



Immigrant Family Services Institute

2020

Our Appreciation, Our Heartfelt Gratitude for You!



## Dear Friend of IFSI,

Thank you for making our success possible and for making our students' dreams come true. As always, our mission is to center the voice of Haitian and increasingly other Caribbean immigrants, to expedite their successful integration into the social and economic fabric of the United States, with justice and dignity through Education, Integration, and Advocacy. It is my pleasure to share our 2020 highlights with you who share our vision so generously.



With love and appreciation,

Geralde Gabeau  
Executive Director

## 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

2020 presented challenges for us all. With you by our side, we remained steadfast—and even expanded our services to serve the Greater Caribbean community—despite the terrible challenge of the pandemic.

Focused and flexible, our community succeeded because we pivoted quickly and effectively from in-person to remote learning, virtual services, and emergency assistance, all without missing a beat.

## EDUCATION AND INTEGRATION

### *PLUS+ PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN— Opportunity through Education*

- In March, launched the Virtual Academy, complete with academics, tutoring, music and enrichment activities, for 168 students, and 300 Summer students.
- IFSI's students exceeded benchmarks for youth participation, helping youth academically, and promoting a positive social-emotional environment, Boston After School and Beyond evaluation.
- Created a safe and sanitary Learning Pod in Mattapan to provide in-person education for 195 students each week, at the request of the Boston Public Schools.
- Distributed 64 Chromebooks and laptops to children in need.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP

### *—The Future of Our Community, Building a Better World for All*

- Created a special program, exclusively for Haitian-American teens to keep them on the right track, and to help prevent youth violence.
- Will offer 30 teens mentoring by caring adults, and with opportunities for civic engagement and community service.
- Activities to improve academic performance, support social and emotional health, introduce vocational opportunities, and the possibility of college.

## PROJECT ONE-STOP NAVIGATOR

### *—Helping New Americans Get a Good Start*

- Launched innovative, in-person referral service to efficiently connect immigrants to social services, legal assistance, and other supports, developing web and cell phone-based applications.
- Enrolled 135 adults in English and computer classes: vocational classes for high-demand skills.
- Assisted 65 individuals to file unemployment claims when COVID-19 struck.



My dream (for my children) is to have good education, not just academic but also for extra curriculums and IFSI can offer music, dancing, coding, for them to learn, hopefully they will have more stem in the future to help their science skills and their minds that will be amazing. I just want to let everybody know. I have such a great experience with IFSI, my son is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I asked for ISEE prep, and within a week or two, (they) said a student can help with your son, it is amazing how they coordinate it, they don't give up, they don't forget you. —Connie Chen, Parent



“One way that IFSI has been helping me academically is by helping me with my homework and letting me grow academically. IFSI is a fun program is because it helps kids grow to the next level of class. And I think it's a great program.”  
—IFSI student



At the end of the summer, we got to see all their families on Zoom. It made me feel like I was part of the IFSI community in that moment and I was celebrating with them. I saw how they go above and beyond, that their program was way more than what they put on paper.  
—Wil Cardwell, Boston After School and Beyond



When I see the joy on the kid's' faces, it makes me so happy, when they understand something, the happiness on their faces. I think happiness is what makes the world go round and we need more of this in these times.  
—Gavin Swartz, Volunteer

**ADVOCACY**—*Your Gifts Transform Immigrant Families into New Americans*

- Lead Haitian-Americans United in the protection of immigrant TPS rights.
- Continued to provide support for TPS renewal applications; offered legal support to 85 asylum seekers.
- Increased Haitian participation in the Census through social media and radio broadcasts.
- Leadership for Haitian community celebrations and events

**CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT COVID-19**—*Because of You, We Came Through!*

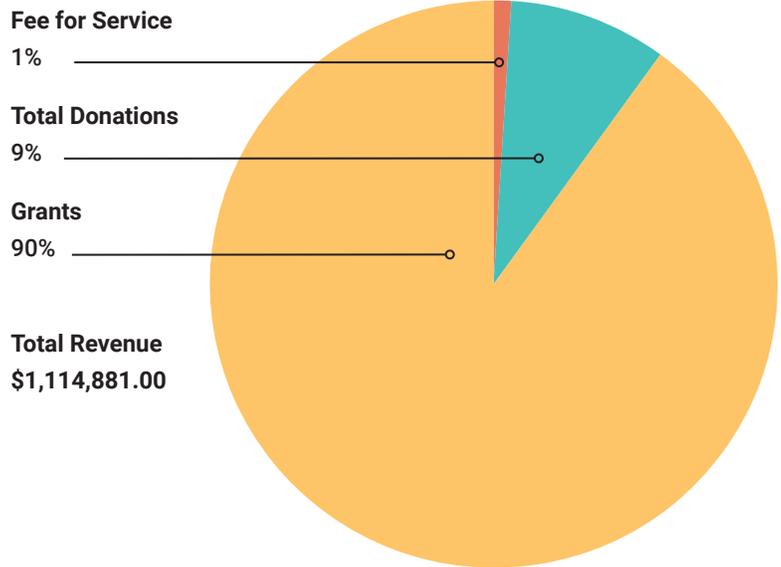
- Supported 1225 families with cash assistance.
- Served ethnic, nutritious food to 135 families three times each week.
- Assisted 65 individuals with unemployment paperwork.
- Translated and distributed 45 public health educational materials created 13 videos to tell Haitian-Americans the truth COVID-19.

**OUR BIG, BIG NEWS, OUR NEW HOME!**  
*Brick by Brick, You Helped Build the Home We Need*

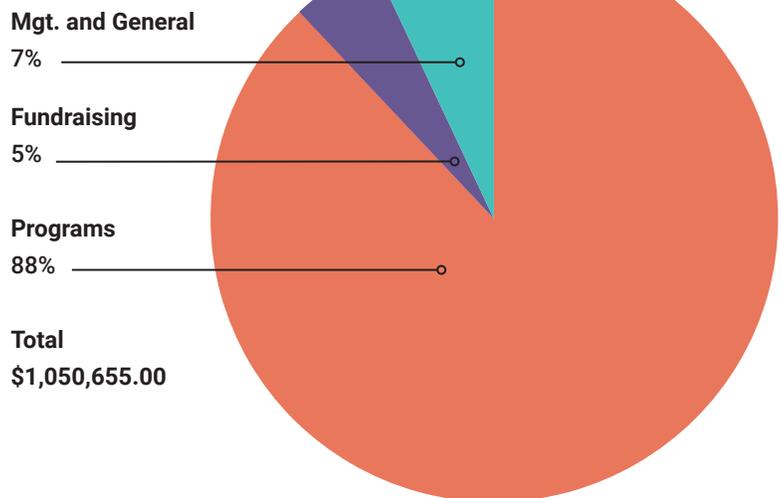
Please come visit us in our new home! After five years using spaces in churches and schools, we have a home of our own. Mattapan Square is the center of Boston’s Haitian community, and IFSI is now right in the heart of the community we serve.

**IFSI Revenue 2020**

We value your trust in IFSI and we are careful to spend your money wisely, and well to ensure the maximum community impact.



**IFSI Expenses 2020**



Additionally, IFSI also raised and distributed almost \$500,000 in restricted COVID emergency funds for families in need for food, utilities, housing and funeral costs.



**The energy, creativity, and commitment on the part of IFSI staff and volunteers all contribute to IFSI's success! I believe strongly in immigrant rights and immigrant integration, Working with IFSI has been inspirational in so many ways and I am honored to be a part of the IFSI family. I look forward to continue working as an IFSI Ambassador and Volunteer as we grow and create positive change in the lives of immigrants in Boston and beyond!**

**—Phyllis Spinale, Advisory Board and Volunteer.**



## YOU CAN MAKE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT AND CREATE LASTING CHANGE

- Invest in IFSI because you can help those suffering from COVID-19's impact right away.
- Invest in IFSI because your gift will have an immediate, positive effect on children and youth.
- Invest in IFSI to get New Americans off to a good start and to ensure their rights.
- Invest in IFSI because IFSI creates change that lasts from generation to generation.
- Perhaps like most of us, you or your ancestors immigrated to this country. Invest in IFSI to honor their dreams.

## GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR YOU, FROM OUR HEART

We are grateful to all our generous supporters and hope that you will remain a stalwart supporter in 2021. You made all this possible, this is the impact of your gifts. Many, many thanks.

We appreciate the generosity of our wonderful partners, whose volunteers mean so much to those we serve.

- Noble and Greenough School
- The Rivers School
- Milton Academy
- Assumption University
- Buckingham Browne and Nichols
- Catholic Memorial High School
- The King's Academy
- MIT
- Sharon High School
- St. Mark's School
- Wellesley High School
- Wellesley Middle School



Geralde believes that the world can be a better place, and that there is always room to improve, I really find her so inspiring, I don't think of her as pollyannaish, she seems to be able to accept the world where it is and instead of getting discouraged and overwhelmed, she just moves forward, one step at a time, and she takes people with her.

—Caren Keller, The Scarlet Feather Fund and The Keller Boonshoft Fund



When I was in the English class, we learned many things about the culture. Reading a book by Anne Tyler, in class showed me a love of the US. People in the US are proud to be American, even though they come from different countries, they have one thing, one point together, they all love their country, and they want their country to go up.—Batsheba Dyna Lancre, Adult Student



IFSI is such an amazing organization. We are always going to put immigrant families, families in need at the forefront. It is a place that I am proud to work at. IFSI doesn't believe in limitations, we don't see limitations. We see possibilities. —Jennifer Pamphil, Program Director, IFSI



I know I care a lot about my kids, I care about their education in different aspects. That is why I really appreciate IFSI. They want the kids to grow, they talk about the future. They told parents how to choose a school for first grade so that in the future your child will go to college. They share my vision for my daughter. IFSI can help me, too. They can connect me, guide me with resources and give you referrals. They help the kids learn about American culture and to have respect for each other. That is one of the reasons I appreciate IFSI.

—Jean Eddy Magloire, Parent

Catch up with all things IFSI at <https://www.ifsu-usa.org> and thank you again for making everything we do for our communities possible.