



BUILDING
THRIVING + RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES

Clara Lionel Foundation

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Since 2012, the Clara Lionel Foundation has invested more than \$100 million in community-led solutions to global challenges.

Over the past year, by supporting and amplifying local innovators, we have delivered powerful impact in Barbados, the Caribbean, East Africa, and across the US South.

With this report, I'm excited to share our progress, and our commitment to building thriving and resilient communities alongside our partners.

In gratitude,



Robyn Rihanna Fenty
Founder
Clara Lionel Foundation

We invest in, partner with, and empower innovators from within communities to create change for their communities.



A NOTE FROM OUR INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends and partners,

CLF's approach has always been rooted in the communities we serve. Being on the ground in the Caribbean helped us recognize that climate change is just as much a social justice issue as it is an environmental threat—impacting all aspects of our lives, from education to healthcare and beyond.

We've spent years innovating and investing in climate solutions in the Caribbean, East Africa, and the US South that are led by the very people experiencing these challenges, ensuring that those most impacted have the resources to lead the way forward.

We have a vision of creating culturally vibrant, imaginative, and equitable communities. It is not just an aspiration—we believe it is within reach and inevitable.

As we look forward to our next chapter, I am energized by the opportunity to deepen and expand these vital programs and partnerships with the remarkable innovators and solution-makers who are building the thriving communities of tomorrow.

The future holds both challenges and opportunities, and I am confident that together we can meet them with creativity, determination, and partnership.

With gratitude,



Jessie Schutt-Aine
Incoming Executive Director
Clara Lionel Foundation



OUR 2023 PROGRAMS

BARBADOS
DOMINICA
ETHIOPIA
HAITI
JAMAICA
KENYA
ST. LUCIA
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
USA
ZIMBABWE

\$7.1M
DISTRIBUTED

ACROSS
10
REGIONS

28
PARTNERS

75%
LED BY
PEOPLE OF
COLOR

OUR WORK IN ACTION

Established in 2021 in East Africa, Gather Ventures is a signature initiative of CLF investing in ventures that both create climate resilience and drive asset creation for women and girls—because women in poverty bear the unique distinction of being both among the most harmed by these impacts and a key driver in climate resilience programs.

GATHER VENTURES

Gather investee Mobility for Africa provides electric tricycles adapted for rural areas to address the mobility gap in rural Zimbabwe, particularly for women.

Sharai, a smallholder farmer, uses her electric tricycle to transport vegetables and run a green taxi business. “After saving my profits from taxi service for several months, I managed to buy 6 roofing sheets worth 54 USD for a one room in Epworth. I am now renting it out for 30 USD per month and I was also able to buy a gas stove worth 22 USD.”



OUR WORK IN ACTION

With roots in islands and regions vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, we support solutions that help communities withstand its effects and ensure those most impacted by climate change are empowered to lead.

THE HEY CAMPAIGN

The Healthy and Environment-friendly Youth (HEY) Campaign, powered by the Ashley Lashley Foundation, unites global youth activists to take action on climate change and health.

The campaign seeks to build bridges between youth in the Caribbean and around the world. It is envisioned to create a generation of young people committed to adopting lifestyles that are both healthy and environmentally friendly.



OUR WORK IN ACTION

We deeply understand the role of the arts in preserving culture and building community, so we support programs that promote the arts and protect cultural heritage in the communities where we work.

CLF has built OTT's capacity to promote equal access to quality arts education by enabling OTT to provide a heavily subsidized performing arts programme for local children and youth in Barbados. CLF's support has also raised awareness about the importance of performing arts education to the wider Barbadian public.

OPERATION TRIPLE THREAT

OUR WORK IN ACTION

We recognize that elevating women elevates communities and entire economies, so we invest in women-led entrepreneurs and solutions, from small businesses to social enterprises.

THE HIVE FUND

The Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice is a specialized intermediary that raises funds and makes grants to groups that are building power to accelerate an equitable transition to cleaner, renewable energy and phase out dirty energy in the US South.

The Hive Fund has awarded nearly \$80 million in multiyear grants that support organizations charting a path for transformational change.



OUR WORK IN ACTION

Addressing health inequities is core to our founding, and we work tirelessly to facilitate health access for all, particularly in Barbados and across the Caribbean, and invest in innovations that promote universal health and equity.

THE CLARA BRAITHWAITE CENTER FOR ONCOLOGY AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

The Clara Braithwaite Center for Oncology and Nuclear Medicine at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) in Barbados was established in 2012. Today, QEH remains the only public hospital in Barbados and CLF continues to collaborate with the Center and Hospital around long-term resilience and sustainability.



OUR WORK IN ACTION

Lasting change starts with leveling the playing field for the rising generations who will be our future, so we invest in educational initiatives, scholarships, and other programs to support youth and ensure their voices are heard.

FUTURE GENERATIONS

"On May 19th, I graduated from Hobart and William Smith Colleges earning my B.A. in Writing and Rhetoric Studies with a concentration in Journalism and Professional Writing and a minor in Health Care Policy! I would like to thank the Clara Lionel Foundation for their continued support of my academic venture through the Combermere Scholarship."

—CLF Scholarship Recipient



2023 COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

ANCHOR DONORS \$50K+

Fenty Beauty & Fenty Skin
Panta Rhea Foundation
Savage X Fenty
#startsmall

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Airyka T	Donald R	Jérôme B	Oluyinka S
Alejandra A	Douglas W	Julius L	Paul A
Alison A	Edward S	Kim S	Peter P
Amanda L	Emir C	Kisha B	Pjers B
Angela J	Erika P	Latasha S	Richard A
Armand S	Eyitemi O	Latifah A	Rickard J
Ashley G	Fareed A	Laura T	Ryllie S
Ashveen G	Gabrielle D	Lea B	Sahar Z
Ayshia D	Giovanni C	Lisa H	Sara S
Brian D	Greentree	Longitude	Sarah D
Brittany P	Haider A	+ Latitude	Sharon R
Caroline C	Heather B	Maggie D	Shelby A
Cassandra H	Inderpal G	Marcus D	Sierra D
Chauncey D	IRunMe Self	Maria	Steven J
Christopher B	Evolution	Elena M	Tabgha
Courtney J	James G	Maria J	Tamira C
Crue W	Jane I	Marilla H	Tasha M
Dan C	Laquay B	Mark W	Tay O
Dave M	Jason L	Mary O	The LCRE Group
David B	Jeanine B	Mateus S	Toni T
David D		Melissa B	Tony W
David J		Michael A	Victoria B
David L		Michael L	Vivy D
Denise G		Michael M	Yasmine N
		Nadine C	
		Nadine M	
		Natalie G	
		Natanie W	
		Natasha B	
		Olivier P	

OUR TEAM

Jessie Schutt-Aine
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(INCOMING)

Jo Opot
FOUNDING DIRECTOR
GATHER VENTURES

Ivan Rosales
CHIEF FINANCIAL &
OPERATING OFFICER

Ivy Macharia
HEAD OF PORTFOLIO
GATHER VENTURES

Amina Doherty
HEAD OF PROGRAMS &
IMPACT (INCOMING)

Shiru Mwangi
CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER
GATHER VENTURES

Krystle Francis
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
CARIBBEAN

Ann Munyua
SYSTEMS AND PROJECTS MANAGER
GATHER VENTURES

Wonlyn Lewis
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robyn Rihanna Fenty
FOUNDER

Tamara Larsen
BOARD PRESIDENT

Cheryl Alston

Jay Brown

Kawanna Brown

Monica Fenty

Lukas Haynes

Mai Lassiter



 clara lionel
foundation



©2024 Clara Lionel Foundation
claralionelfoundation.org