

## **Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program 2024**

### **IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**



Completion Date: August 2024

Location: Jérémie, Grand'Anse, Haiti

Implemented by: Youth Empowerment Organization

Document Approved by: Love-Kendy Jourdan, Coordinator

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## Project Summary

For its third edition, the “Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program” was held in RODARCAGUERVILLA, welcoming 16 participants and 8 interns from 15 cities and 8 departments of Haiti. The 2024 cohort was particularly diverse, allowing the Youth Empowerment Organization to achieve one of its major objectives: to represent a wide range of communities.

Despite the initial selection of 20 participants, some were unable to join the program due to the difficult socio-political situation in the country, particularly in areas where insecurity is very present. During the two weeks of training under the theme "Public Policy Advocacy, Human Rights Activism and Democracy", participants benefited from various sessions on essential themes such as human rights, conflict management, the democratic system in Haiti, leadership, social activism, and the fight against gender-based violence.

Aware of the importance of training young change agents, we organized a debate tournament on campus, where participants were able to discuss various social issues. This tournament allowed them to develop their tolerance, respect the diversity of opinions, and deepen their research on the topics discussed. In addition, the participants wrote pleas, supervised by their research coaches, which were presented during two flagship activities: a visit to the Office de Protection du Citoyen (OPC) and an audio-visual podcast produced by the organization.

Each year, a central activity of the YHEEP is the oral presentation of the pleas before the Office of Citizen Protection. During this visit, our young change agents expose the difficulties encountered by their communities or the country in general, while proposing concrete solutions. To ensure a wider dissemination of these denunciations and recommendations, the pleas were recorded in the form of audio-visual podcasts, which will be published on our social networks.

## Selection Process

This year, we implemented various communication strategies to maximize the reach of our message and allow a large number of interested young people to apply for the 2024 cohort. We used social media and our network of ambassadors to disseminate information and encourage applications. In addition, several media outlets contributed to promoting our program by publishing our posters and sharing the link to the application form available on the organization's website, including:

- Discover Grand'Anse
- Knowledge of Haiti
- Anderson Duvert
- Rival Promo

Of the 120 applications received, a careful evaluation of the files was carried out by the Coordinator and the Executive Director of the Organization. This first selection retained 38 candidates for the next phase, which included group and individual interviews to assess the skills and motivation of the applicants. To ensure the impartiality of the process, the selection panel was renewed at each stage.

At the end of this rigorous process, 20 candidates were selected and received a full scholarship to participate in the Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program.

# Activities, workshops and achievements

## Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program 2024 (YHEEP'24)

The YHEEP is an in-person summer exchange program organized by YEO. For its third edition this year, the program was held again in Jérémie, in the Grand'Anse department, from August 3rd to the 14th.



## Opening ceremony

Saturday, August 3, 2024, marked the beginning of YHEEP'24. 11 participants flew to Jérémie, 6 by land, 2, despite the efforts made by the organization, were unfortunately unable to come to Jérémie because of the insecurity reigning in Gressier, one missed his flight and the last gave up his admission due to illness (two days before the launch of the edition).



On the day of their arrival, after spending a few hours getting to know each other, the young people were taken to their rooms to prepare for the opening ceremony. During this evening, the official introductions took place and the instructions relating to the camp were explained.

# Systemic Leadership Workshop



On the second day of the exchange program, participants took part in a workshop on systemic leadership, led by Silas Bellevue, personal development and leadership coach, and Director of the Racine Lespwa Library in Léogâne. This session aimed to equip young people with the leadership skills needed to foster positive change in their respective communities.

## Workshop on democracy and citizen participation in the development of public policies

The program continued with a workshop led by Mr. Love-Kendy Jourdan, Coordinator of Youth Empowerment Organization, Human Rights Consultant and Social Policy Expert, on democratic participation in the development of public policies.



This workshop highlighted the importance for young people to understand the governance systems in which they operate and to learn how to constructively influence them. Mr. Jourdan's presentation highlighted the various aspects and challenges of the democratic system and public policies, emphasizing the importance of citizen participation and government accountability in building a more just and balanced society. This workshop also aimed to convey fundamental notions of public policy, in preparation for subsequent workshops on advocacy writing, a key documentation activity of the program.

## Discussion on social activism



Recognizing the importance of community engagement in the life of a changemaker, the youth participated in an enriching discussion with a panel of three speakers: Mr. Josh Gray (Founder of Thrive Ansanm), Ms. Chesca Alexis (Founder of KOREM), and Mr. Magloire Maillard (Country Director of Thrive Ansanm). This talk offered the youth a glimpse into the lives of these activists, whose stories sparked great interest. They were particularly curious to discover what had driven these social activists to persevere despite the many challenges they faced. One of the strong messages shared by a speaker was: "If not today, then when? If not me, then who?" This meeting proved to be very inspiring for the youth, offering them the opportunity to learn from the successes and failures of those who have experience. The objective of this workshop was to awaken their social activism and encourage them to think differently.

## Human Rights Training



Human rights being a central theme of our summer program, we had the honor of welcoming Me Nicolson Jourdan, a former United Nations official, member of the Jérémie Bar and fervent defender of human rights, to lead a training on human rights and the international instruments that protect them. This session generated great interest among the participants, captivated by Me Jourdan's expertise and commitment. His pedagogical approach and his deep knowledge of the subject were particularly appreciated, reinforcing his status as one of the most valuable collaborators and trainers of the program for three years. The objective of this session was to provide participants with essential knowledge on human rights, in order to raise their awareness of social injustices and guide them in writing their future advocacy.

## Workshop on project development and management

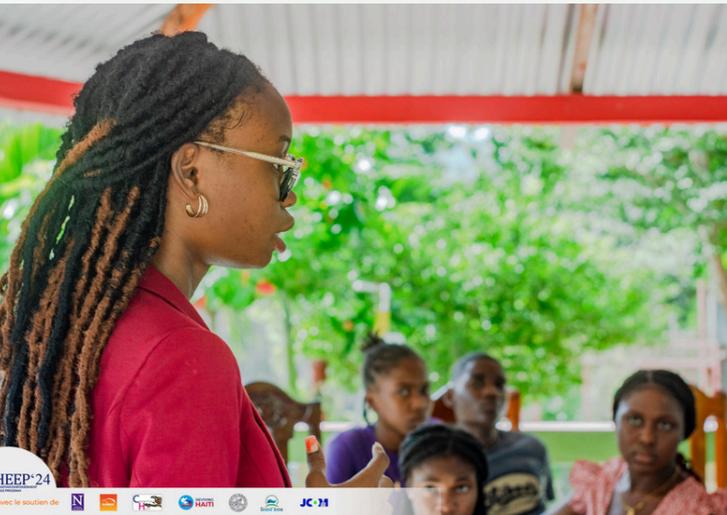
During the program, the change agents participated in a strategic workshop led by Mr. Berlensky Léger, Vice-Coordinator of the Organization and Project Management Expert, on the writing of objectives in the development of projects.



This workshop was a very inspiring moment for the young people, teaching them the importance of setting clear and achievable goals. They also acquired essential skills to become more effective in managing their community projects, as leaders of groups, associations, and other initiatives.



## Workshop on debate techniques



Learning to debate, developing critical thinking and arguing are at the heart of the debate. With Ms. Pouchenie Blanc, judge, debate coach at Fokal Haiti, human rights consultant and lawyer, the young people participated in a workshop on debate techniques. They thus discovered the reasons and methods for debating effectively.



Following this session, an exhibition match pitted two teams against each other, in preparation for the debate tournament scheduled for the following days. Eloquence and dynamism were on display during this intellectual confrontation between the two teams. Attending these enriching exchanges was a real pleasure, and these experiences will certainly be beneficial for the young people in their role as changemakers.

## Discussion on conflict resolution

Dr. Yvon Janvier, human rights specialist, professor at the Catholic University of Law of Jérémie (ESCDROJ), former mayor of Jérémie and former consultant in violence reduction and peace promotion for the United Nations Development Program, led a talk on methods of peaceful conflict resolution.



This session, which encouraged exchange and discussion, saw active participation of the youth. The training will prove valuable both in their personal and professional lives. Its objective was to guide change agents towards constructive approaches for denunciation, advocacy and activism, while emphasizing the impacts of violence on the sustainable development of communities.

## Workshop on the functioning of the OPC and Human Rights Activism

The young people had the opportunity to meet with Me Mackenzy Pierre, Departmental Director of the Office for the Protection of Citizens. This meeting allowed them to learn about the inhumane conditions that some citizens face in our country.



The talk was particularly valuable for the youth, providing them with an in-depth understanding of how the Office for the Protection of Citizens works and its role in defending human rights. It also showed them how they can engage with the OPC in relation to their human rights advocacy.



## Workshop on public policies and social protection

“We embody the change we want to see happen.” This was the message of Dr. Waly Turin, Director of OFATMA, during his visit to the Youth Empowerment Exchange Program 2024. In his speech, he highlighted the importance of public policies on social protection in Haiti as a collective tool for managing social risks. He also demonstrated the crucial role of OFATMA in this process. With recognized expertise and exceptional commitment to young people, Dr. Turin inspired participants by showing them how they can actively contribute to social transformation.



## Relaxation and networking activities

In addition to the training sessions, the changemakers also enjoy moments of relaxation, networking and outings. This year, for example, we visited the Anse d'Azur beach, which continues to enchant participants with its exceptional beauty. In addition, various recreational activities such as sports, card games, dominoes and chess are also offered.



# Workshop on health challenges and reform prospects

Health in Haiti is a sector that presents many flaws, particularly in the public sector.

This year, we had the privilege of welcoming Ms. Vanessa Beauport Augustin - Coordinator of the Saint-Luc Community Clinics for the Grand-Sud within our exchange program for a workshop focused on health challenges and prospects for reform.



It was a very interactive moment, the young people had to do research and present their work. They were thus able to contribute to the transmission of knowledge, an active learning technique that Ms. Beauport particularly likes according to her own words.

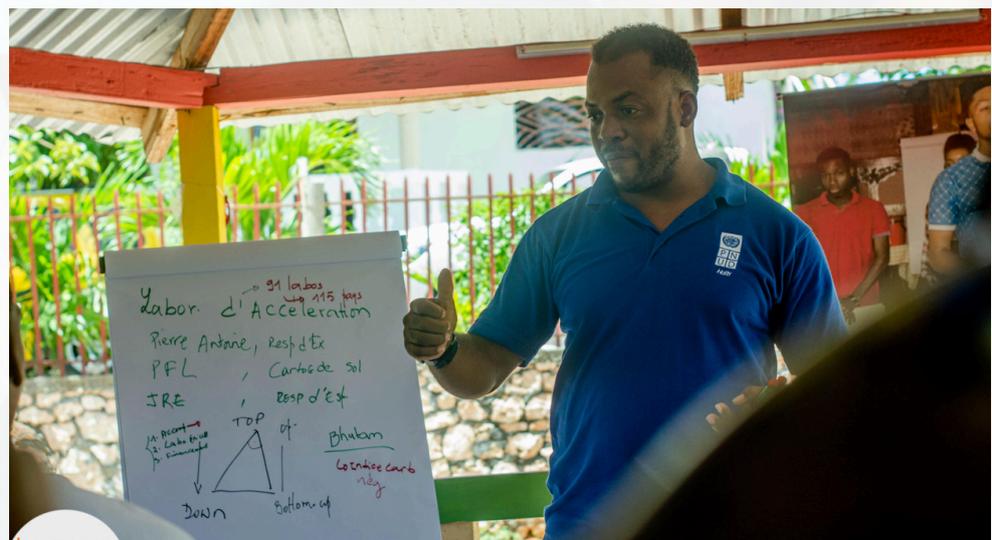
## Workshop on Gender-Based Violence

This year, the Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program integrated the issue of gender-based violence and its effects on mental health, with the intervention of Mr. Alfred Casimir, Senior Executive of the Haitian Health Foundation and Head of the Mental Health Program of Haitian Connection. Mr. Casimir addressed several crucial aspects of gender-based violence in Haiti, detailing the causes and consequences of this violence, as well as its impact on the effective realization of rights in the country.



# Discussion on Sustainable Development Goals

At YHEEP, the preparation of change agents aims to prepare them to respond to the development needs of the country. In this regard, we had the privilege of welcoming Mr. Antoine Pierre and Mr. Faubert Pierre, two experts from the United Nations Development Program. They led a talk on the Sustainable Development Goals, sharing with the youth a wide range of tools and resources. These tools aim to support participants in their quest for development for their communities, by providing them with practical and strategic knowledge to promote sustainable progress.



## Debate tournament

In order to develop their critical thinking, cultivate tolerance and accept differences while being convincing in expressing their ideas, we organized a debate tournament for our youth this year. Divided into 6 groups of 3, they spent a day at the camp competing on topics of argumentation and eloquence. Each group had to prepare to defend or refute the following three topics:

1. Young people should have meaningful decision-making power in shaping public policies that directly affect them.
2. Gender representation quotas in legislative bodies improve the quality of democracy.
3. Respect for human rights is the only way to promote development in Haiti.



These topics were chosen for their relevance to our program, which aims to train change agents. The first topic encourages young people to reflect on their role in society and the importance of their active participation in decision-making that concerns them. The second topic leads them to consider the impact of equitable representation on the quality of democracy. Finally, the third topic highlights the fundamental importance of human rights for the development of Haiti, a central issue for any future committed leader.

Two teams qualified for the final, which was held the following day. In front of a jury composed of three very experienced judges, the winning team won the tournament unanimously, obtaining the votes of all three members of the jury.



## The role of culture and art in democracy



Culture is the set of laws, value systems and traditions of a country, for any change, it should not be a discarded theme.

Indeed, this year, the YHEEP had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Evains Wêche (Writer, Prix Deschamps 2013 and Current Director of the Alliance Française de Jérémie) as well as Mr. Luis Bernard Henry, Prix Deschamps 2021 for a discussion around the importance of culture and art in the development of democracy.

It was a rich moment for the young people in terms of seeing development from another angle.



## Simulation at the Citizen Protection Office

The Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program is an initiative led by the Ambassador of Peace in Haiti and the Ambassador of Human Rights of the Office of Citizen Protection, Mr. Love-Kendy Jourdan. This program, led by the national champion of human rights texts in 2020, aims to offer young Haitians an education focused on peace, respect for human rights and the promotion of non-violent actions. Alongside Mr. Jourdan, Pouchenie Blanc, Executive Director of YHEEP, and Berlensky Léger, Vice-Coordinator, share this desire to contribute to the improvement of living conditions in Haiti.



One of the YHEEP's flagship activities is the annual visit to the Civil Protection Office in Jérémie. During this event, the young participants presented themselves as defenders of rights that are not respected in their communities or in the country, denouncing violations while proposing concrete solutions. This exercise took place in the presence of Wilkerson Sévère, program quality and institutionalization advisor within the Project Management Unit at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, Naromie Hilaire, Office Manager at Mercy Corps, Pierre Mackenzy, Director of the Citizen Protection Office in Grand'Anse, and Love-Kendy Jourdan, Human Rights Consultant, United Nations Peace Ambassador and Human Rights Ambassador at the OPC.



This panel of experts played a crucial role in guiding the youth in their work, providing sound advice and taking note of the participants' proposals. They also identified opportunities for development, showing that the voice of young people can truly influence actions in favor of human rights and social progress in Haiti.



## Closing ceremony

After two weeks of intensive work, we closed the YHEEP'24 with a festive evening in the company of our friends, participants and guests. The joyful and warm atmosphere allowed everyone to share moments of recognition, marked by the presentation of medals and certificates to the YHEEP'24 participants as well as to the trainees who contributed to the success of the program.



Marguerite P : YHEEP'23 & Artiste



Jaysee Queen: Guest Artist

During the evening, Coordinator Love-Kendy Jourdan gave an inspiring speech, emphasizing his conviction to see the future of a better Haiti through the light that these young people carry within them. He expressed his hope by stating: "I see in each of you the spark of a promising future for our country. You are the light that will illuminate the path to a more just and dignified Haiti." Mr. Jourdan also promised to continue this fight alongside the organization, committing to work tirelessly for a future worthy of the sons of Haiti.

## Awards and distinctions

Lee Lovensky Nozé received the medal for best debater, rewarding his eloquence and his ability to convince the jury. He also won the prize...



Enya Lilavois was awarded the Esprit du camp prize for her seriousness and her sense of a job well done, as well as the prize for the best plea of this year.



The champion group of the debate tournament, composed of Lee Lovensky Nozé, Sophia Turenne and Jefftaina Germain, was honored with medals and certificates, reflecting the staff's recognition and pride for their exceptional performance. The vice-champion group, composed of Wendy Milien, Bertina Lima and Rodly Présulmé, also received certificates as a token of appreciation and recognition for their remarkable performance.



All of this year's entrants were awarded the Best Policy Brief medal, in recognition of the significant impact their presentations had on the judges.

The evening ended on a festive note, with good music and the tasting of succulent dishes prepared by the villa.



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## Implementation strategies

Carrying out a large-scale program like the Youth Haitian Exchange Empowerment Program (YHEEP) requires careful logistical organization. In 2024, a new approach was adopted to improve efficiency and distribution of responsibilities, including the integration of interns into the team.

Overall coordination was entrusted to Mr. Love-Kendy Jourdan, who led the implementation of global strategies to ensure the success of the program. He supervised the various operational units, with responsibilities distributed as follows:

1. Logistics Managers (3 people): In charge of organizing sessions, the well-being of participants, and mentoring support.
2. Content Creators (2 people): They developed and published content on the organization's social networks, covering internal and external events, with the creation of visuals, photos and videos.
3. Research Assistants (2 people): Their mission was to ensure the rigor of the sources and to support the authors in their written productions. They also analyzed and compiled the research data for the needs of the program.
4. Berlensky Léger (Logistics and Technical Manager / Vice-Coordinator of YEO): He ensured the management of the financial and administrative aspects of the program, as well as the purchase of necessary supplies.
5. Starshez Jeudi (Human Resources Manager and Administrative Assistant): She managed accounting, activity reports and coordination of meetings.
6. Pouchenie Blanc (Executive Director): She oversaw the supervision of content, interns, and intellectual production and research activities.

## Unforeseen events

Despite careful planning, several unforeseen events arose during the program. The main challenges included:

1. **Travel and security:** Two participants, originally from Carrefour in the West department, received their admission but were unable to travel to Jérémie due to insecurity in Gressier, an area controlled by armed gangs. Despite the efforts of the staff to organize their arrival, this was not possible. In response, these participants were admitted for the YHEEP 2025 session, without having to repeat the entire application process.
2. **Transportation Issues:** Travel to and around Jérémie, especially for outings with children and logistical needs, has proven difficult due to poor road accessibility. In addition, the ever-increasing price of fuel represents a major challenge for travel from the cays (meeting place with participants arriving by air and land), but also for various essential YHEEP activities.
3. **Internet Access:** Access to the Internet network proved problematic for participants, complicating certain activities requiring reliable connections, especially in the process of drafting pleas.

Despite these unforeseen events, the team was able to find solutions adapted to each situation, demonstrating great flexibility and responsiveness, with the exception of the travel of the Carrefour participants.

## Partnerships

The success of YHEEP is based in part on the strategic partnerships established with various organizations, including:

- Northwestern University Office of Fellowship (Clark and Hinman Fellowship)
- Grand'Anselaise Association for the Promotion of Education (AGAPE)
- Reviving Haiti
- Haitian Connection
- Sunrise Airways (offering a 25% discount on airline tickets)
- Discover Grand'Anse
- RODARCAGUER Villa (providing accommodation, except logistics costs were covered by the Organization).

## Financial aspect

Funding for the program amounted to USD 9,000.00, distributed as follows:

- Reviving Haiti: \$500.00
- Haitian Connection : 1,000.00 \$
- AGAPE : 500.00 \$
- NU-Fellowship / C&H Foundation : 2,500.00 \$
- Fundraising : 2,000.00 \$
- Keira Leneman (personal donation): \$500.00
- GOMAD Fund : 2,000.00 \$
- Sunrise Airways: 25% discount on flight tickets
- RODARCAGUER Villa: Accommodation offered

The organization covered the remaining expenses, ensuring the success of the program despite financial challenges.

# YHEEP'24 Expenses Financial

[Report: click here.](#)

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ORGANIZATION Rapport financier

Du 05 juin au 20 Août 2024

| Nom des dépenses   | Montant            | PDP                  | Taux | 131. |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|------|------|
| <b>Frais de service</b>  |                    |                      |      |      |
| Hebergement  | \$ 2,500.00        | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Transport Aerien   | \$ 3,138.00        | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Transport terrestre  | \$ 140.84          | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Confectionnement des maillots  | \$ 316.80          | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Location de voiture  | \$ 450.00          | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Paiement roll ups  | \$ 240.00          | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Frais de promoton  | \$ 91.44           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Location speaker   | \$ 57.00           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Website  | \$ 75.00           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
|  |                    |                      |      |      |
| <b>Frais de fonctionnement</b>   |                    |                      |      |      |
| Frais de carburant pour generatrice et voiture   | \$ 184.22          | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Frais de snacks  | \$ 70.00           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Eau et boisson   | \$ 27.50           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Lunch pour staff arrivé à Jérémie avant le programme   | \$ 30.00           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Hebergement au Cap et Port-au-Prince des participants des départements éloignés (une soirée) | \$ 68.90           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Frais de nourriture pour l'équipe logistique après le programme                              | \$ 22.81           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Frais de nourriture sur la plage   | \$ 53.23           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Activité de détente incluant ala piscine et la plage   | \$ 121.60          | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
|  |                    |                      |      |      |
|  |                    |                      |      |      |
| <b>Matériel de formation</b>   |                    |                      |      |      |
| Frais de confection des médailles  | \$ 79.84           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Frais de conception des certificats  | \$ 38.02           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Matériel (plumes, papiers....)   | \$ 56.27           | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| Achat de matériel audiovisuel  | \$ 1,265.00        | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
|  |                    |                      |      |      |
| <b>Frais Ressources Humaines</b>   |                    |                      |      |      |
| Paiement des Stagiaires  | \$ 702.30          | <a href="#">recu</a> |      |      |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 9,728.77</b> |                      |      |      |



**Tachena Elie  
Delmas - Ouest**



**Enya Lilavois  
Léogâne - West**



**Nyrlande Jacquet  
Jérémie - Grand'Anse**



**Sophia Turenne  
Port-au-Prince - West**



**Lee Nozé Lovensky  
Carrefour - West**



**Sheelender Pierre  
Jérémie - Grand'Anse**



**Wendy Milien  
Delmas 33 - West**



**Presume Rodly  
Verettes - Artibonite**



**Nargenz Zack Joachim  
Port-au-Prince - West**



**Djoodoodson Florent  
Hinche - Centre**



**Sanchrist Bonhomme  
Jeremie - Grand'Anse**



**Bertina Lima  
Cayes - South**



**Sadjaika Germain  
Jacmel - South East**



**Djoobrovesky L.- Jean  
Hinche - Center**



**Wens Elijah Alcenor  
Cap-Haitien - North**



**Chama Titus  
Ouanaminthe - North-East**

# Management staff



**Love - Kendy Jourdan**  
Coordinator



**Berlensky Leger**  
Vice-Coordinator



**Pouchenie M. Blanc**  
Executive Director



**Starshez Jeudi**  
Administrative Assistant

## Interns 2024



**Wynetzca Just**  
Research Assistant



**Luce S. Belris**  
Research Assistant



**Heberson Edme**  
Content creator



**Kenley Romulus**  
Content creator



**Jefftaina Germain**  
Logistics Assistant



**Danysha Museau**  
Logistics Assistant



**Gabriel R. Toussaint**  
Logistics Assistant



**Woody Jean Louis**  
Logistics Assistant



**Silas Bellevue**  
Program Consultant