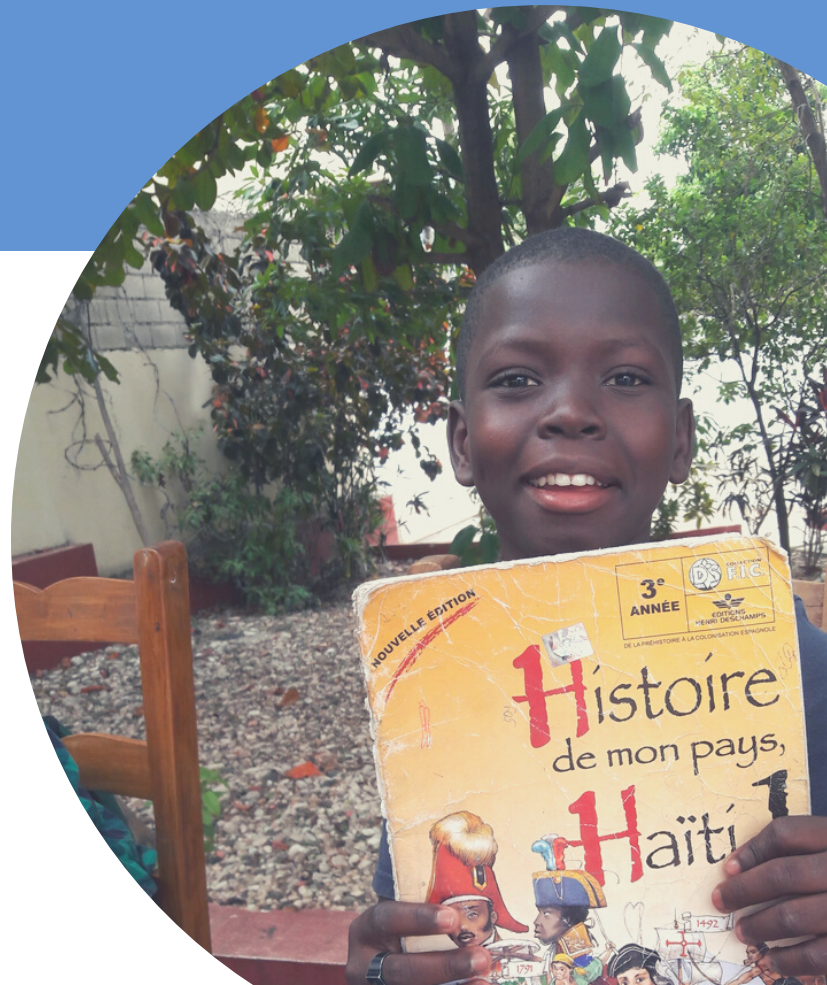


HAITIAN EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021



rebuilding Haiti, child by child
Haitian Educational Initiatives



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FROM OUR FOUNDER

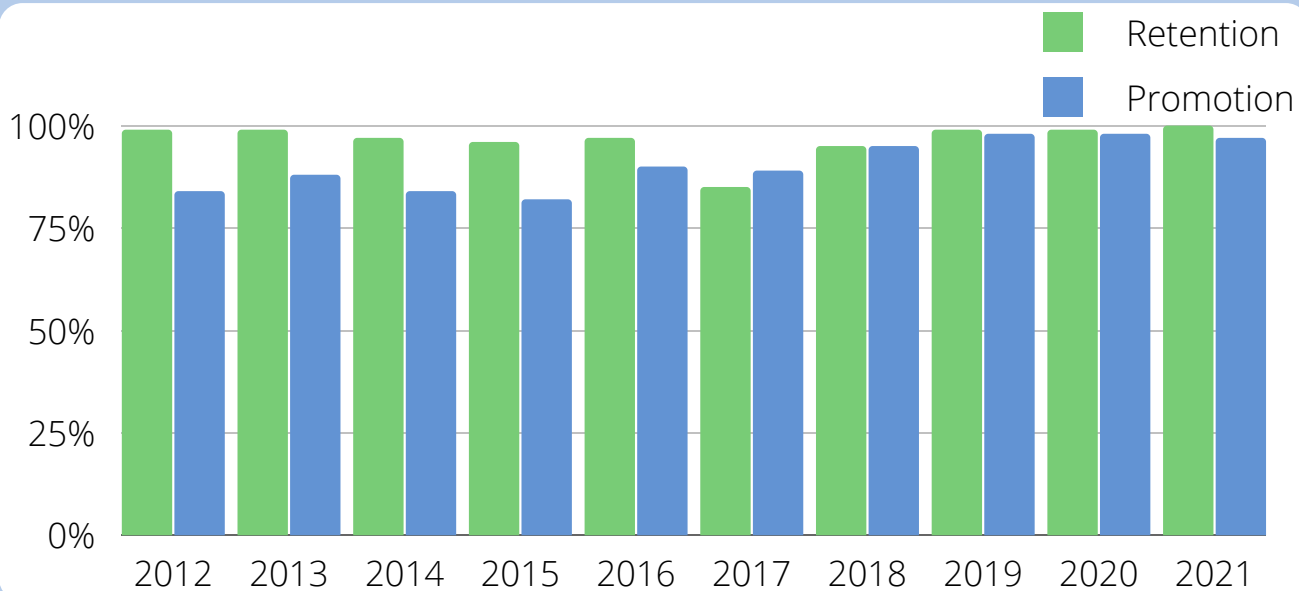
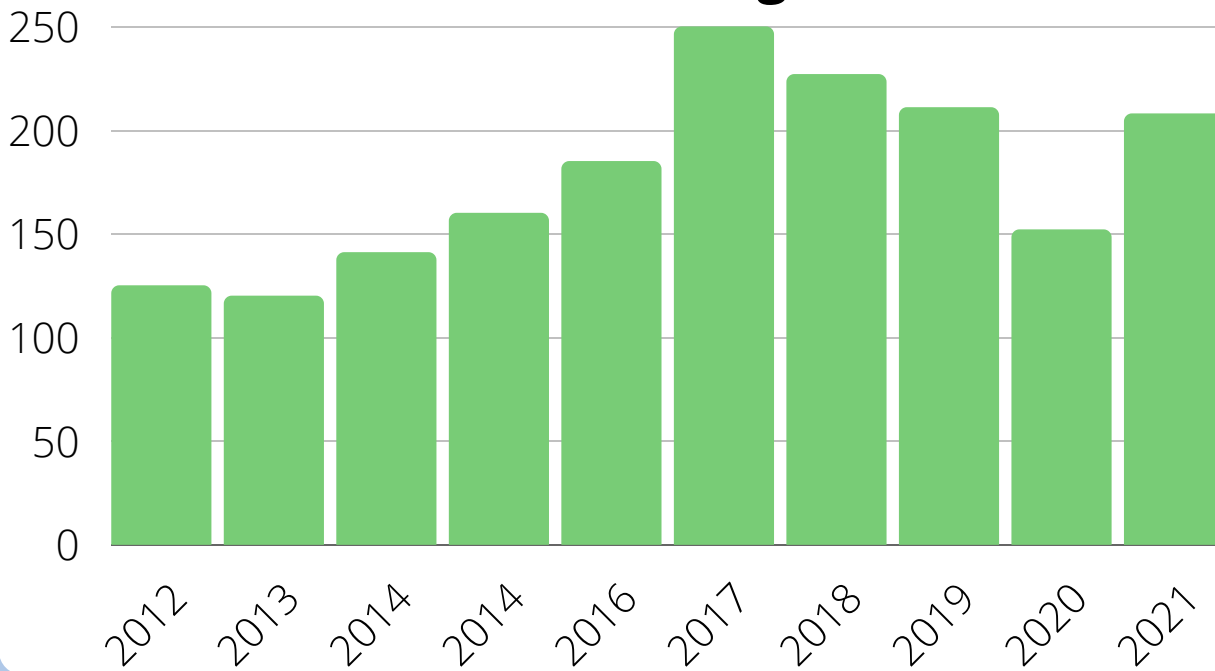
No matter what happens in Haiti, HEI's partnership and program models continue to succeed. 2021 was an extremely stressful year for Jacmelians: a flood, severe food and fuel shortages, and skyrocketing inflation. The Covid-19 pandemic closed schools during the spring semester and forced us to temporarily suspend our job training programs. However, our students were able to attend school safely and reasonably regularly in the fall semester. The total number of children HEI now serves has grown from 152 to 208.

In Cayes-Jacmel, partner Fondation Jean Bellande Joseph (FBJJ) swiftly rebuilt after a hurricane flooded their compound, continuing to run our scholarship and weekly meal programs for 61 students. They also distributed emergency food kits that fed over 500 people for a month because floodwaters destroyed local crops. When schools reopened in August, they made sure our students took their final exams for 2020-2021 and proudly announced the graduation of 4 more students. Their retention rate was 100% and 97% of their students were promoted to the next grade- an astonishing achievement under the circumstances.

However, we were unable to obtain final reports from schools and parents in downtown Jacmel under the leadership of our former partner, Cercle Amis des Enfants en Situation Difficile (CASED). Consequently, HEI hired talented Peterson Jean-Pierre and his assistant, Eddysson Pierre, to consolidate that program with our outreach efforts in the Pasquette region into what is now the new Jacmel Scholarship Program. He has redesigned communications with participating schools and parents and increased our 2021-2022 enrollment from 89 to 143 students. We are pleased to report that these students are attending regularly and performing well in class.

Despite the instability in Haiti, we continue to see the impact of HEI and our partners in Jacmel, where our consistent and reliable distributions of food, tuition scholarships, uniforms, books and school supplies keep children and their families together and focused on the future.

Enrollment 2012 through 2021



HEI continues to be committed to efficiency, accountability, and transparency. As a result, we again achieved a 'Platinum' rating from GuideStar indicating our commitment to the highest level of transparency. For every dollar raised in 2021, we sent 84 cents to programs in Haiti.

SUSAN P. WHITCOMB, PH.D.

Founder

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

2021 was a disastrous year for Haiti, widely reported in the American press. Kidnappings, rampant gang violence, a presidential assassination. Americans advised to leave. A 7.2 magnitude earthquake in August, a Covid pandemic with virtually no vaccines. Food insecurity widespread as gangs disrupted distribution. The Haitian economy in free fall, from a very low place. Refugees fleeing to North and South America. Essentially a failed state. Our students in Haiti need us now more than ever.

From an aid organization one can witness heartening aspects of the human spirit amidst the worst conditions. It is truly inspiring to see our students laugh and play like kids when they are fed and feel safe. They are focused on learning, not hunger, thanks to stability and hope that our donors and partners provide.

Haitian Educational Initiatives has a differentiated model that enables us to provide such stability in the face of widespread breakdown of civil order and public services. We work through committed local partners in the Jacmel (Southeast) region - not through governmental entities. We don't design our programs remotely from the United States: our Haitian partners are central to our planning process. They execute our programs and provide oversight and monitoring to ensure proper use of donor funds. In the United States, we benefit profoundly from the energy, ideas, and perspective of the Haitian-American members of our Board of Directors, all of whom know the Jacmel region well.

We've upgraded our team in Jacmel by bringing on board Peterson Jean-Pierre to oversee the administration of our programs for the children of downtown Jacmel and the mountain region of Pasquette. Peterson is a dynamic, university-educated young man associated with Jacmel Espressyon, an arts and vocational school in that city. In view of the growing number of children in the Jacmel program, Peterson is now assisted by Eddyson Pierre. Our program in the semi-rural area of Cayes-Jacmel continues to be ably led by Paul Brunet Joseph and his team.

These staff additions on-site in Haiti will reinforce our supervision not only of the children but also the proper use of our donor funds. And we remain very focused on ensuring our administrative costs are carefully budgeted to maximize the donor dollars that carry out our mission. All Board members are volunteers, and in 2021 HEI's administrative and fundraising expenses were 16% of our total cash outlays.

Speaking of dedicated volunteer work, our Treasurer Bill Duncan has retired from the Board after many years of providing wisdom and scrupulous financial oversight. We greatly appreciate his many contributions. Pending appointment of Bill's replacement, I have undertaken the role of acting Treasurer.

We are in Haiti for the long haul. In a country where 50% of children do not attend school, and 60% abandon school before the sixth grade, changing attitudes and expectations is a long-term process. In our eleven years of operation we've funded education for over 250 children with a 95% retention rate – half a generation. If we can keep a generation of kids in school, their own children will start from a different baseline. And the ripple effect through the broader community will be considerable.



Haiti's problems are manifold and deep-seated. As our nearby neighbor and fellow traveler along some important roads in our shared history, the country's stability is important to the United States. At Haitian Educational Initiatives we are taking a holistic problem-solving approach in one region with education, food and job training: essential building blocks necessary to envision a better future for Haiti.

We deeply appreciate the generosity of our donors who are at our side to bring hope and education to children in Jacmel, Haiti.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James H. Whitcomb, Jr." in a cursive style.

JAMES H, WHITCOMB, JR.

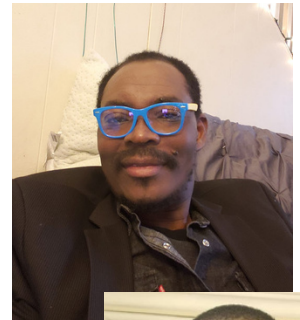
President

Our Partners and Programs

We worked with two Haitian-led organizations, Fondation Jean Bellande Joseph (FBJ) and Cercle Amis des Enfants en Situation Difficile (CASED) through August 2021. While we continue to partner with FBJ in Cayes-Jacmel, in September we consolidated our activities in downtown Jacmel and nearby Pasquette into the Jacmel Scholarship Program, led by Peterson Jean-Pierre and Eddysson Pierre. As teachers, school administrators, and dedicated caregivers, our partners are excellent role models for the 208 children in our programs.

Fondation Jean Bellande Joseph (FBJ), Cayes-Jacmel

The Joseph family foundation operates in the semi-rural village of Cayes-Jacmel, located about 15 minutes east of Jacmel. Led by Claude Saint Hilaire (President, right) and Paul Brunet Joseph (Director, below right), eight members of the Joseph family and their associates have provided leadership and important services to their community since 2007. FBJ's 65 children (before four graduated this summer) primarily come from subsistence farming families in the mountain and coastal regions of Jacmel. This region suffers from food insecurity because of crop shortages and skyrocketing food costs. School closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic and political violence affected our programs in the spring of the 2020-2021 academic year, nevertheless, FBJ was able to provide these services:



- **Scholarships for 65 children to 19 area schools:** These funds cover tuition, uniforms, backpacks, shoes, books and school supplies. FBJ pays the fees, completes the paperwork, and oversees attendance and academic outcomes.
- **Weekly meals for 65 children:** For many, we supply the only cooked meal they eat all week. Good nutrition helps children resist disease and perform better in school. These children eat only a cornmeal mush augmented occasionally with a vegetable or fruit. FBJ provides a meal of rice and beans, fried chicken or beef stew, and a vegetable or plantains with fruit juice.
- **Emergency food kits for 65 students:** FBJ distributed rice, beans, spaghetti, bouillon and other staples to feed our students and their families (500 people) in November. This food helped impoverished families survive widespread food shortages and high prices in Haiti.
- **Weekly computer literacy classes for 30 children** aged 9-19 (when possible): Computers donated by Project Redwood allow students to learn Microsoft Word, Excel, and to use the Internet.

- **Weekly needlework and dressmaking classes for children aged 9-19 (when possible):** The garment industry has been a long tradition in Haiti and tailoring is a proud accomplishment. Our students learn sewing, embroidery, and crochet to prepare for anticipated new jobs in factories and sewing cooperatives. We also teach jewelry-making, bead curtain-making, and traditional crafts to children aged 3-8. Paper flower making for use in parades, weddings, and other celebrations is a popular industry in Haiti.
- **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 in the new bakery business launched in January. They have already started using their skills at home to improve their families' nutrition.
- **Enhanced job training opportunities for secondary school students (when possible):** Fuel shortages and lack of transportation prevented us from coordinating with local resources this year.

Jacmel Scholarship Program

HEI hired experienced administrator Peterson Jean-Pierre and his assistant, Eddysson Pierre, to transition our downtown and Pasquette area scholarship programs from Cercle Amis des Enfants en Situation Difficile (CASED) to our new Jacmel Scholarship Program. 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 of two community programs: the Pasquette High School and an agricultural co-operative. Under his leadership, our enrollment has expanded by 40%, and communications with parents, teachers, and community resources have improved.



- **Scholarships for 143 children to 45 local schools:** As with FJBJ, these scholarship funds equip the children with everything they need to enroll in school.

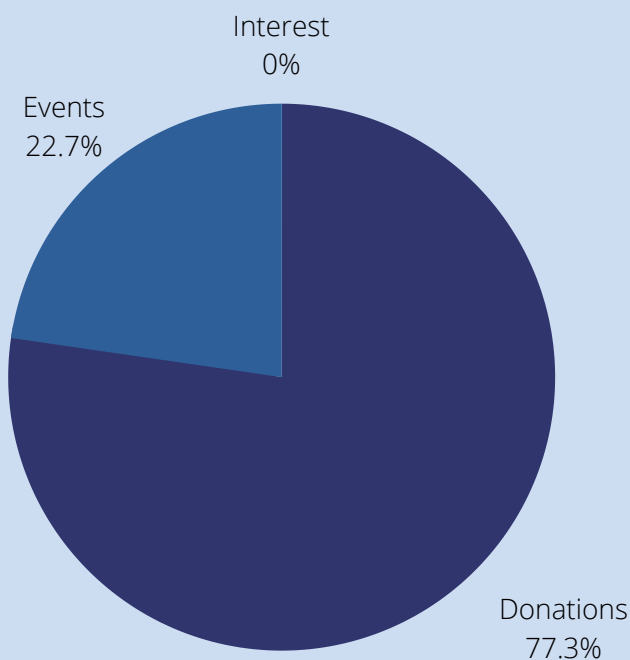
Our Financial Picture

HEI's programs in Haiti required additional resources in 2021 as our partners and the children under their care confronted daunting challenges. The destruction in southern Haiti caused by a M7.2 earthquake in August was followed in short order by devastating floods from ill-named Tropical Storm Grace. Widespread hunger ensued prompting the HEI Board to fund \$4,500 in disaster relief food kits for distribution to our children and their families. Our partners' facility in rural Cayes-Jacmel suffered considerable damage, prompting the Board to allocate a further \$1,500 for facility reconstruction.

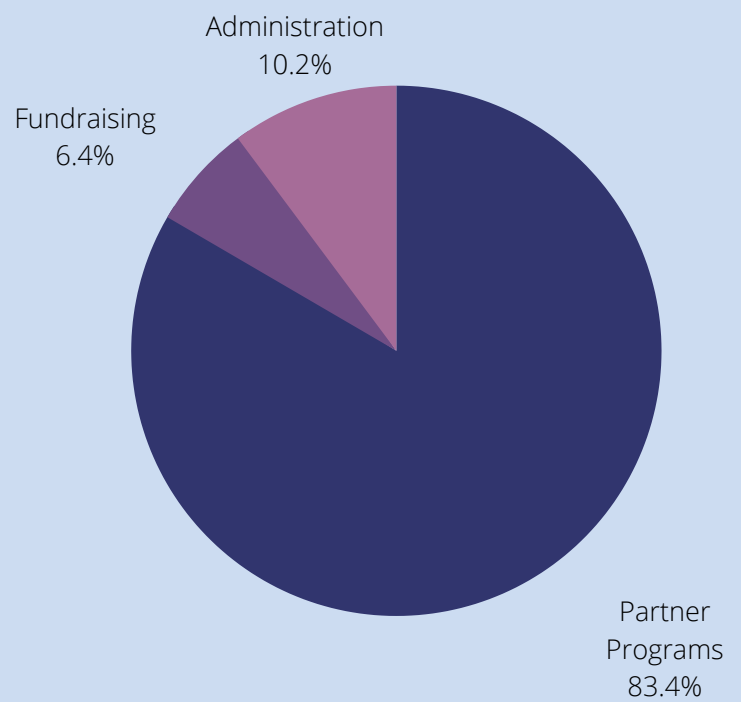
Administrative expenses remained essentially flat as the Board remained vigilant in keeping such expenses at a minimum. Fundraising expenses increased to \$4,479 from a minimal level in 2020. The COVID pandemic prevented in-person fundraising events in 2020; that led the Board to experiment with a virtual, on-line special event that proved very successful, raising more than double the amount of donated funds compared to the prior year's April event. Notwithstanding the resumption of fundraising costs, our operating model continued to perform efficiently, whereby for every dollar spent in 2021, 84 cents went directly to programs in Haiti.

Fortunately, the increased expenditures caused largely by HEI's response to emergency requirements was met by a strong response by our donor community. We were particularly gratified by success of our new, virtual, special event model which will continue to be an important component of our outreach to donors in 2022.

Income 2021



Expenses 2021



INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY - 2021

Income		
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Donations	71,371	100,565
Grants	0	3,500
Special Events	20,954	9,220
Interest	21	8
Total Income	\$ 92,346	\$ 113,285
Expenses		
Partner Programs		
Jacmel	15,075	15,044
FJB	43,089	32,601
Pasquette	300	754
Total Program Expenses	\$ 58,464	\$ 48,399
Fundraising	4,479	30
Administration	7,153	7,182
Total Expenses	\$ 70,096	\$ 55,611
Increase (Decrease) Reserves	\$ 22,250	\$ 57,674

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

Assets		
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Cash	100,315	80,657
Funds Receivable	3,001	630
Total Assets	\$ 103,316	\$ 81,287
Current Liabilities		
Payables & Accrued Expenses	110	330
Total Liabilities	\$ 110	\$ 330
Reserve Funds		
Restricted Reserves	11,550	11,550
Unrestricted Reserves	91,657	69,407
Total Reserve Funds	\$ 103,207	\$ 80,957
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 103,317	\$ 81,287

Board of Directors

James Whitcomb, President

Jim is a Managing Director at Westbury Group, an investment banking firm headquartered in Westport, CT. Previously with firms such as The Chart Group, Lehman Brothers, and predecessor firms of JPMorgan Chase, Jim has advised corporate clients on mergers, acquisitions, and corporate finance in markets around the world. He served as Director, President, and Treasurer of The Southport Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of a 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.

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.

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.

Rosemond Joseph

Rosemond Joseph was born in Fond des Blancs, Haiti and attended Jean Price Mars High School. Arriving in the U.S. in 1997, he attended Norwalk Community College and The University of Phoenix. After working at Virgin Atlantic Airlines as lead trainer, he has spent the last 15 years in retail banking with Chase and HSBC/Key Banks. He lives in Norwalk with his wife and four children. Rosemond enjoys travel and sports, especially football, soccer, and basketball.

Board of Directors (cont.)

Nelson North

Nelson North retired after ten years as Executive Director of the Connecticut Audubon Society. Prior to this he enjoyed a successful career in domestic and international sales management. A committed volunteer, he has chaired fundraising campaigns for The Ruffed Grouse Society, Ducks Unlimited and the Coastal Conservation Society. In addition, Nelson has chaired the Fairfield Harbor Management Commission and served as the Senior Warden of Trinity Episcopal Church. A graduate of Suffield Academy, he earned a B.S. from the University of Maryland and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force. Nelson and his wife, Peg, are residents of Southport.

Joan O'Connell

Joan O'Connell brings 40 years of experience in computer software. She recently 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.

Yvrose Romulus

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.