



RAYJONSHARECARE

Annual Report 2021

Vision|Mission|Goals

OUR MISSION:

Rayjon Share Care supports partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic to enhance their well-being and capacity. Rayjon provides a bridge between those who can help and those who need and want help in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and other developing countries.

OUR VISION:

a world in which people have an equal opportunity to thrive—empowered, independent, & self-sufficient.

OUR GOALS:



What you'll find in this report:

Our Impact
Community Development Highlights...3-5

Sharing Our Stories.....6

Our Approach.....6

Board Nominee.....7

Financial Summary.....8-9

In Canada.....10

Looking Forward
Letter from Executive Director.....11



rayjon.org

Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2020-2021

Rayjon supports local community development initiatives in 3 main regions:
Cap Haïtien (Haiti), Haut de St. Marc (Haiti), and Barrio 41, Consuelo, (Dominican Republic).

In partnership we facilitate learning and opportunities to enable individuals and communities to achieve their goals, develop their knowledge and potential, and participate fully in the wider society.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, our partners at all 3 locations faced additional challenges and barriers in 2020-2021. Read to learn more about how they faced and overcame those challenges with determination and courage.

CONSUELO, Dominican Republic

When the DR government was forced to temporarily close schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19, leaders at the preschool in Barrio 41 got creative. They made use of readily available (and affordable) cell-phone technology to implement at-home studies and virtual communication with teachers. Later, when school was able to re-open, they modified the schedule to allow for two cohorts and maximum safety. The school year successfully finished in June!



Facilitated by partner organization ASCALA, a **women's savings and loan group** was formed.

22 women received training in managing basic finances. Together the group saved over **\$4,000** of their own funds, which will help kick-start small business loans next year. Wow! The women also were trained in the prevention of gender based violence and marked International Women's Day with a parade and motivational celebration for the whole community.



Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2020-2021



CONSUELO
(Cont'd)

A documentation project is providing legal assistance to **45** individuals of Haitian descent to help them obtain the papers to legally live and work in the DR. Even though many of them have lived in the DR for generations, they face discrimination because of unjust policies and racism. This initiative is truly changing lives and ensuring all families have access to education, health care and employment opportunities.

ST. MARC, Haiti



Alpha Adult Literacy classes were offered in 4 villages, to a total of **41** students (85% women). 2 of the villages have now completed all 4 levels (classes no longer needed)! Interest was so high for new Level 1 classes that the year ended with a waitlist of participants.

The microcredit program, with leadership from the Women's Federation, provided loans to **42** women from **7** villages, and achieved a repayment rate of **96%**!



The Women's Federation "breadfruit project" was delayed during the pandemic and had to navigate some big challenges with fluctuations in the cost of building materials in Haiti. Highlights achieved include: construction of the new federation headquarters and future factory site (above), repairs to the mills, preliminary training for women leaders, and preparation for the sustainable fruit tree nursery. Onward!



The Pinson Community School was able to modify their school calendar in response to the pandemic and successfully completed the 2020-2021 year, with more than **250** students.

Our Impact

Community Development Highlights 2020-2021

CAP-HAÏTIEN, Haiti

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

In 2020-2021, the exchange rate of \$USD to Haitian gourdes (HTG) swung unexpectedly and drastically, exacerbating the economic effects of the pandemic. In addition, Haiti faced an unprecedented year in terms of political unrest and insecurity due to rising gang activity. For our Haitian friends and partners this meant:

- Lost wages (many Haitians receive their salaries in \$USD). When they converted to HTG to buy food for their families, they now had as little as 40% less to work with.
- Higher cost of living: Haiti imports much of its food and everyday goods, which suddenly were more expensive to purchase.
- For NGOs like Rayjon, who rely on foreign support and send funds to Haiti in \$USD, we knew that funds sent would not stretch nearly as far as we'd planned. **In response we:**

- supported emergency food distributions for the most vulnerable families
- Provided one-time bonuses to staff to compensate for reduced salaries and recognize their service during exceptional times
- adjusted budgets to prioritize the most urgent needs
- implemented safety protocols to keep staff & beneficiaries safe through unrest

In the face of so much fear and frustration, here are some highlights from the C-NEW-C:

63 elementary and secondary students received **Tuition Support** to attend school, and **4** graduates received scholarships to attend post-secondary education or receive vocational training.



The **Nutrition Program** continued to provide specialized treatment for malnourished children from 9-59 months of age. The # of children in the program each month rose to **35**. While children receive medical care, parents can enrol in **LifeSkills** classes to gain knowledge and employable skills.



Alpha Adult Literacy classes continued, with a modified schedule finishing in October of 2021. cycle of poverty. **33** students (all women) completed their final exams with a success rate of **85%**!

Sharing Our Stories

Share Our
Stories

Powerful Podcast

It was an honour to be part of the **Tapestry 2030 Podcast & Illustration series** in partnership with the *Ontario Council for International Cooperation*.



07 Haitian Women in the Lead

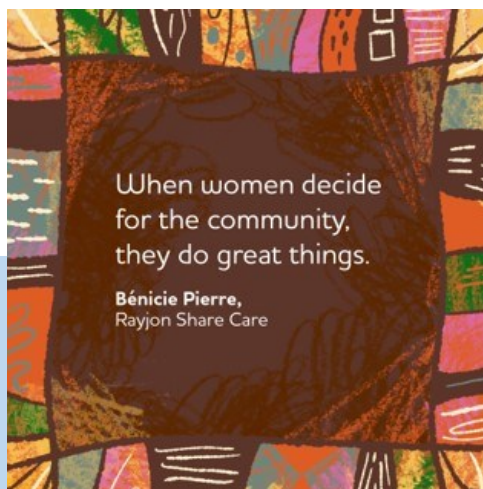
In Episode 7: **Haitian Women in the Lead**, you can listen to the voices of leaders from the grassroots Haitian Women's Federation in St. Marc, as they share their exciting plans for a factory and tree nursery, gender transformative,

Listen at rayjon.org or any

cooperative breadfruit and their perspective on sustainable development.

major podcast platform.

Our



Approach

In 2020-2021, Rayjon's approach of **partnership** was stretched as we tried to find meaningful ways of connecting with our Haitian & Dominican partners **from a distance**. Zoom meetings provided some opportunity for Rayjon volunteers to listen to leaders from the field as they shared updates and answered questions...but can never replace face-to-face. In the Spring of 2021 several Rayjon volunteers began taking Haitian Creole lessons and finished the year by sending a video greeting (in Creole!) to our partners in Haiti, as our way of saying "**Mèsi anpil**." This simple gesture meant a lot and was welcomed with laughter and appreciation.



Board Nominee

PETERSON BENJAMIN

Peterson first connected with Rayjon in 2016 when he was studying Law and Social Work at the Université D'Etat D'Haiti and volunteered his services as an intern for the Gilbert Clinic, hoping to use his knowledge to contribute to improved health services in Haiti.

He has since completed extensive studies in International Cooperation, and worked briefly with the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, assigned in the field of cooperation of Haiti with the Middle East and North America, while also teaching seminars on the use of numeric resources on behalf of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF). In March 2021 he was selected as one of 10 young Haitian executives in a prestigious competition to serve the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on multi-year diplomatic mission to Brazil. (Peterson would join the Board remotely from Brazil via Zoom). He's also working on his Master degree in the Haitian/American cooperation in matters of security and speaks Haitian Creole, French, and English.



When asked what he hopes to contribute to the Rayjon Board, Peterson says, **"Being Haitian, I think I can bring added value in terms of monitoring respect for fundamental rights and the dignity of the people to whom the services will be addressed. I will ensure that the scope of interventions respect Haitian laws and international [best practices]."**

Honouring Our Board Chair (2018-2021)



Ann is ending her term as Chairperson in October 2021. While the Board respects her decision to step down, we've refused to let her go! Thankfully she plans to stay on as a dedicated volunteer.

ANN TUPLIN

It's hard to list the many achievements Ann has been responsible for in her years with Rayjon, as Rayjon's first executive director, then Board Vice-Chair, then Chairperson. Formerly the Manager for the City of Sarnia, Ann brought strong administrative and leadership skills, which combined beautifully with her ability to foster collaboration and her genuine concern for others. She's incredibly hardworking, funny and adventurous, and has become quite skilled at riding on the back of a motorcycle (in Haiti). But she's also humble and prefers to shine the spotlight on anyone but herself. Of the countless things we are grateful for, highlights include:

● Charting a course "out of the red" during difficult financial years ● Dedicated member of many monitoring trips to Haiti ● Expert policy development, bringing Rayjon to a new level of efficacy ● Most gracious and patient "sounding board" for our executive director and other senior leaders. Her advice has been invaluable.

Ann also has many forever friends in Haiti who hope to see her able to visit once again, sooner than later. **Thank you, Ann!**

Financial Summary

For fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	2021	2020
Cash	\$ 245,846	\$ 230,209
Investments	146,215	85,014
Sales tax receivable	4,217	206
	<u>396,278</u>	<u>315,429</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS	8,725	12,464
ENDOWMENT FUND	10,000	10,000
	<u>\$ 415,003</u>	<u>\$ 337,893</u>

Rayjon established an endowment fund with the *Sarnia Community Foundation*, with an initial contribution of \$10,000. For more information about Planned Giving to support Rayjon's sustainability, please visit www.rayjon.org/donate.

LIABILITIES

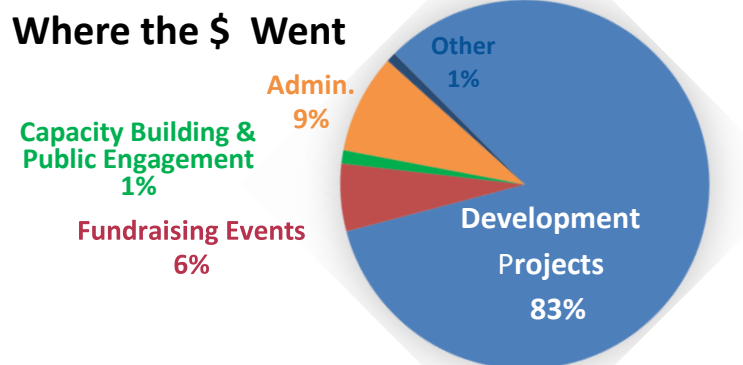
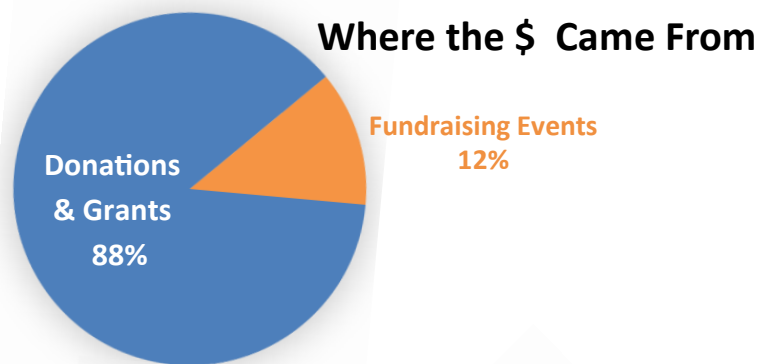
CURRENT LIABILITIES	2021	2020
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,508	\$ 3,506
Deferred contributions held for designated projects		
	<u>175,425</u>	<u>95,140</u>
	<u>178,933</u>	<u>98,916</u>

FUND BALANCES

UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	156,070	178,361
INTERNALLY DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE	80,000	60,000
ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE	0	616
	<u>236,070</u>	<u>238,977</u>
	<u>\$ 415,003</u>	<u>\$ 337,893</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE	2021	2020
Donations	\$ 365,837	\$ 306,939
Eye Glass program	-	3,814
Fundraising events	53,521	42,629
Hope for Haiti program	13,783	17,205
Investment/exchange (loss)/income	(2,838)	4,618
Capital Gain	263	3,447
	<u>430,566</u>	<u>378,652</u>
OTHER REVENUE		
Awareness Trip Revenue	-	120,967
Trip Admin Fee	-	1,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>121,967</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>430,566</u>	<u>500,619</u>



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

Financial Summary

For fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND FUND BALANCE—CONT.

CANADIAN EXPENDITURES	2021	2020
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

	2021	2020
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

	2021	2020
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	2021	2020
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



LOCAL ENGAGEMENT in the era of SOCIAL DISTANCING



The inability to gather in-person in large groups meant the cancellation of some of our most beloved fundraisers. However, it also inspired some creativity and innovation on the part of our volunteers who successfully managed 2 “**Culture & Cuisine**” take-out style dinners with virtual presentations, a drive-thru style **DeGroot’s plant sale** (in the wind, rain & cold!), and a virtual “**Trail & Ale**” Walk/Run. Combined these fundraisers raised \$27,850 for Rayjon!



Since 1986 Rayjon has sought to raise awareness of social injustices, and to turn knowledge into action. In 2020-2021 the Board acted on our values of respect, understanding and self-reflection by supporting the creation of a Diversity & Inclusion plan for the organization, and by making a commitment to follow through on action items therein.

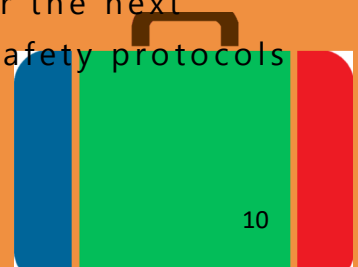
Diversity & Inclusion are paramount to the Rayjon vision of a world in which all people have an equal opportunity to thrive—empowered, independent and self-sufficient. The creation of an organization in which diversity and unique talents are leveraged, and an inclusive environment fostered, is paramount to achieving success in the global world of today. —Rayjon draft Diversity & Inclusion Plan



TRIPS & EYEGLASS PROGRAM

One of the most disappointing things about 2020-2021 was the complete lack of **Trips**, including several **Eyeglass Trips** that were unable to proceed.

The Eyeglass Team continued to accept and store glasses for the next possible opportunity, and trip leaders are also working on safety protocols so that trips can (hopefully) resume in 2021-2022!



Looking Forward

Letter from the Executive Director

You gotta fight with double fears.

—Andre Jean-Pierre, Rayjon Field
Director in Haiti

Andre made that statement at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, referring to the increased (and unfair) burden and uncertainty that families in Cap Haitien were facing. Already battling food insecurity, political unrest, and poor access to health care and education, they now had to worry about a global health emergency on top of it all.



While we rested safe at home here in Canada, largely removed from the urgent needs our Haitian & Dominican brothers and sisters continued to face everyday, we also had new, and maybe even “double fears.” Would our Canadian donors continue to support Rayjon through their own economic crisis? How would we replace live fundraisers and still meet our commitments to our partners—partners who needed our support more than ever? How could we keep volunteers engaged and passionate about the cause? And how could we truly stand alongside our partners, when we couldn’t be with them in person? Would their positive progress continue in our absence?

As it turns out, **YES** Canadian donors—and passionate volunteers!—would continue to be there, **YES**, we could rise to the challenge of finding innovative ways to fundraise, and **YES** we could stand in solidarity with our Haitian & Dominican friends and partners through Covid-19 and any other challenge that came our way. And **A RESOUNDING YES: the progress being achieved by capable Haitian & Dominican leaders continues.**

Join me in celebrating the many triumphs of lasting progress, the lessons learned, and the growth we have experienced together as we worked to **Facilitate Partnerships, Share Our Stories, Impact Communities, Build Capacity, and Engage Volunteers.**

In 2021-2022 we’ll be entering a new (and exciting!) round of strategic planning as an organization. I’m looking forward to the ideas and strengths that the new Rayjon Board, our volunteers, partners, supporters and you will bring to the table as we envision the future together.

An *kolaborasyon*, en *colaboración*, in collaboration,

Together we are supporting progress in:



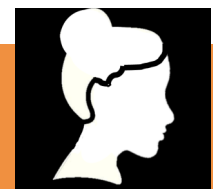
literacy &
education



health
care



microcredit



empowerment
of women

SINCE 1986



Malnourished children
received life-saving
treatment

1,680



38,150

Vaccinations
for children
& adults



21,281

Pairs of
prescription
eyeglasses
distributed in 9
countries

1,800



Impoverished elementary
and secondary students
received tuition support to
attend school



6,275

Children
educated
from
preschool
to Grade
13



260

Women received
loans & training to start
small businesses



Adults
learned to
read & write

1,800



Thank
you



for your
support