She taught English and French to adults recovering from the earthquake and also assisted in childcare facilities in the city. She has taught at Purchase College and the University of Saint Joseph, where she also directed the Honors Program. Susan served on the Board of Directors of the A Better Chance program in Ridgefield, CT and is a docent emerita at the Morgan Library in New York. She earned her B.A. from Wellesley College and Ph.D. in English Literature from Yale University. She lives in Brevard, NC.

Dan Drake, Treasurer

Dan recently retired from a 45-year career with the nation's largest general contractor. Over his career, Dan built new schools and renovated existing schools throughout Fairfield County. He also worked on major hospital renovations in Bridgeport, Greenwich, and Sleepy Hollow, as well as office renovation projects too numerous to list. One of his favorite projects was the renovation of the historic Ingalls Rink at Yale University. Dan served on the Building Committee at his church for over 10 years. Now that he has retired, he is happy to be able to spend more time with his three daughters and sons-in-law, as well as his six grandchildren. His hobbies include woodworking, astronomy, and repairing anything that is broken. Dan and his wife live in Darien, CT.

Gerard Azor, Jr., Liaison to the Haitian-American community and the Haitian diaspora

Originally from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Gerry is a Core Account Manager for Cardinal Health. He is also the Vice-Chairman of the United Haitian-American Society of Connecticut and the Executive Director of the Haiti Relief Fund. He has been a leader in the Haitian-American community for over 30 years, organizing numerous activities in the tri-state area. He serves as an advisor to many Haitian-American media outlets. Gerry studied Business Management at Sacred Heart University. He lives in Fairfield, CT.

Board of Directors

Virginia Lynch Dean

Virginia Lynch Dean has an extensive background in features, and documentaries, theater and television development and production at NBC newsroom, including most recently, co-producer/director of the short documentary: "Ghost Mountain, the Second Killing Fields" 2021. Author of Chief Crazy Snake: the Untold Story of Roy Hoffman & Chitto Harjo, 2021. She is an active fundraiser for non-profit organizations, serving on the executive committee for The Chapin School Capital Campaign, the Governing Board and the Sustaining Board of Memorial Sloan Kettering, and the Board of the YMCA/YWCA of Greater New York. Virginia is an active supporter of the New York City Mission Society and Project Learn, Bridgeport, CT; a founding member of non-for-profit Divine Mortgages, Bridgeport, CT; and organizer of Wings World Quest, NYC. She has also served as a consultant for the Howard Dean campaigns.

Abigail Franklin

Abigail has 25 years of senior management experience in fundraising and marketing with organizations such as The New York Academy of Medicine, New York Common Pantry in East Harlem, NY, The Ms. Foundation for Women, Columbia University and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and holds a graduate degree from Yale School of Drama. She lives in New York City.

Edvardine Joseph

Edvardine is President and Founder of the International Student Aid Association (ISAA), which aids nonprofits that help underdeveloped countries become self-sufficient, starting with educating the youth. Under Edvardine's leadership, ISAA has conducted three successful campaigns in Haiti: sending 50 textbooks to students in Jacmel; 50 COVID-19 hygiene kits to a medical clinic in Cazale; organizing the first "Let's Start with the Youth!" Talent Show to fund full tuition scholarships for five accomplished students in Jacmel. Edvardine lives in CT and is of Haitian descent. She is a graduate of Greenwich Academy (Class of 2021) and is currently an undergraduate at the University of Chicago (Class of 2025).

Joan O'Connell

Joan O'Connell brings 40 years of experience in computer software. She retired from a career in software sales and consulting. Joan graduated from Boston College, and lives in Darien, CT, with her husband Rick Agresta. She is a member of the Technology and Communications Committee of Project Redwood, spends too much time on a computer, and is always reading more than one book.

Board of Directors

Caroline Racine, Communications

Caroline has had a distinguished career in sales, business development, and property operations in the hospitality industry. She is also deeply involved in the Haitian-American art community in Washington, DC and in Haiti. She brings invaluable experience in marketing and communications to help HEI grow. Caroline lives in Washington , D.C.

Yvrose Romulus, Programs

Yvrose Romulus has over twenty years of experience in Higher Education and has been the Associate Dean/Associate Director of the School of Professional Studies & UB Online at the University of Bridgeport. She has been the President of Fraternité Valléenne of CT for 3 years. Yvrose has served as an Advisory Council Member for Family Economic Security Program (FESP) for Fairfield County's Community Foundation at Housatonic Community College and as Senior Advisor for the Advising Department at Gateway Community College. In 2009, Yvrose was the Marilyn Gordon Woman of the Year Award recipient at the University of Bridgeport and the 2014 Purple Knight Partnership Award Recipient. Yvrose has a keen ability to assist, inspire, and guide others. She earned her M.A. in Counseling with a focus in College Student Personnel from the University of Bridgeport. She lives in Monroe, CT and has family in La Vallee, near Jacmel, Haiti.