Dear Friends & Supporters,

For 10 years, Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project has made it possible for immigrant and newcomer youth in New York’s Haitian immigrant community to access the education that might otherwise be just beyond their reach. Despite what many believe, a quality education is not a foregone conclusion for youth whose families do not speak English, for those who are unfamiliar with the school system, and for those who may not have attended school in Haiti.

Over the last decade, Flanbwayan has accompanied youth and their parents through the doors of the school enrollment office to help them claim a spot in the dwindling number of Kreyol bilingual education programs for Haitian students; connected them with programs that introduce them to the English they will need for school; and increased the chance that those Haitian immigrant and newcomer students struggling with literacy will be taught to read while working toward a high school diploma.

In our Brooklyn office, we make sure that Haitian youth can acclimate to a new culture while celebrating their home culture—becoming the global citizens that they are called to be in this fast changing world. Increasingly, we are the Haitian voice at the table as decisions are made about the services and the supports that English Language Learners should receive.

We invite you to read this report and celebrate the labor of love that is Flanbwayan over the last decade. We share with you our “revolutionary” view of the future, where all young people, regardless of where they come from or their age, can access the power of quality education.

In solidarity,
Darnell Benoit, Director

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Our Staff

Darnell Benoit
Founder & Director

Jomsene Guerrier
Youth Organizer

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Our Programs

- High school placement
- Educational Advocacy & Organizing
- Girls’ Leadership Group
- Community Radio
- Literacy Circles
- Cultural Activities
Greetings Flanbwayan Family,

Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) exist in the margins of schools. For the past decade, the Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project has advocated for and rendered visible this neglected student population. Our mission is deceptively simple— enroll teenaged Haitian immigrants into public New York City high schools with programming for English language learners (ELLs). In fact, this objective requires much labor— our Director, Darnell Benoit, and youth organizer/enrollment specialist, Josmene Guerrier must schedule at least three sessions per enrolled student to make this mission possible. From our start in 2005, Flanbwayan enrolled over 400 teens in schools with culturally relevant educational opportunities, which drastically impacts graduation rates among this demographic.

As you read our 2015 report, remember our partnership with schools allows us to pick up where limited public resources leave off. We believe literacy is a human right and that it goes beyond the three R's: reading, writing, and arithmetic. Since 2013, Flanbwayan's Executive Director has recruited board members from Brooklyn's network of Haitian young professionals. In crucial ways, the life experiences of each board member mirror that of Flanbwayan's youth: three are immigrants, one of whom is a Flanbwayan graduate; and two are first generation Haitian-Americans.

The Board works to supplement the Director's fundraising and programming efforts and actively participates in Flanbwayan's mission to enroll and advocate for Haitian ELLs. Board members attend workshops that empower community organizations; they also provide college counseling, facilitate literacy circles, seek out and apply for grants that expand Flanbwayan's impact on local and national educational policy. I am proud of the work of our board and the financial future of Flanbwayan is bright. Inspired by Paulo Freire's idea that literacy transforms lives, the Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project has and will continue to raise our constituents' social awareness and civic participation.

Cheers,
N. Pierre, Board Chair

Board Members

N. Pierre 
Board Chair

Jennyfere Thomas 
Secretary

Marie Thelusma 
Treasurer

Jean Borgella

Joan Desir

Board members (l to r): Jean Borgela, Marie Thelusma, Jennyfere Thomas
When seventeen year olds who speak very little English arrive to NYC seeking an education, they are often placed in schools that do not meet their needs or told to find a GED program that is not designed to support English language development, is not age appropriate and will not provide the student with the chance to earn a high school diploma. Furthermore, the placement process requires waiting for hours at enrollment centers to find a school placement—even longer when students arrive mid year. The process is further complicated because there aren't enough bilingual education programs and families are rarely given information about their rights in the public school system.

**The solution: better opportunities**

Flanbwayan partners with NYC public schools to meet the learning needs of older newcomer students. This means training educators who are culturally aware; and fighting for more transfer schools, evening classes, and classes tailored to English Language Learners.

“Last summer my father introduced me to Flanbwayan and immediately I felt like I was home. Flanbwayan helped me to enroll in a great school. I enjoy going to school. I like to participate in Flanbwayan’s activities especially the literacy circles, it helps me to develop my English skills.”

— Pavarotti Absolon, age 17 HS junior member since 2014
Flanbwayan leads a coalition of community-based immigrant organizations to advocate for students who have not attended school prior to arriving to the United States. These older students need literacy as well as social and emotional supports. Educators must be trained and equipped to remove these barriers from their educational success.

Yet, more and more students from Haiti and other parts of the world are arriving to New York City public schools never having attended school or having attended very poor quality schooling. These older students have a narrow window of time to make the gains required to meet the graduation requirements.

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**the issues: low-literacy ELLs**

Schools are not designed to teach older students how to read and write.

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**the solution: literacy AND English**

Flanbwayan leads a coalition of community-based immigrant organizations to advocate for students who have not attended school prior to arriving to the United States. These older students need literacy as well as social and emotional supports. Educators must be trained and equipped to remove these barriers from their educational success.
Once older students are enrolled in school, they still struggle to complete their educations. They often have complex responsibilities and obligations, and lack the traditional supports necessary to meet their educational goals. This, along with school environments not suited to their needs, tends to push students out of schools.

The solution: alternative paths to graduation

Flanbwayan offers older immigrant students creative responses to the challenges they face in their education, emotional and social lives. While college is an admirable and possible goal for NYC’s students, older immigrant and newcomer students need additional options such as vocational training, access to young adult borough centers (YABCs), Learning to Work programs (LTW), transfer schools, and programs that provide college credits. They also need extra-curricular that reflects their cultures and interests.

“I’ve been a Flanbwayan member since 2009. My mother took me there when I came in and they helped me to find a school. I’ve participated in many leadership activities. My favorite was making the film. I learned a lot and because of that experience I joined another organization to continue to make films. Today I want a career in working with the camera.”

— Clifford Cedent age 20 graduating HS senior member since 2009
Flanwbayan and its partners work to ensure that newcomer students and families get RESPECT from New York City Public Schools.

**R**  Real access to programs that support ELLs  

**E**  All immigrant students must be able to enroll in school  

**S**  Schools that enroll ELLs must be supported and not penalized  

**P**  Parents must be able to participate in their children’s education  

**E**  Equal access to alternate pathways to graduation  

**C**  School cultures must respect OUR cultures  

**T**  Schools must team up with community organizations
collaborations & coalitions

Advocates for Children
CCLOSE (Coalition of Culturally and linguistically-Specific organizations in support of Education)
Clara Barton High School
Global Action Project
International High School at Prospect Heights
Lakou New York
The New York Immigration Coalition (Education Collaborative)
The Office of English Language Learners
Sauti Yetu Center for Women
Walt Whitman Middle School

sponsors

Akwaaba Mansion
Association of Haitian and American Engineers
Baby Cakes
GC King Properties
Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees
Jacada Juice
Trader Joes
Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (R-BERN)

films

Nou Pase Ase (Enough is Enough)
The day the earth shook and Haiti stood still By Pam Sporn (with Flanbwayan)

awards

Antonia Pantoja Advocacy Award
Haitians Unified for Development & Education (HUDE) Achievement Award

publications

A Comprehensive Guide to High School for Newcomers
Under the Flanbwayan Tree Poetry Book (Vol 1 & 2)
Tilden High School Community Report
Kiskeya Anba lalwa Poetry Book

"Thanks to Flanbwayan, I had a successful and enjoyable life in school and in the community. Sometimes I wonder how it would be if I had gone to another high school that didn't have supportive programs. Would I have been one of the ELLs (English Language Learners) who do not successfully complete high school? Would I have dropped out of school or would they have kicked me out because of poor performance? It is important for newcomer students to enroll in schools that understand their needs. I hope Flanbwayan continues to grow bright and strong in the community for years to come."

— Joan Desir, Flanbwayan 2006, College Graduate
Total Funds Raised: $1,046,100.00

Total number of newcomers enrolled in high school: 447

2005-2006
Annual Budget: $54,000
51 newcomers enrolled in school

2007-2008
Annual Budget: $122,000
81 newcomers enrolled in school

2009-2010
Annual Budget: $252,500
93 newcomers enrolled in school

2011-2012
Annual Budget: $224,000
95 newcomers enrolled in school

2013-2015
Annual Budget: $393,600
127 newcomers enrolled in school

150 youth served annually in Out of School Time Activities

2005-2015: Ten Years of Growth
funders

Beacon Group
Brooklyn Community Foundation
Citizens NYC
Clara Barton High School
Cricket Island Foundation
Councilman Jumaane Williams
Councilman Mathieu Eugene
Grassroots Funding Exchange
Hope and Healing Fund
New York Community Trust
New York Foundation
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Women’s Foundation
Northstar Fund
Office of English Language Learners
Random House
Roseben Fund
Twenty First Century Fund
The Pinkerton Foundation
Walt Whitman Middle School
Wellmet Fund

supporters

Lina Augustin
Amildor Almonord
Anne Marie Almonord
Jessie Almonord
Monfort Jr. Ameris
Roslyn Andre
Mona Arestit
Lina Augustin
Pierre Augustin
Reginald Augustin
Marie A. Aurisma
Medjine Bance
Erns Banatte
Megan Bandle
Marie G. Bastien
Joanne Benoit
Marie Etienne Benoit
Emily Bontempo
Erline Brown
Kenard Bunkley
Marie Cajou
Anthony Calypso
Sophia Cantage
Elizabeth Carigg
Sayeeda Carter
Shaniqua Carter
Marie L. Cerat
Sam Celestin
Marie Charles
Evans Charles Pierre
Jeffrey Charles Pierre
Deloria Chubbs
Marie M. Clerge
Jessica Coffrin
Marc Constant
Huette Dejean
Nancy Dejean
Menes Dejoie
Claudy Dorestant
Ivens Duchatelier
Anne Elle
Guinsly Etienne
Nadja Fatal
Maryse Felix
Marie Fevry
Nadege Fleurimond
Carrole Francois
Gyolette Francois
Duane Frankson
Janny Gedeon
Magalie Germain
Lauren Gibson
Reginald Gustave
Lesly Hale
Mark Hale
Melvina Hanson
Melvina Harrisson
Paul Hawthorne
Margaret Hoffman
Berlotte Israel
Barbara Jaccomo
Ernst Janus
Vayola Jean
Marlene Jean Noel
Jude Joseph
Pierre M. Kalil
Allison Kelley
Oneza Lafontant
Suzette Leveille
Cajuste Lexius
Ivans Louisaire
Steven Mardy
Philippe Marius
Marjorie Monplaisir
Linda Montas
Barbara Nesin
Myriam Nicolas
Pierre Nicolas
Stevenson Nozy
Marquez Osson

Pierre Paul
Anthonine Pierre
Genevieve Pierre
Robert Pinkerton
Nathalie Pitts
Wesley Pitts
Jaira Placide
Josh Polony
Ninaj Raoul
Mark Ricce
Nicole B. Rosefort
Jessica Rosario
Jacqueline Salnave
Marco Salomon
Marjorie Salomon
Walston Bobb Semple
Michael & Connie Sih
Andrea Stewart
Julee Tate
Johanne Thomas
Pascale Thomas
Philippe Thomas
Max Valbrune
Philippe Valbrune
Pamela Watkins
Marie Beaubzile
Cassandre Joicirin
Karen Colimon
Jean Pierre Fevrier
Nan okazyon 10 rekòt kafe li, Flanbwayan ap di fanmi, zanmi, tout ti "Flanbwayan" yo, ak tout kominote Ayisyen an yon chay remèsiman pou solèy, lapli, ak bon jan laswenyay nou ki pwoteje pye Flanbwayan nou an epi pèmèt li grandi kòmsadwa. Si l ap fè belte lakou a jodi a epi kontinye louvri baryè pou jèn yo nan kominote a se gras a lanmou nou, fòs nou, ak soutyen nou.

We invite you to:

**CONNECT.** Visit Flanbwayan.org to learn about upcoming events, programs, and available services for newcomer students and families in New York City.

**VOLUNTEER.** Share your time and expertise with students and their families. Call Flanbwayan to discuss volunteer opportunities.

**GIVE.** Make a meaningful gift to ensure all newcomer students have a voice and the resources to create a better life.