



RAYJON SHARE CARE

Annual Report 2023-2024



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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.

Rayjon's Three Pillar Objectives

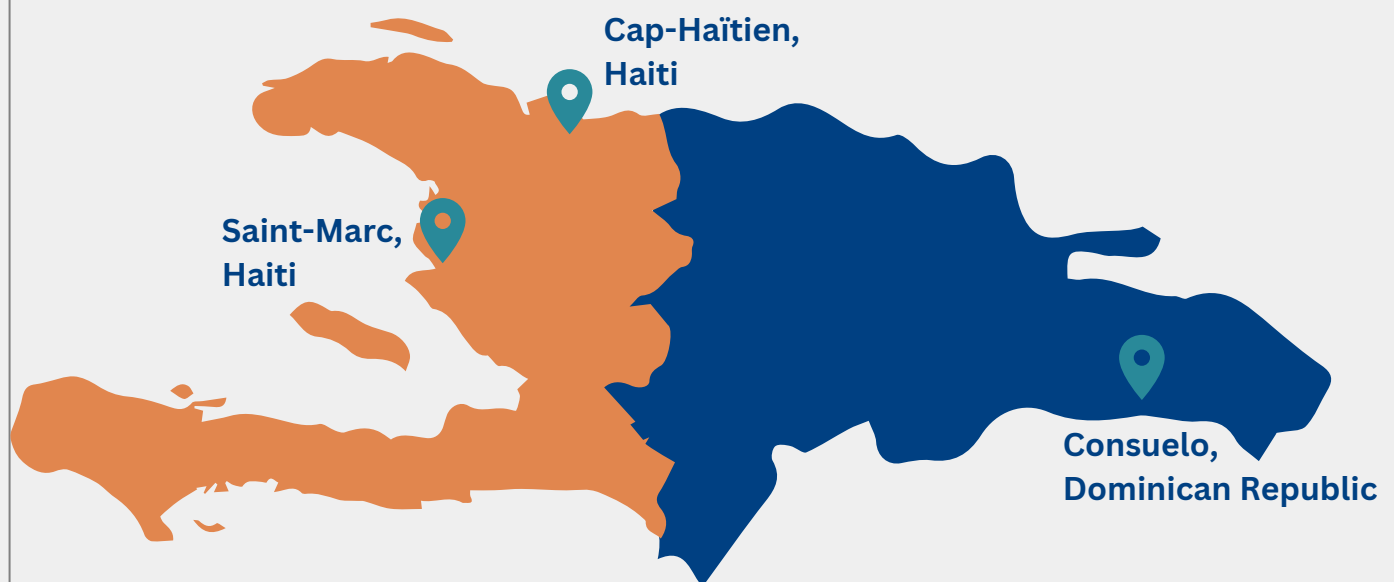
Story Telling

Social Justice

Local to
Global
Partnerships



See Rayjon's strategic plan at: www.rayjon.org/goals-strategic-plan/



Where we Work

Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2023-2024



Cap-Haïtien, Haiti

at the Centre for Nutrition & Education for Women and Children (C-New-C)

Despite nationwide insecurity and violence in the capital, relatively stable Cap-Haïtien has become a refuge for those fleeing danger. C-New-C has seen a surge in people seeking support, especially in the nutrition program, and strives to assist as many as possible. The organization aims not only to address immediate needs but also to help participants gain knowledge, skills and self-confidence to overcome poverty and strengthen the Cap-Haïtien community in the long term.

Over the past year, the Elementary and Secondary Tuition Support Program has sent **61 students to school, ensuring they have access to education.**

The Post-Secondary Scholarships Program supports **5 students**, including Spencer Latortue, who excels in medical school, and Kerlande Myrtil, advancing in nursing. Both are set to graduate in 2025 and are expected to make a significant impact in the Cap-Haïtien community!

The Alpha Adult Literacy and Life Skills Programs thrived, with a remarkable **93.7% pass rate** in the Alpha program and a vibrant life skills initiative serving **96 participants**.

The Microcredit Program excelled with a **100% repayment rate**, empowering **38 entrepreneurs (37 women and 1 man)**.

The Nutrition Program met increased demand, improving the health of malnourished children, while the new maternal health initiative shows promising early results. These successes highlight C-New-C's effective community-centered approach and its vital role in supporting Cap-Haïtien during challenging times.



Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2023-2024



Saint-Marc, Haiti

with Rayjon Share Care Haiti (RSCH)

This year has been marked by significant achievements for the Women's Federation of Saint-Marc (FEFEH) and ongoing success for RSCH projects!

Pinson Community School, located high in the mountains of Saint-Marc and accessible only by walking or motorcycle, **serves over 250 students**. Currently offering grades K-6, it will add a grade 7 class next year, funded entirely by the community.

The Alpha Adult Literacy Program engaged **146 participants in 4 villages**, with **11 graduates completing level 4** in Grand Fond.

Next year, the program will use books created by its own staff! M. Luckner, the Alpha director in Saint-Marc, is excited about the lasting impact of these texts; as he puts it: **"After we die, people will still read the books!"**

The Grand Fond community now has running water with a solar pump system **serving over 2,300 residents**. The new water capture system features a solar pump that ensures clean water is available and stored throughout the day. Additionally, financial support from The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) has enabled the creation of a functional model food sovereignty garden, providing the community with fresh produce.

Thanks to FEFEH's planning and PWRDF's financial support, with support from Trees that Feed Foundation (TTFF), **87 breadfruit trees** have been planted, and the remaining equipment needed to start grinding breadfruit flour has arrived. The Women's Federation has also been teaching local bakers how to make 'Konparets', a staple snack cake, using their newly perfected recipe with breadfruit as the star ingredient.



Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2023-2024



Consuelo, Dominican Republic

with PLADESCUBA and UMUJUVYOC

PLADESCUBA plays a central role in Barrio 41, and we, at Rayjon, are proud to be their partner. While PLADESCUBA primarily operates as a preschool, **educating 45 children over the past year and providing them with nutritious meals**, it also serves as a vital community hub. The center offers music classes for youth and supports adults in developing skills such as sewing. Director Georges Thertulien is a key figure in the community, connecting individuals with other organizations and support services even outside of the centre.

In the past year, PLADESCUBA has benefited from several upgrades, including a thriving garden that provides nutritious produce, and a new small playground. The children at PLADESCUBA are thoroughly enjoying the playground, often arriving before school starts to ensure they get a turn on the swings!



Unión Municipal De Juntas De Vecinos Y Organizaciones Comunitarias

De Consuelo (UMUJUVYOC) is Rayjon's newest partner. Many small barrios (neighbourhoods) are often overlooked in municipal decision-making due to high poverty levels and lack of documentation.

UMUJUVYOC was established to give these communities a voice. In its first year of operation, UMUJUVYOC was formally incorporated and now

brings together community leaders from various neighbourhoods and bateyes in the Consuelo region. Last year, the organization conducted leadership training workshops for the community and, this year, it will continue to support and lead projects initiated by the community.

Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2023-2024

Consuelo, Dominican Republic

with ASCALA and PUENTE

Rayjon collaborates with the Scalabrinic association in the service of human mobility(ASCALA) in Consuelo, Dominican Republic, focusing on social services, local development, and documentation.

ASCALA provided crucial health care through a mobile clinic, **reaching over 980 people in rural Batey communities** with weekly on-site medical care and hospital support. Their efforts continued despite challenges that include mass deportations and limited access to health facilities.

In local development, ASCALA **trained 42 women entrepreneurs in Barrio 41 and provided seed funding to 34**. They also established **3 Auto Savings and Loan Groups (GAAP)** to enhance financial stability, overcoming barriers such as theft and poor infrastructure.

With respect to documentation, ASCALA **processed 694 old and 320 new files for the National Regularization Plan for Migrants**, assisting with renewals, translations and follow-ups despite delays and increased deportations.

Overall, ASCALA, with Rayjon's support, positively impacted over 1,750 people despite significant obstacles.



PUENTE uses community-driven data collection to work with local leaders and identify key infrastructure needs. The community then votes on which projects to prioritize. Once a project is selected, the community collaborates with Municipal Public Works and PUENTE, contributing at least 25% of the total project costs, often through in-kind labour. In the 2023-2024 period, this approach resulted in projects across 4 different neighborhoods, **providing 48 new bathrooms and 42 new roofs, benefiting a total of 381 people!**

In Canada

Highlights 2023-2024



Visit from Renaud

Last fall Rayjon was blessed to have the head of RSCH come for a visit! After a lengthy visa process, Renaud Thomas joined us in Canada in September and was shown around by many fabulous Rayjon supporters.

Renaud shared his knowledge through presentations across our community, Ontario and even at Ontario Council for International Collaboration (OCIC)'s annual symposium presenting on partnership and solidarity in international co-operation. He also enjoyed some of the best our region has to offer such as sailing on Lake Huron, visiting Niagara Falls, and learning about local agriculture (one of his passions as a trained agronomist).

Renaud's visit included discussions with various partners, such as PWRDF and Trees That Feed Foundation, about empowering rural communities in Haiti.

Special thanks to everyone who helped to make Renaud's time in Canada extra special!



Culture and Cuisine: India

Culture and Cuisine returned this past April, featuring Indian gastronomy, music and dance! With Manjit Singh as our host, Rayjon welcomed guests to a night of professional dancers in an Indian cultural spectacular. Thanks to our amazing volunteers, sponsors and organizers, we are excited to continue to make Culture and Cuisine a recurring event!

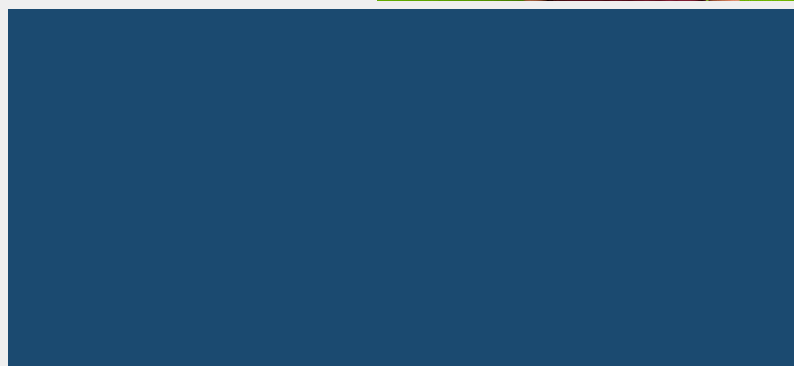


Eyeglass Program

This past April, the Eyeglass team headed to Mixco, Guatemala - **reaching over 400 patients in just 5 days**. Many of these patients presented complex vision issues, requiring dedicated time from our team members and, in some cases, glasses that weren't immediately available and needed to be crafted in Canada and shipped back to Guatemala. Despite these challenges, the majority of patients left the "clinic" on the same day with their new prescription glasses, sporting radiant smiles.

The team consisted of **17 Canadians who were joined by 6 Guatemalans**. The Canadians included two fabulous high school seniors from British Columbia, Kobe and Elva, who had been collecting eyeglasses for the Rayjon program and were able to participate in this spring's clinic. Kobe, also being a photographer and videographer, even chronicled the clinic in a short video that can be watched on our website.

Special thanks to our host Miguel, the municipality of Mixco, and all of the Guatemalan support we had during our time there!

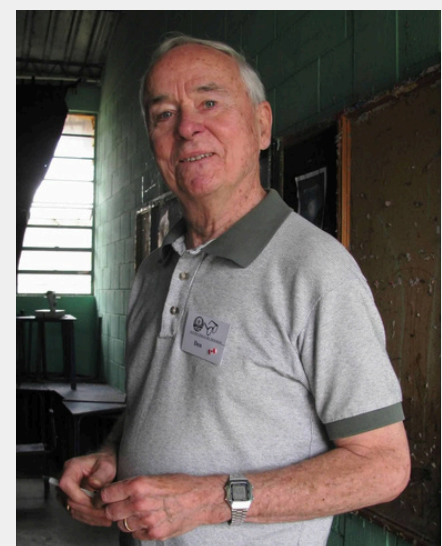


In Memoriam

Saying Goodbye to our Friend Den Shannon

Den's super power was the ability to make people feel welcome and included. Den was a humble man who was a blessing to many.

Den was my mentor and father figure 12 years. I remember meeting with Den at his house in early 2011 to be indoctrinated into Rayjon. Den spoke about his involvement in the charity and how it impacted him. He spoke fondly of the people he had met and worked with. Den's ability as a storyteller helped me understand how I could become part of this organization.



November 5th, 2023 was a very sad day for all of us who knew and loved Dennis Shannon. Den continues to guide me and others as our special Guardian Angel.

Written by John Spinozzi

Financial Summary

for fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Current Assets	2024	2023
Cash	\$137,254	\$90,999
Investments	\$219,779	\$352,814
Sales taxes receivable	\$1,411	\$5,008
	\$358,444	\$448,821
Capital Assets - Net	\$2,992	\$4,275
Endowment Fund	\$12,506	\$12,506
	\$373,942	\$465,602

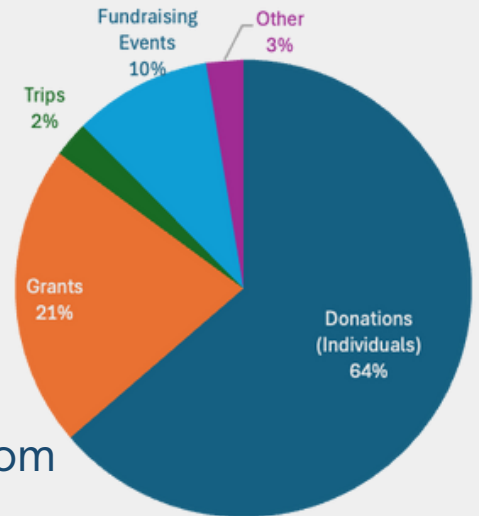
Liabilities

Current Liabilities	2024	2023
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$3,504	\$3,501
Deferred contributions held for designated projects	\$102,352	\$199,194
	\$105,856	\$202,695

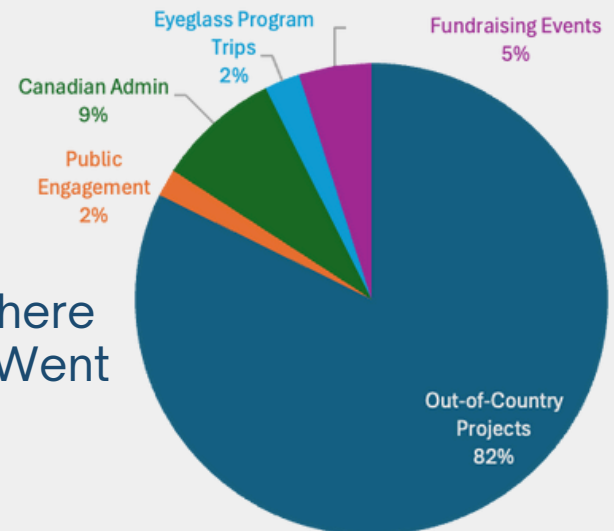
Fund Balances

Unrestricted fund balance	\$178,086	\$172,907
Internally designated fund balance	\$90,000	\$90,000

Where \$ Came From



Where \$ Went



Statement of Operations and Fund Balance

Revenue	2024	2023
Donations	\$511,553	\$532,367
Project Fund	\$96,842	-
Eyeglass program	\$403	\$3,894
Fundraising events	\$70,931	\$64,170
Post secondary scholarship program	\$7,731	\$7,226
Investment/exchange (loss)/ income	\$19,110	\$8,579
	\$706,570	\$616,236
Other Revenue		
Trip Revenue	\$17,734	\$32,584
Trip Admin Fee	\$450	\$585
Total Revenue	\$724,754	\$649,405

Financial Summary

For fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Statement of Operations and Fund Balance - continued

Canadian Expenditures	2024	2023
Canadian administration	\$60,641	\$49,682
Public engagement	\$13,651	\$7,285
	\$74,292	\$56,967
Out of Country Projects & Programs		
C-New-C project (Cap Haitian)	\$135,154	\$138,176
Post secondary scholarship program	\$7,810	\$7,226
Consuelo community development project	\$180,180	\$116,068
Eyeglass program	\$403	\$7,449
Rayjon Share Care Haiti project (St. Marc)	\$158,637	\$144,518
Project support expense	\$108,739	\$113,134
	\$590,923	\$526,571
Other Expenditures		
Eyeglass/awareness trip expenditures	\$17,331	\$29,029
Amoritization	\$1,283	\$1,832
Fundraising events expense	\$35,746	\$32,103
	\$54,360	\$62,964
Total Expenditures	\$719,575	\$646,502

Excess of expenditures over revenues/ Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$5,179	\$2,903
Balance, Beginning of year	\$172,907	\$170,004
Balance, End of year	\$178,086	\$172,907

Statement on Cash Flows

Cash and equivalents represented by:	2024	2023
Cash	\$137,254	\$90,999
Short term investment	\$219,779	\$352,814
	\$357,033	\$443,813



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/faqs

Welcome Incoming Board Nominees

Kristie van de Wetering as Member-at-Large and Victoria Digby as Financial Director

Born in Sarnia, Kristie van de Wetering (pictured to the right) has built her career on promoting social justice and supporting vulnerable communities. After earning degrees in Philosophy and International Relations, she moved to Haiti in 2001, working with organizations like Oxfam GB and Plan International for 15 years.

In 2016, she became Deputy Executive Director of Beyond Borders, a US nonprofit aiding grassroots movements in Haiti.

Her expertise includes sustainable development, food security, and human rights. Fluent in Haitian Creole and proficient in French, Kristie is now the Haiti Country Director for World Renew, working remotely from Petrolia. She looks forward to supporting Rayjon staff and partners in their mission of community transformation.



Gratitude for Departing Board Members

Thank you to Brian Rae and John Spinozzi for their years of service

Brian Rae (pictured below on the left with Renaud) has been a fantastic board member for years, always bringing valuable insights that help guide Rayjon into the future. We're lucky to keep his expertise through his ongoing role in the finance committee, where his attention to detail really shines. His travels to Haiti, especially in Sain-Marc and Cap-Haïtien, add even more depth to his contributions. We truly appreciate his willingness to share his time and knowledge with us!

John Spinozzi (pictured below in the middle with Junior) has been an irreplaceable part of the Rayjon board for over a decade. His travels to Haiti and the Dominican Republic on Rayjon trips have allowed him to offer much more than just financial insight and management; he leads with his heart and has truly been a priceless member of the Rayjon team. We're excited for him to continue to be involved as our Accounting Coordinator. Over the years, John has also been an active volunteer at various events, including the Degroofs fundraiser and Trail and Ale, further showcasing his commitment to Rayjon!



Looking Forward

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I'm filled with gratitude as I write this annual report. Over nearly 30 years, Rayjon has grown in heart and mind, and I'm honoured to be part of this journey. Since joining the board in 2021 and now stepping into the role of Executive Director—following in Heather's impressive footsteps—I feel incredibly fortunate.

As an organization, we become stronger when we prioritize the voices of our partners and seek to understand how we can best support them. In Saint-Marc, we've seen the women's federation not only increase in numbers but also gain significant decision-making power, transforming from a group advocating for their community into a force that's creating sustainable food and income through the breadfruit mill. In Barrio 41, we've witnessed local business owners expand their enterprises while uplifting those around them. It's about power in the hands of communities and in hands of people.

Our role, in Canada, is to support their leadership and learn from their experiences. By providing resources and amplifying the voices of our partners, we can achieve long-lasting results. Communities thrive when led by their own members, and I'm committed to listening and learning as much as I can from those we partner with.

I invite all our supporters to join me in this journey of listening. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who makes Rayjon what it is—our volunteers and supporters in Canada, our partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and our community members here and abroad.

In collaboration, *an kolaborasyon*, *en colaboración*,



Allison Kingston

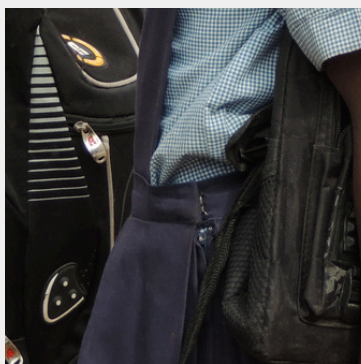
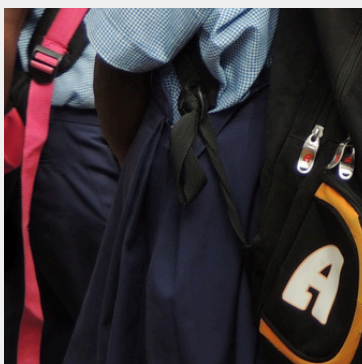


I was able to spend some time this past spring (never enough) in Consuelo with Georges (director of PLADESCUBA) and Junior (community leader and PUENTE member).



"...People do know how to do for themselves, but there's a constant interruption of those systems." - Myriam J. A. Chancy

Rayjon's latest podcast episode, "More Than 'Resilient': Facts, Fiction, and Forward to a Self-Made Haiti," featuring insights from Myriam J. A. Chancy, Gabriel Osson, and Renaud Thomas. Tune in on our website or your favourite podcast platform to listen and engage with this vital conversation!



RAYJON SHARE CARE

Thank You

With immense gratitude we thank you for your continued support to Rayjon and are excited to walk forward into the new year with you.

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