Dear Friends,

We are proud to say that in spite of the many tribulations caused by this pandemic, we have endured! The number of clients served has grown from 11,000 this past fiscal year to 16,000 this year. We did not face the terrible choice of staff lay-offs and we did not cut services. Instead, we fully understood our role as "essential workers"; we adapted to the new normal, remaining true to our mission yet expanding our services and charting new paths of community service and engagement, guided by important lessons learned.

We had hoped that the pandemic would have abated, growing so hopeful by the availability of vaccines. But we all watched with great dismay the stubborn hesitancy which persists. The loss of loyal supporters, friends and partners has steeled our resolve to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Miami’s Black communities. Through community partnerships, we worked steadfastly to promote the vaccines, educate our community about their efficacy and more importantly address the fears conjured by pervasive disinformation.

COVID-19 also taught us a valuable lesson about our community’s tech vulnerability. In the early days of the pandemic, it became evident that as most organizations were pivoting to remote operations, the growing dependence on digital tools was inaccessible to many in the Haitian community. As such, Sant La’s vision of digital equity and of a digitally connected community transformed first into An’n Pale Tek or Let’s Talk Tech, which was initially supported by partners such as the Miami Foundation and the University of Miami’s U-Links Initiative. Our strategic vision also birthed Rezo Lespwa, a phone-based mapping application, developed in collaboration with the University of Miami U-Links Initiative, which serves to assist Haitian parents of early learners to access educational services for their toddlers.

We continue to be amazed and humbled by the steadfast support of our community partners, funders, donors and clients, who believe in our team and in our proven track record. We are proud that our programs are growing, grounded in our foundational principles, and invigorated by the opportunities to blaze new trails, especially during an unprecedented year fraught with trials and tribulations. In the face of all that, we stand.

With Warm Regards,

Gepsie M. Metellus
Executive Director
16,114 CLIENTS SERVED IN 2020-2021

EMPLOYMENT & PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE

1,262 job seekers increased their employability options with resume preparation, online applications, employability orientation, referrals to training programs and job placements.
774 clients were assisted with re-employment benefits filing.
4,934 unemployment claims were successfully processed.
559 individuals received assistance through Miami Pandemic Assistance Program.

HEALTH & FOOD SECURITY

1,733 clients gained health insurance through Medicaid & Florida KidCare.
267 with health coverage through the Affordable Care Act.
1,749 families accessed Food Assistance.
1,162 meals distributed.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES

1,274 clients increased their financial capabilities through free tax preparation, financial coaching, consumer credit reduction, resolution of identity theft, and home-buyer education.

CORNERSTONE SERVICES

1,602 individuals were served through our cornerstone services, including information/ referral, care coordination, review of correspondence and naturalization/ passport, voter registration and census applications. This past year we also served over 900 migrants -- individuals and families, including children, who were paroled into the United States from the Southern Border.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES & YOUTH

887 visits for EDEN Place services through educational workshops, coaching, counseling, child behavior support and school advocacy
356 family visits for mental health services.
100 students participated in our after school youth enrichment program
41 families fostered strong parent-child relationships through our parenting program.
INCOME

Building In-Kind Contribution\*  57.6 %
Government Funding  25.1 %
Foundation Grants  9.3 %
Contributions  4.9 %
Events (net expenses)  1.0 %
Interest and Other  2.1 %

- Donated Building valued at $2.3 million dollars.

EXPENSES

Programs and Services  89.9 %
General and Administrative  8.0 %
Fundraising  2.1 %
PANDEMIC SERVICES

We are grateful for local partners with whom we work to alleviate the impact of the pandemic, including United Way of Miami-Dade, Dolphins/Football Unites, Axis-Helps South Florida, FLIPANY, Ballard Partners, Miami-Dade Department of Health, Jackson Health and World Central Kitchen. Plus, as founding members of the Haitian American COVID-19 Coalition, we continue to focus on policy options for the Haitian community.

EDUCATION, ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

Our education, engagement and advocacy activities continue. ENFO Sant La was a 6-month radio program to keep the community informed, Sant La LIVE continues to offer a weekly dialogue on Facebook with community experts to explore solutions and approaches to pressing community issues. We also participated in activities such as Thrive 305, giving residents a voice in the shaping of policies that affect them. And we continue to collaborate with allies to advocate collectively for affordable housing, pandemic assistance, to reduce vaccine hesitancy and to provide assistance to recent arrivals.

TECH INITIATIVES

Sant La embarked on several technology initiatives to help our community bridge the ever-widening digital divide that impacts access to employment and resources. We graduated our first cohort of An’n Pale Tèk (Let’s Talk Tech), an innovative education program to introduce participants to basic digital skills and tools. We are also working with partners at the University of Miami to build a culturally sensitive and user-friendly “Early Childhood Resource” app for Creole speaking parents. We also partnered in the creation of Axis South Florida, a tool to increase access to pandemic assistance.

LABOR MIAMI

The Miami Foundation has launched LaborMiami.org, an interactive portal to provide students, jobseekers, entrepreneurs and employers with career development resources. In this partnership, Sant La is committed to ensuring inclusion for Creole speaking users.
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GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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The City of Miami
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BAC Funding Corp
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One Hundred Black Men
Prosperity Now
Sant La’s mission is to empower, strengthen and uplift South Florida’s Haitian community by providing free access to information and existing services to ensure its successful integration.