

# Haitian Association of Indiana

## Official Statement

### Media Release:

For immediate release. Board of Directors HAI

### **Haitian Association of Indiana (HAI) Statement on Community Growth and Development in Indiana**

Indianapolis, IN – The HAI is a nonprofit organization established in 2008 to address and service the needs of the growing Haitian populations in central Indiana. Based in Indianapolis, the HAI now provides social services, educational and wellness support, and access to job opportunities to Haitians in greater Indianapolis and the state of Indiana.

In recent weeks, there have been increased media reports, statements, and attention on Haitian communities regarding the rise of new Haitian neighbors in towns and cities across the Midwest, generally, and Indiana specifically. Many independent studies<sup>1</sup> show that the expansion of communities by way of immigration has produced significant tangible economic benefits, despite the challenges of any growing community. The HAI categorically denounces and refutes any attempt or insinuation demonizing hard-working, lawfully settled, Haitian people who are only seeking to provide for their families and contribute to their new communities in the classic American tradition of Ellis Island or the Great Western Migration.

Most of us understand that we all come from somewhere and will not be distracted by rumors and debunked- lies meant to cause division. The HAI is committed to working with local and state officials, community leaders, and governmental agencies across Indiana to better work with these growing communities and provide the resources needed so that every town and city with these new neighbors can flourish. Of course, this will require a concerted effort between the community, HAI, and the aforementioned stakeholders who we are enthusiastic to support and assist with advancing this mission.

In the coming weeks, HAI leadership will be traveling across the state to meet with members of these communities and develop an accurate report and consensus of these new constituencies. We will also be meeting with elected officials in these areas to discuss the ways HAI can assist with facilitating a more cohesive transition for these communities.

“Our goal will be to serve as an active partner and liaison with these key officials and agencies as they make inroads with the Haitian community, so that we can uphold our mission of providing essential services to the newly arrived and those that have been here for years.” - HAI Board Chair, Sabine Augustin.

**For media inquiries, please contact: [community@haindy.org](mailto:community@haindy.org)**

*The Haitian Association of Indiana is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.  
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<sup>1</sup>[Immigration Is Powering the U.S. Economy | TIME](#)