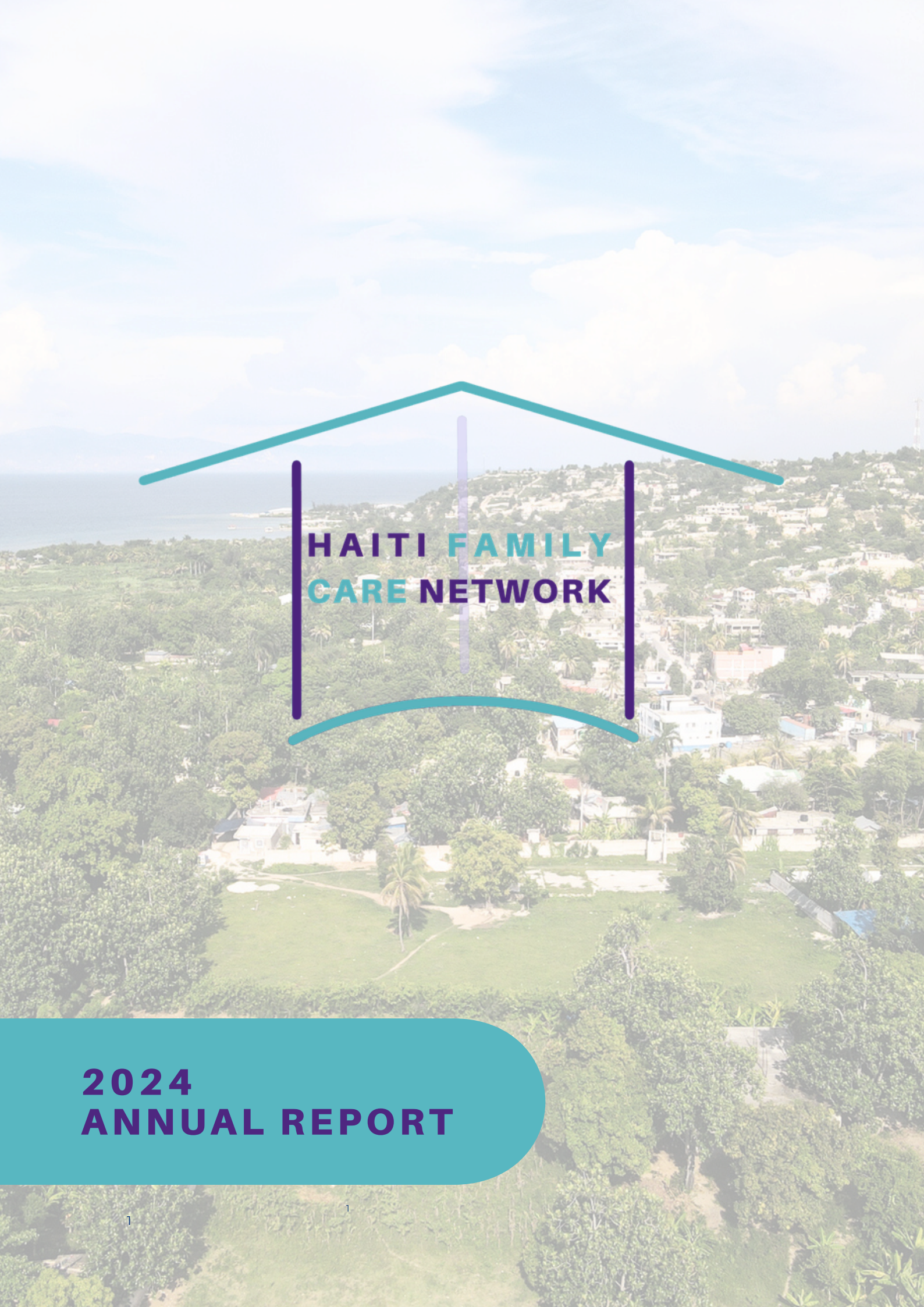


An aerial photograph of a coastal town in Haiti, featuring lush greenery, palm trees, and buildings. A teal-colored graphic of a house with a chimney is overlaid on the image. The text "HAITI FAMILY CARE NETWORK" is centered within the house shape.

HAITI FAMILY CARE NETWORK

**2024
ANNUAL REPORT**

**I can do things you cannot, you
can do things I cannot; together
we can do great things.**

MOTHER TERESA

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2024

Amanda Cox | Coordinator

Heather Nozea | Chairperson
Rapha International

Julie Brouwer
Hope Community Project

Morgan Wienberg
Little Footprints Big Steps

Megan Boudreaux
Respire Haiti

Erika Charles
*Espere Community
Counseling Center*

Spencer Reeves
Child Hope International

Debbie Harvey
Holistic Haitian Alliance



A NOTE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Perseverance is the word that comes to mind when I look back on 2024 and forward to the new year.

When we formed the Haiti Family Care Network just over three years ago with a vision of seeing children given the opportunity to thrive in families, none of us could have imagined the ways in which working with children and families would grow so much more complex in Haiti. **To date it is estimated that more than one million people have been displaced from their homes due to the political violence that has overtaken the country.** In a country just the size of the state of Maryland, there are few places to run for safety when gang violence erupts or to find work, school, and community for one's children. In the past three years, especially in the Port-au-Prince area, all previously active systems of support that underpin a thriving childhood such as education, healthcare, nutrition and safety have been threatened if not completely destroyed.

We are heartbroken for Haiti and for the children, youth and families struggling every day without an end in sight. It is not fair or just and certainly not an environment that promotes healthy childhood.

And yet--families exist, children need family, and family is still the best source of protection for children even when the world around them is falling apart. **There is rarely anyone more invested in a child's wellbeing than family.**

So the Haiti Family Care Network shifts, adjusts, and continues onward in our mission. We know that there is no time like the present to advocate for families, that the crisis in country has forced many reunifications out of orphanages, and that this process requires careful assessment and follow up. **We also believe that there will come a time when care reform and building up systems will be possible again even if that time is not now.**

What we have seen in 2024 is a surge of engagement from Creole-speaking Haitian professionals living and working in Haiti. **Social workers, para professionals, educators, community leaders, advocates, and healthcare workers are STILL THERE.** These people risk their lives to serve others and they have not been forgotten. This past year we produced more Creole workshops and resources than we have in any previous year and the response was a tremendous amount of engagement and hunger for support, education and community.

We move into 2025 with hope that Haiti will begin to stabilize and with faith in the incredible people doing the hard work day in and day out in the face of tremendous adversity. **The Haiti Family Network will continue to CARE--Collaborate, Advocate, Resource, and Educate. We hope that you also will press forward in your commitment to family care in Haiti and that together we can persevere.**

AMANDA COX
HFCN Coordinator



HFCN



MISSION

The Haiti Family Care Network is an educational catalyst and advocate for the shift towards family based care in Haiti.

VISION

To see all Haitian children and youth given the opportunity to thrive in families.



THANK YOU

We would not be able to accomplish what we do without the input and support of many individuals and organizations that donate their time, funds, and expertise. **Our Leadership Council in 2024 was composed of individuals representing 7 organizations with long-term presence in Haiti working in fields representing anti-trafficking, social work, education, community development, mental health, family reunification and more.** In addition, the Network hosted several other expert organizations as leaders and speakers in workshops both online and at the annual conference. Funding was provided to support our strategic objectives via Leadership Council organizations, gifts and sponsorships of the annual conference, travel support from Changing the Way We Care Haiti, and by UNICEF Haiti.

C.A.R.E. KEY OBJECTIVES

COLLABORATE



By collaborating and communicating openly and without competition we can all learn from one another's successes and challenges. This allows everyone to work in a way that promotes best practices and breaks down barriers between government, donors, NGOs, and ministries working with children, youth, and families in Haiti.

ADVOCATE

We seek to lift up and amplify excellence by sharing stories and examples from Network participants. Our voices are better heard and partners attracted when we use them collectively to advocate for family-based care both on a national scale and within broader global movements.



RESOURCE



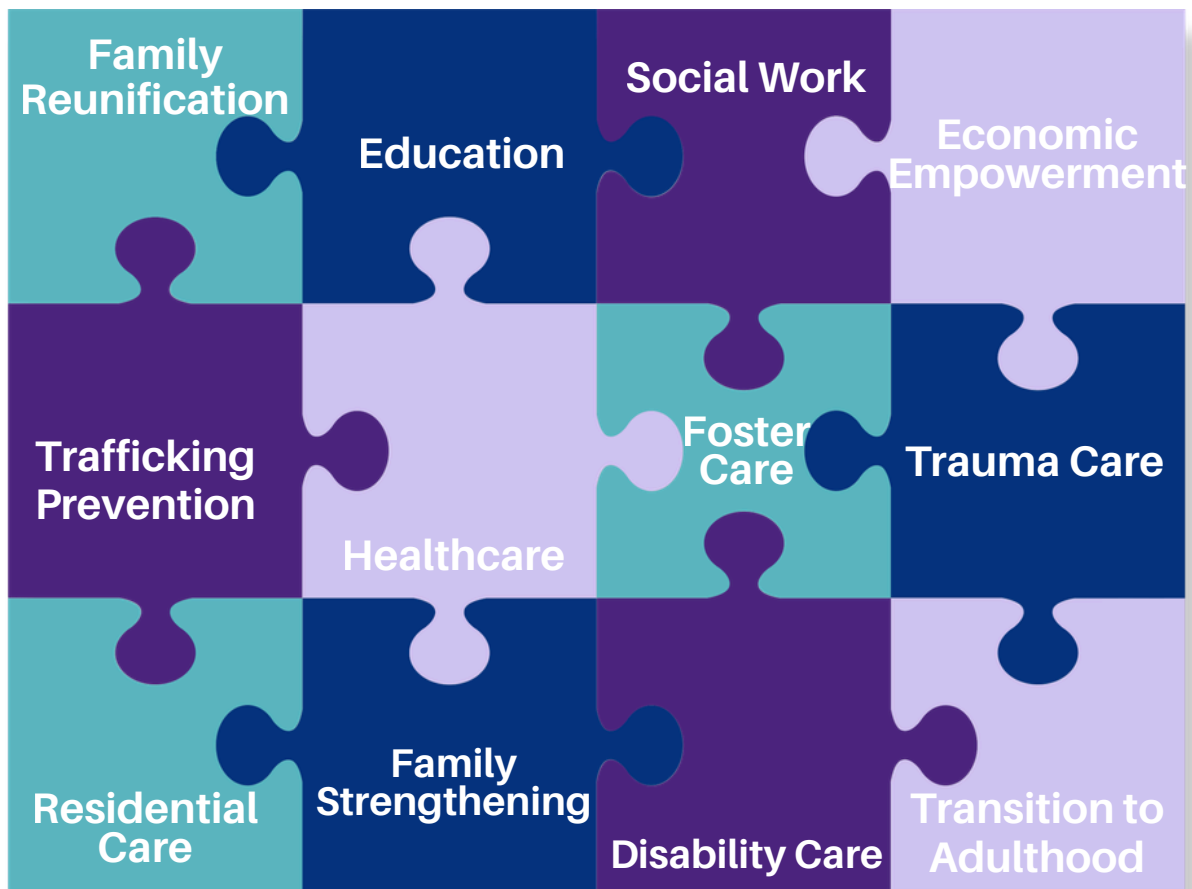
All resources offered by the Network are free of charge and accessible to anyone. Resources are shared widely via social media, workshops, newsletters, community conversations, and on our website. We are working to identify gaps in tools and research and hope to fill those gaps in the future.

EDUCATE

We offer one collaborative training each quarter focused on topics specific to participant interests, using the skills of competent and experienced practitioners working in Haiti. In 2023 we began offering an annual US-based conference as well.



Collaboration is essential to achieve positive change for children, youth, and families. Every piece of the puzzle is necessary and important.



C.A.R.E. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

RESOURCES

We produced three newsletters this year in response to topics that resonated with our audience. These newsletters each provided an overview of the issue, how it relates to children, youth and families in Haiti, and several links to articles, resources, and upcoming events.

In 2024 we saw a 76% growth in the number of our online subscribers who have registered to receive newsletters and important announcements by email.

MAY 2024 | Trauma

AUGUST 2024 | Healthcare

NOVEMBER 2024 | Education

Additionally we shared 25 resources via the Haiti Family Care Network social media channels.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

	2023	2024
SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS	1,253	1,361
WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUES HOSTED	6	23
WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS	80+	687
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS	369	650

ADVOCACY

As news of Haiti's political violence and the resulting danger to the lives of children began to grow more visible through international media channels in 2024, the Haiti Family Care Network was asked to comment on the situation multiple times by news outlets. **Advocating for family care in the news is not a straightforward process, as most reporters are seeking dramatic stories of orphans and orphanages under threat and not the perhaps more mundane news of the importance of supporting families to stay together.** Whenever and wherever possible we engaged with news outlets to promote family care and highlight the plight of children and youth in danger of separation, gang violence, and malnutrition instead of highlighting stories of orphanages.

Chairperson Heather Nozea had an article, *Orphanages in Haiti face impossible decisions but reuniting children with families is the right move* published in The Washington Times.

Orphanages in Haiti face impossible decisions but reuniting children with families is the right move

Approximately 360,000 Haitian children are displaced

[READ ARTICLE HERE](#)



In early 2024 the Haiti Family Care Network was invited to join a working group of other family care focused organizations led by the US Department of State. Through this, we were able to lead in the drafting of recommendations aimed at donors and multilaterals working in or giving to Haiti and able to direct our recommendations towards support for families. Some of the recommendations were included [here](#).

[READ RECOMMENDATIONS HERE](#)

We continue to believe that advocacy for family care in Haiti is critically important within the wider movement of global care reform. We have seen the result of rash emergency decision-making following the 2010 earthquake, which led to the rapid multiplication of orphanages and separated children. Only through advocacy for better gatekeeping, policies, and a shift in global donor mindset can this be prevented from happening again when the day comes that political violence reduces and Haiti is once again open to global intervention.

COLLABORATION AND EDUCATION

We believe that our strategic objectives of collaboration and education go hand in hand. Educating in a way that produces impact requires recognizing key issues that our audience wants to engage in and also relationship-building with that audience in order to best promote the message of family care. Additionally, we recognize that we simply don't have all of the answers, so collaborating with other experts and organizations is necessary in providing educational opportunities.

As the security situation has continued to deteriorate in Haiti over the past few years, this has resulted in a shift among the population that made up the majority of the original target audience of HFCN—expats, missionaries, and NGO workers living and working in Haiti (or traveling frequently back and forth to Haiti). More and more expats have made permanent moves out of Haiti over the last couple years, and fewer people are traveling back and forth on a regular basis. The decrease in expat leadership and involvement in development work in Haitian communities does not mean, however, that such work is no longer happening. Haitian professionals and paraprofessionals continue important work with children, youth, and families throughout the country. In this changing context, the Haiti Family Care Network has shifted our focus from providing educational resources to expat workers, decision makers, and funders to providing educational resources to the Haitian social welfare workforce.

Strengthening the social welfare workforce is integrally linked to family care. Social workers, paraprofessionals, community outreach workers, and orphanage staff trained in family

reunification risked their lives daily in 2024 to continue the important work of supporting children and their families. This workforce conducts child assessments in orphanages, traces families, discovers root causes of family separation, links families to necessary resources, and monitors families after they are reunified. Social workers are frequently also well connected to the community, understand the context and family dynamics, and are responders to children, youth, or families in crisis. The Haiti Family Care Network recognized the need for ongoing training, support groups, and opportunities for engagement in Creole and made a rapid shift to scale up what we could offer to this particular audience.

ONLINE WORKSHOP RECORDINGS

EDUCATION IN HAITI (ENGLISH AND CREOLE)

**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: POVERTY ALLEVIATION
TOOLS FOR FAMILY PRESERVATION**

**ENVISIONING ADULthood FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUTH AGING OUT OF CARE**

**INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN HAITI (ENGLISH AND
CREOLE)**

**ENGAGING THE LOCAL CHURCH IN REUNIFICATION
(HELD IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CREOLE)**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL WORK IN ALL
PROGRAMS**

COLLABORATION AND EDUCATION

In the first half of 2024 our most significant workshop was produced in Creole with the support of a bilingual trauma-informed therapist from the organization Kids Alive. The workshop, entitled “Koman Nou Konbat Trauma” (How We Can Cope with Trauma) was attended by over 150 people and led to a shift in strategy by the Network toward more outreach to a Creole-speaking audience.

During the second half of 2024 our most significant collaborative educational event was the production of a 5-part class entitled “Reyinifikasyon Familyal an Ayiti” (Family Reunification in Haiti). Collaborating with the organizations Little Footprints Big Steps, Overture International, Child Hope International, and Rapha International and using the manual “Technical Guide for the Reunification of Families in Haiti” produced by ISS and Rapha International, this class provided over 12 hours of training to participants working with children and families in Haiti. (This class will be repeated in 2025 with the 20+ waitlisted registrants.)

The organizations that comprise the Haiti Family Care Network are leaders in their communities with expert Haitian staff engaged regularly in events and trainings in several areas of Haiti. While many organizations have had to leave Haiti due to violence, loss of funding, or relocation of leadership, the member organizations of the Haiti Family Care Network Leadership Council continue to persevere and are leaders in the family care movement.

A small snapshot of Leadership Council member activities in 2024 include: multiple training group sessions organized and led by Espere Community Counseling Center for psychologists in Port-au-Prince on the topic of family care; trainings provided to social workers and orphanage staff on family tracing through Child Hope International; family reunifications and relocations facilitated by Rapha International for victims displaced by the gang violence in Port-au-Prince; caregiver training of trainers provided by Holistic Haitian Alliance in Cap Haitien; community outreach events with teachers and pastors conducted by Hope Community Project in Gonaives; and direct reunification activities performed by Little Footprints Big Steps in the Les Cayes area.

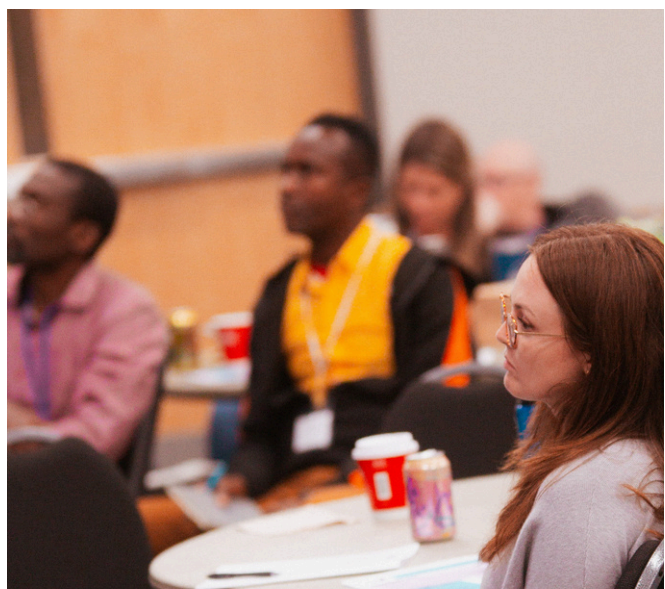


BETTER TOGETHER:

SERVING CHILDREN BY STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

The Haiti Family Care Network hosted its second US-based conference on family care in Haiti from June 13-15th, 2024 in Nashville, Tennessee. **The conference brought together 68 participants representing many areas of care and protection programming for children, youth, and families including residential care, education, transitioning youth to independence, maternal healthcare, malnutrition treatment, family strengthening, and community development.**

The Haiti Better Together Conference was a critical moment in Year 3 for the Network to expand beyond its initial audience reach (primarily to US-based English speaking NGO or CBO decision makers). In the first half of 2024, likely due to the growth in media attention around Haiti and personal engagement of Leadership Council members, the Network rapidly expanded in collaboration with audiences including faith-based networks, orphanages, healthcare workers in Haiti, Creole speakers (mainly social workers), and the US government. The 2024 conference provided a consolidated opportunity to invite new audiences into the conversation around family care. **Throughout the two-and-a-half-day conference, participants were provided with a mix of presentations on family strengthening and preservation best practice from specialists and experts, as well as guided table conversations, group networking opportunities, time to collaborate over lunch, and the second annual gathering of thematic support groups.** Each participant received 27 resources in follow up, an optional contact database, the opportunity to sign up for ongoing engagement via the conference Whatsapp group, and enrollment in a thematic working group.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT



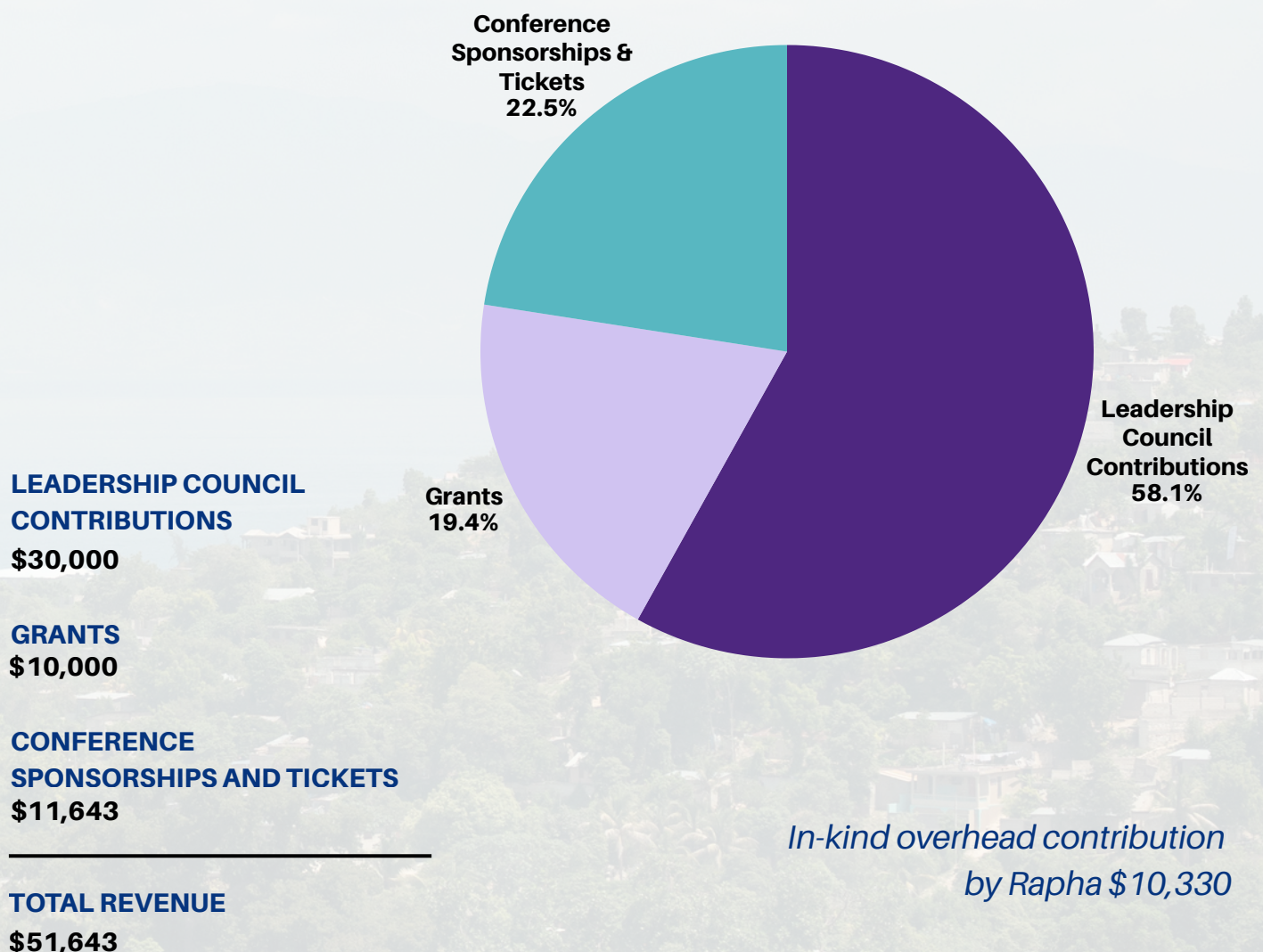
Child Hope

RAPHA
INTERNATIONAL



The work of the Haiti Family Care Network is supported through a combination of annual financial contributions from each Leadership Council organization, the donation of overhead costs from Rapha International, grants from foundations, and sponsorship of the annual conference.

2024 REVENUE

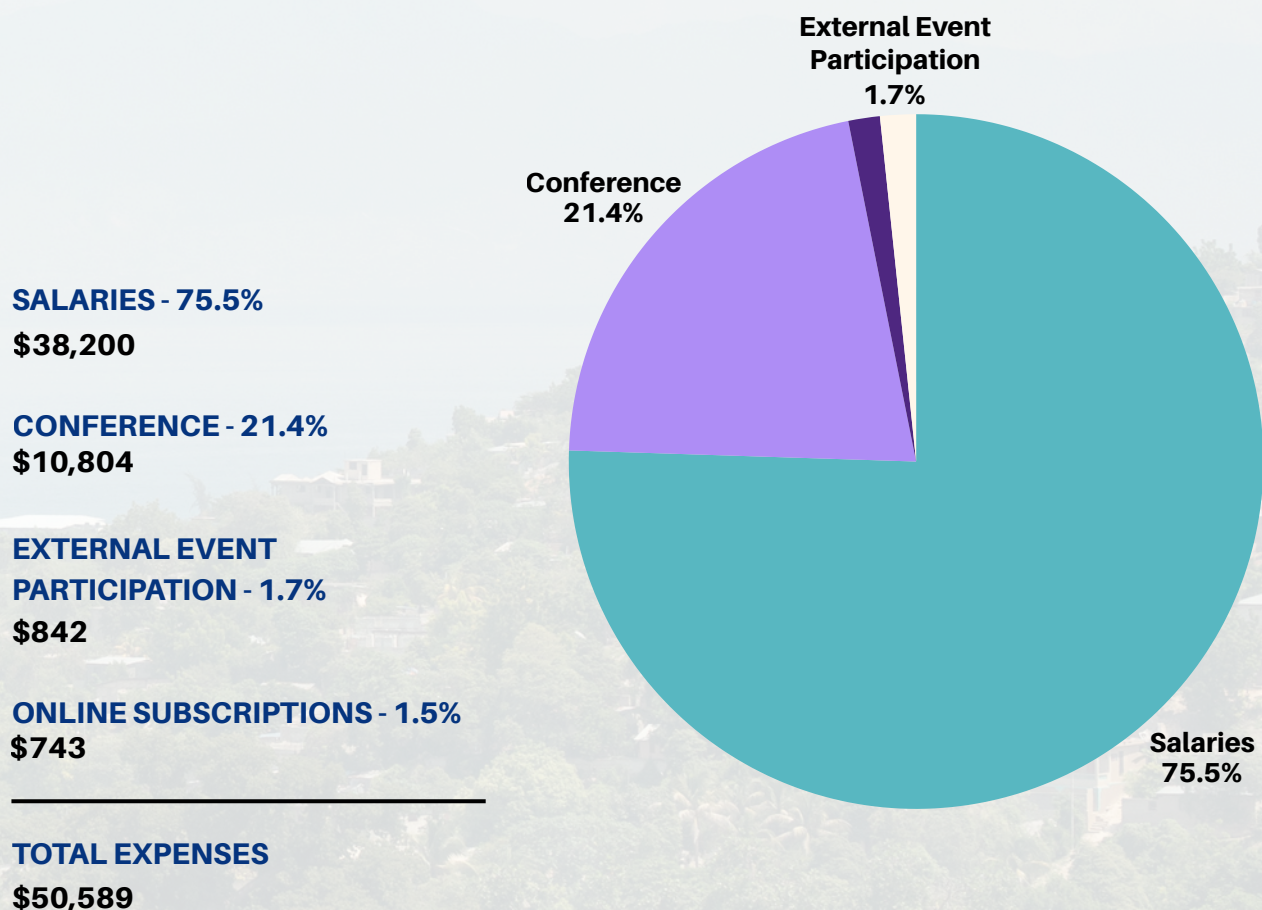


FINANCIAL INTEGRITY



The Haiti Family Care Network is committed to financial accountability and transparency. Our team cares deeply about pursuing this mission with excellence. Our backbone organization, Rapha International, has earned the highest status by Candid (previously Guidestar) as a Platinum Participant in addition to receiving accreditation from the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

2024 EXPENSES



CONNECT WITH US



@HAITIFAMILYCARENETWORK

QUESTIONS? EMAIL US!

contact@haitifamilycarenetwork.org



For there is always
light, if only we're
brave enough to see
it, if only we're brave
enough to be it.

AMANDA GORMAN

HAITIFAMILYCARENETWORK.ORG



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