



RAYJON SHARE CARE

Annual Report 2022

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OUR MISSION:

Rayjon Share Care works in partnership with communities in Haiti and the Dominican Republic to reach their goals in sustainable development and social justice. We invest in relationship building and the two-way exchange of knowledge, resources and skills to create bridges of sharing—local to global.



OUR VISION:

Our community partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic are empowered and have the resources to determine their future.

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Sofia, Dominican Republic

rayjon.org



Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2021-2022



[children at the preschool proudly display their flag]

In the tiny neighbourhood of **Barrio 41** we continued to support the incredible work of **PLADESCULBA**, a preschool and nutrition centre that has also become a central community hub. Under the leadership of Director Georges Thertulien, PLADESCULBA offered various programs for adults and youth: the community garden flourished, a chicken coop was established, **12** youth participated in a first-ever music class, and sewing classes for women resumed post-Covid. **45** children received quality preschool education and additional nutritional and health care supports to help them thrive.

2021-2022 was a year of incredible transformation for the marginalized community of Barrio 41,

through expansion of a partnership with Dominican organization **Puente Desarrollo Internacional**.



In September 2021, Puente facilitated training for leaders from Barrio 41, equipping them to go out into the community to gather data about the neighbourhood's most pressing needs and concerns, and to test water quality. Results were presented to the entire community, who were then supported to create an action plan. *What were their priorities? How could problems be addressed? How could they work together to overcome challenges?*

The community decided. They were concerned about lack of access to clean water, poor sanitation, disrepair of family homes, and poor road conditions.

[community leader Darío shows the results of his water sample]



Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2021-2022

With ongoing support from Puente, the Dominican government and from Rayjon in Canada, community leaders got busy to get things done!



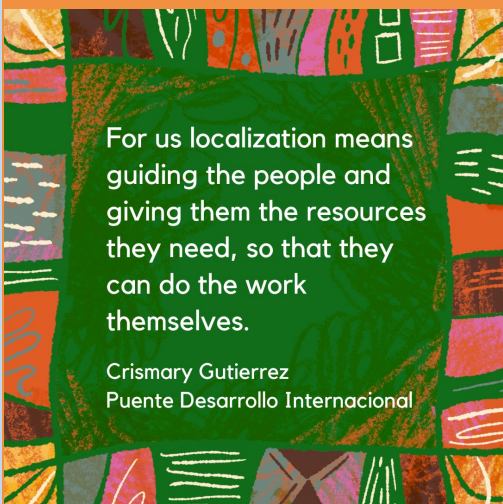
- 45 cement floors installed to improve health & hygiene for families previously living on dirt floors (June 2022)
- 38 bathrooms ("Puente Potties") constructed for families who didn't have one (June 2022)
- Planned and executed a project to provide year-round running water to the preschool (Aug-Sept 2022)
- 5 roofs repaired/replaced for families whose homes had been seriously damaged during Hurricane Fiona (Sept 2022)

We also expanded partnership with **ASCALA**, who provided legal assistance to **56** individuals of Haitian descent in Barrio 41, helping them obtain the documents they need to live, work, and access basic services in the Dominican Republic.



Gertha [at left with her son Santiago and program promoter Luís] was finally able to receive a passport! ASCALA is still working on the cases of her 3 children, all born in the DR.

Rayjon also supported **ASCALA** with funding to operate a **mobile medical clinic** which provided regular care and medicines to **396** individuals in **8** extremely vulnerable batey communities.



For us localization means guiding the people and giving them the resources they need, so that they can do the work themselves.

Crismery Gutierrez
Puente Desarrollo Internacional

Did you know you can listen to the story of Barrio 41 in Season 2 of the **Tapestry 2030** podcast? search for Episode 2 of Season 2 on your favourite platform, or listen on our [website](#).

Created in partnership with the Ontario Council for International Cooperation



Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2021-2022



In the past year, Haiti has been in the news a lot: assassination of the Haitian President in July 2021, earthquake in August 2021, massive civil unrest characterized by violent protests, frequent high-profile kidnappings, UN predictions of a growing humanitarian crisis... the list goes on.

Unfortunately, the situation continues to deteriorate, with growing **insecurity** and **gang control**, severe shortages of food, water, and fuel, and shutdowns of government services, including country-wide school closures. **For the average Haitian citizen, everything is harder.**

In this harsh context, the achievements of our Haitian partners are even more inspiring.

CAP HAÏTIEN, Haiti at the Centre for Nutrition & Education for Women & Children (C-NEW-C)



With the last year came an influx of children in need. The **Nutrition Program** provided care for upwards of **45** children each month.

[left: C-NEW-C Director Andre-Jean Pierre leans in to kiss a child from the Nutrition Program]

Throughout the year, emergency food distributions and **Red Zone support** assisted approximately **50** of the most vulnerable families in crisis.

A key focus of the C-NEW-C is to develop sustainable strategies to help each family find lasting solutions to the many challenges they face.

61 elementary and secondary students received **Tuition Support** to attend school, **4** university scholarships were awarded, and **7** students received support to pursue a manual trade.



Adult LifeSkills classes helped young women gain skills and confidence to overcome situations of poverty. Youseline (*left*) is proudly wearing jewelry she created in the arts & crafts class (items she can now sell).

31 students completed their final literacy exams with **94%** success!

Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2021-2022

CAP HAÏTIEN (Cont'd)



[above: Filane suffered serious burns to her legs after she rushed into the flames to save her neighbour's children]

In December 2021, tragedy struck when a gas tanker overturned and exploded, spreading flames through a densely packed Cap Haitian neighbourhood. An estimated 80 people were killed and dozens more seriously injured.

Under the leadership of Director Andre Jean-Pierre, the C-NEW-C sprang into action and became a refuge of help and hope. They provided food and clothing and assisted with finding new homes for families who had lost everything, paid for medical care for burn victims, assisted grieving families with funeral expenses, and provided trauma and grief counselling for affected families and staff.

ST. MARC, Haiti

Our partners at Rayjon Share Care Haiti (RSCH), have worked diligently to build the autonomy and strength of rural villages, so that they have the resources and leadership needed to survive a time of crisis, regardless of what is happening with the government or in the capital. Director Renaud Thomas says,

**"Our country has collapsed.
Our communities are alive."**

The **microcredit** program, with leadership from the Women's Federation, provided loans to **42** women from **7** villages, and achieved a repayment rate of **100%**!



The **Pinson Community School**, the only school in walking distance for approximately **250** students from K-6, remained open, even when the majority of Haitian schools closed due to the insecurity.

Far away from the city and with limited resources, you can imagine it is hard to recruit and retain qualified teachers. Lack of qualified teachers is a huge problem: **80% of Haitian teachers do not have pre-service training** or are unqualified to teach (USAID, 2017). Partner organization P4H facilitated extensive training for all Pinson teachers in August 2022!



Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2021-2022

The “Breadfruit” Project

Phase II of the Haitian Women’s Federation’s exciting “**Breadfruit**” sustainable tree nursery and processing factory is producing impressive results! These amazing women have already sold the first **500** saplings, and have an audacious goal of **1,000** more by January, 2023! All income they earn is reinvested back into their rural community to support a variety of initiatives to benefit everyone (health care, business development, education, etc.). Their **rice/corn mills** are now fully operational—a huge service to this region that relies on sustenance agriculture.



“[The Adult Literacy] program has helped me to live well and be successful, because I can defend myself in society...”

—Clairmathe, Alpha Literacy graduate



The **Alpha Adult Literacy Program** continued to be a shining star in rural St. Marc. In 2020-2021, **78** students completed their final exams with a **92%** success rate. Heading into 2021-2022 we are expecting the biggest Alpha year ever in St. Marc, with **170+** students, and including brand-new Level I classes in two communities without prior access.

[Clairmathe, Haiti]

Board Nominee

ALLISON KINGSTON

Raised in Corunna and educated in Canada's capital, Allison has developed a passion for collaborating with like-minded people to work toward a better world. After graduating from Carleton in 2018 and trying various industries and an internship with the literacy-focused non-profit Worldreader in Ghana, she settled her sights towards focusing on meaningful impacts through international cooperation and localization.

Set to graduate with her Masters of Migration and Diaspora Studies in 2023, Allison has a research focus on statelessness and refugee situations. Her master's thesis discusses issues faced by Stateless women of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic. This is where her interests and Rayjon really began to collide. A member of Rayjon's Project Advisory Team since 2021, she has cherished opportunities to learn from Rayjon's project leads abroad and team members in Canada.

As a Rotaractor, Allison has worked with communities abroad as international Service Director and at home through community service projects. As a community volunteer, she has spent much of her time focusing on projects that support the equality of women, education and refugee settlement locally and globally. When she is not focusing on executing projects, she is usually playing and coaching roller derby, boxing, nurturing a love for language learning or exploring the great outdoors.

Allison hopes to bring her knowledge and passion that she has picked up around the world to the Rayjon Board while having the opportunity to learn as much as possible from seasoned board members and partners.



Honouring Our Outgoing Secretary (2009-2022)



This fall, we are saying goodbye to our long-time Rayjon Board Secretary, Mary Weerdenburg, who has decided to step down from the role she has held since 2009. Mary has been a dedicated and supportive Board secretary who keeps us all on track while succinctly recording all of our discussions and decisions. A good secretary is priceless and Mary has fulfilled the role with precision and care.

MARY
WEERDENBURG

Thankfully, Mary is not leaving the organization. Her history with Rayjon is extensive! Back in 2005 she went on her first Rayjon trip to Haiti with her daughter and since then has gone on **28 trips** with the organization. She served as a member of the former MP&E/CEC committee and has been especially active with the **Eyeglass Program**. Luckily, she plans on continuing her work with the Eyeglass team, keeping her role as our coffee representative, and working with the DeGroot's plant fundraising event.

We celebrate Mary's long-term commitment to Rayjon and thank her for her continued support for the people of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and marginalized communities throughout Latin America. We're sure your many world-wide friends are eager for your next visit.

Thank you, Mary!

Rayjon Re-Imagined

Did you notice our “reimagined” mission and vision statements on page 2? We’re excited to tell you more...

In 1986 a seed was planted. It took root, drank deep and sprouted.

The passion ignited, relationships built and partnerships formed all grew. We learned, stretched and changed.

Looking to the future, we asked ourselves,

“How can Rayjon, as a Canadian organization, continue to grow as a progressive and empowering international partner working with communities in Haiti and the Dominican Republic?”



RE-IMAGINED MISSION:

Rayjon Share Care works in partnership with communities in Haiti and the Dominican Republic to reach their goals in sustainable development and social justice. We invest in relationship building and the two-way exchange of knowledge, resources and skills to create bridges of sharing—local to global.

VISION:

Our community partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic are empowered and have the resources to determine their future.



We’ve put together an exciting video to share our re-imagined direction, and **HOW** we hope to get there. You can watch on our [website](#).



“It’s a breath of fresh air.”

—Andre, Cap Haitian, Haiti

Financial Summary

For fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	2022	2021
Cash	\$ 179,895	\$ 245,846
Investments	256,487	146,215
Sales tax receivable	3,830	4,217
	<u>440,212</u>	<u>396,278</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS	6,107	8,725
ENDOWMENT FUND	12,506	10,000
	<u>\$ 458,825</u>	<u>\$ 415,003</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE	2022	2021
Donations	\$ 512,752	\$ 365,837
Fundraising events	59,867	53,521
Hope for Haiti program	2,070	13,783
Investment/exchange (loss)/income	7,659	(2,838)
Capital Gain	-	263
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>582,348</u>	<u>430,566</u>

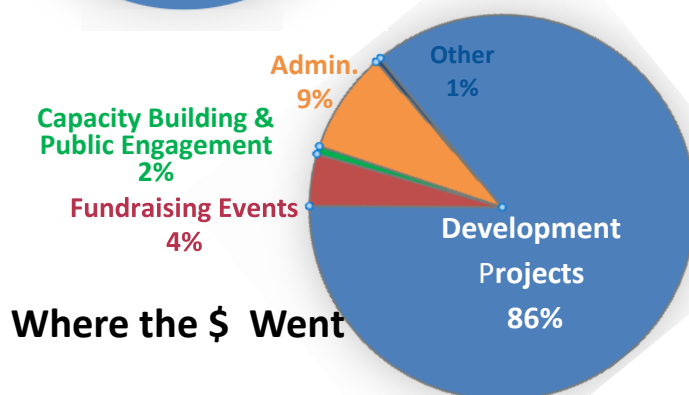
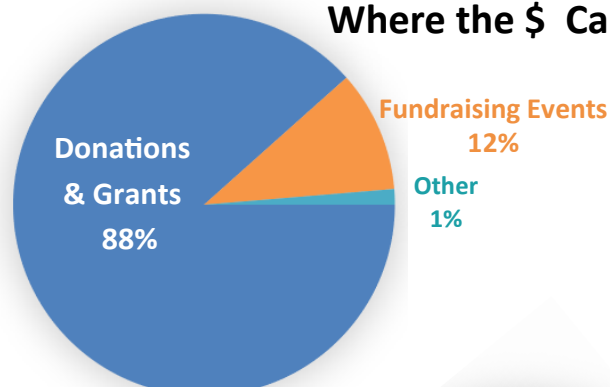
LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2022	2021
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,501	\$ 3,508
Deferred contributions held for designated projects	195,320	175,425
	<u>198,821</u>	<u>178,933</u>

FUND BALANCES

UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	170,004	156,070
INTERNALLY DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE	90,000	80,000
	<u>260,004</u>	<u>236,070</u>
	<u>\$ 458,825</u>	<u>\$ 415,003</u>

Where the \$ Came From



Where the \$ Went



In 2021, Rayjon became a partner of the Canadian Will Power campaign. Learn more at willpower.ca



Rayjon's endowment fund is held by the [Sarnia Community Foundation](#).

For more information about Planned Giving to support Rayjon's sustainability, please visit www.rayjon.org/donate.

For more details on our Finances, including balances for the Eyeglass Program, please see the complete official audited statements available on our website at rayjon.org/fags

Financial Summary

For fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND FUND BALANCE—CONT.

CANADIAN EXPENDITURES	2022	2021
Canadian administration	\$ 39,320	\$ 40,468
Public engagement	3,458	4,076
	<u>42,778</u>	<u>44,544</u>
OUT OF COUNTRY PROJECTS & PROGRAMS		
C-NEW-C project (Cap Haïtien, Haiti)	123,342	108,034
Scholarship Program	14,140	3,700
Consuelo Community Development Project (Dominican Republic)	35,147	38,818
Eye Glass Program	-	3,814
Hope for Haiti Program	13,783	17,205
Rayjon Share Care Haiti project (St. Marc, Haiti)	120,331	74,770
Project support expense	54,542	58,594
	<u>361,285</u>	<u>304,935</u>
OTHER EXPENDITURES		
Awareness trip Expenditures	-	111,123
Amortization	3,739	5,341
Fundraising events expense	25,671	6,718
	<u>29,410</u>	<u>123,182</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>433,473</u>	<u>472,661</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES		
	(2,907)	27,958
Transfer to internally designated funds	(20,000)	-
Transfer from endowment funds	616	-
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES		
	(22,291)	27,958
BALANCE, Start of Year	178,361	150,403
BALANCE, End of Year	156,070	178,361

STATEMENT OF RESERVE OPERATIONS & FUND BALANCE

	2022	2021
TRANSFER FROM OPERATING FUNDS	(20,000)	-
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	(20,000)	-
BALANCE, START OF YEAR	(60,000)	(60,000)
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ (80,000)</u>	<u>\$ (60,000)</u>

STATEMENT OF ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE

	2022	2021
Transfer to operating expenses	\$ (616)	\$ -
Excess of rev. over exp.	-	616
BALANCE, START OF YEAR	616	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 616</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

OPERATING ACTIVITES	2022	2021
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ (2,907)	\$ 28,574
Amortization on capital assets	3,739	5,341
Changes in non-cash working capital balances related to operations		
Accounts receivable	(4,011)	5,792
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2	(3)
Funds held for designated projects	80,015	41,658
	<u>76,838</u>	<u>81,362</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of endowment fund	-	(10,000)
CHANGES IN CASH & INVESTMENTS		
	76,838	71,362
CASH & INVESTMENTS, Start of year	315,223	243,861
CASH & INVESTMENTS, End of year	<u>\$ 392,061</u>	<u>\$ 315,223</u>
Cash & equivalents represented by:		
Cash	\$ 245,846	\$ 230,209
Short term investment	146,215	85,014
	<u>\$ 392,061</u>	<u>\$ 315,223</u>

In Canada



OUTREACH



*Erin, New Race Director
for Trail & Ale 2022*

We have reimagined our model of outreach and volunteer connection. We no longer have an umbrella “**Community Engagement Committee**” (CEC), but instead are creating opportunities for volunteers interested in focusing on one event in particular. In doing so, we are gaining new energy and welcoming new leadership to events.

- The 2nd Annual **Trail & Ale** Walk/Run in Sept. 2021 had both virtual and live options and raised **\$14,694**. Of 132 participants, **54%** had no previous connection with Rayjon!
- With the steadfast partnership of **DeGroot’s Nurseries**, a strong team of **42** volunteers were repeated the successful drive-thru style **plant sale** (hatsoff to Dianne & Mary our fearless leaders) to raise **\$13,881!**

Pop-up events such as the Backyard Market, First Friday, and Fool Fest were loads of fun and allowed us to share with new audiences and recruit some new volunteers!

OUR GROWING TEAM

In November 2021 we welcomed **Piera Spinelli Barrile** to the Rayjon team. In addition to providing fabulous assistance to our ED, Piera is making the role her own, bringing many unique talents and skills. She’s taking a lead role in social media communications, and is the main point of contact for our partners at the C-NEW-C in Cap Haitian. Our Haitian partners especially love speaking with Piera in Haitian Creole (*kreyol ayisyen*). **Mèsi, Piera!**

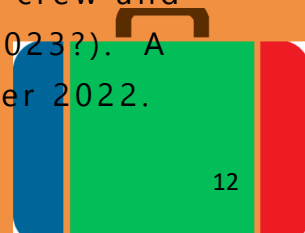


*Piera, Program &
Communications
Officer*



TRIPS & EYEGLASS PROGRAM

While no **Trips** took place during 2021-2022, the **Eyeglass Team** remained active, with a busy collection, washing and sorting crew and a growing waitlist of participants who are eager to travel again (2023?). A first post-Covid **Partnership Team** plans to visit the DR in November 2022. We’re eager to face-to-face with our partners!



Looking Forward

Letter from the Executive Director

"It is with this surety that we must stand with Haiti, a country whose spirit and people will never be broken, and work in solidarity toward the future the Haitian people deserve."

—Dr. Paul Farmer (1959-2022),
Co-Founder of *Partners in Health*

Dear Friends,

It's been another difficult year—for many individuals part of our Canadian community, for millions around the world affected by political turmoil, sickness, rising cost of living, and war. And certainly it's been a difficult year for our partners in Haiti & the DR.

Here at Rayjon, it's been another year with limited ability to gather in person, and a year without Trips or face-to-face visits with our partners. And yet, somehow I feel a profound sense of **hope**, and indeed of pride, when I think about our work together.

Participating in a strategic visioning session, I heard the Rayjon Board and Project Advisory Team express their hopes for the future, and saw how clearly those hopes had been shaped by learning and by listening. They put their own agendas aside and came together to imagine how we can grow as a progressive and empowering organization, prioritizing the voices and autonomy of our Haitian & Dominican partners.

Haitian families in particular have experienced extreme hardship this year. They've been demoralized, traumatized and trampled by forces beyond their control. The most recent news is even more grim. Sometimes it's all just too much. An earthquake. An assassination. Political upheaval. Gang violence. Illness. Suffering. Death.

But then I look through the pages of this report. I see the incredible achievements (in both Haiti and the DR!): the building of brighter futures, the strong leadership, the will to meet challenges head on, and the innovation to find solutions.

Our partners have not lost hope. They hope for a better future, and they're doing everything they can to create one. In **solidarity** it is an honour to stand with them.

You're joining us in solidarity with each act of listening and learning, with each gift of your time, talents, and resources. Stand firm.

In solidarity, an solidarite, en solidaridad,



Heather Smith, Executive Director



SINCE 1986



Malnourished children
received life-saving
treatment

1,760



38,200

Vaccinations
for children



21,281

Pairs of
prescription
eyeglasses
distributed in 9

1,815



Impoverished elementary
and secondary students
received tuition support to
attend school



6,360

Children
educated
from
preschool
to Grade
13



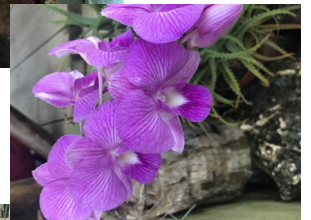
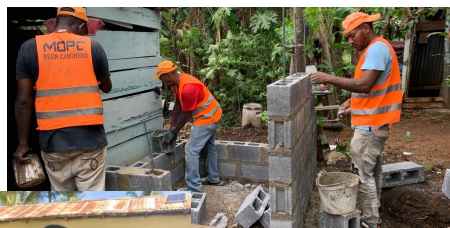
360

Women received
loans & training to start



Adults
learned to

1,910



Thank
you



for your
support