



The Cornerstone Conduit

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. XII



The Alpha and Omega of Cornerstone's Board Leadership

Meet the new Chairman of the Board!

Yves Erwin Salomon is a healthcare marketing and sales executive with over 12 years of experience in the managed healthcare space. He is currently Director of National Distribution for Centene, a Fortune 25 company that insures one in fifteen Americans. Prior to venturing into managed healthcare, Salomon was a Creative who wrote and produced for BET, Yahoo! Music, Pulse Content, MTV.com and Artisan News Service. He earned two Telly Awards for his work while at BET. In 2003, Salomon co-wrote, produced and directed the straight to DVD documentary, Hip Hop 101: Learn Tha Game.

In addition to his professional activities, Salomon served on the Board of Directors for the Juneteenth of Fairfield County from 2015-2020. He is currently the President of the Organization of the New England Chapters of Alpha (ONECA), which encompasses all of the chapters of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. from Connecticut to Vermont.

Salomon currently resides in Connecticut, with his wife of eighteen years, Deanna. The couple enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends. Salomon is a graduate of Brown University where he majored in Ethics & Political Philosophy. He holds a Juris Doctor from St. John's University School of Law.

Cornerstone Collaborative Urges Course Correction on Asylum Seekers

As an organization deeply dedicated to the advancement of human well-being through networked community development, Cornerstone Collaborative Florida, Inc. condemns the violence displayed against asylum seekers at the United States of America's southern border.

In particular, Cornerstone Collaborative protests the acts of violence perpetrated against Haitian asylum seekers. We remind those responsible for these acts—which reportedly include whipping, restraint by chains, and other excessive displays of force—[that it is legal to request asylum in the United States at ports of entry "without being criminalized, turned back or separated from their children."](#)

Further, we remind all who would turn a blind eye to this crisis that those who seek asylum in the United States are human beings, deserving of compassion, care and—at the very least—their right to

due process.

It's worth noting that migrants facing assault by armed individuals on horseback and met with further trauma originating in a place where they seek refuge draws forth a mournful echo of history. More than once have institutions within the superstructure of United States governance turned their backs on those in need—even as many Americans strive to embody the country's highest ideals by extending a hand to welcome the tired, the poor, and the disenfranchised.

In denying asylum seekers their legal right to petition, those who act as stewards of the United States southern border have continued an unfortunate pattern of violating human rights even as the country's elected leaders speak before the United Nations.

We urge these same officials to reconsider their indifference and inaction pertaining to this matter. We urge them to correct course and to choose more compassionate models for handling what is an understandably complex and, perhaps, overwhelming situation. Most of all, we urge them to finally right the nation's history of wrongs where assisting those in need are concerned—lest we repeat past errors which have carried those who would rely on America's promise not to a promised land of freedom, and instead into the shadow of likely death.

Respectfully,
Cornerstone Collaborative Florida, Inc
Cornerstone Collaborative
Massachusetts
Cornerstone Collaborative Nevada
Cornerstone Collaborative Jamaica, Ltd.

You can learn more about the plight of Haitian migrants and how you can help at [UNICEF](#).



Immediate Past Chairman of the Board, Andrew G. March, Esq.

Since Cornerstone's inception in 2018, the Board of Directors had been led by Andrew G. March, Esq. Mr. March helped craft the formation and rollout of Cornerstone's community development framework which empowers grassroots visionaries and collaborators to create and implement positive individual and community change.

With Mr. March's guidance, Cornerstone has evolved from concept to operating in three states and internationally with an office in Kingston, Jamaica. Mr. March will continue to serve on the Board and we are immensely grateful for his friendship, leadership and support.

Mr. March was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through the Theta Omicron Chapter at the University of Rochester from where he graduated before receiving his law degree from the University of Toledo.



Andrew G. March

*"The strongest soldier gives the hardest fight
and the realest people live the hardest life, so
always shine, even after the darkest nights, cuz
better days are on the way."*

-from the song "Strongest Soldier" by Jahmiel

Ecosystem

Cornerstone in Jamaica

We are committed to the immediate and long-term needs of communities in Jamaica. Cornerstone Collaborative Jamaica has established an office in Kingston and is partnering with **HeavenSent Foundation** to serve those in need in Jamaica.

Back To School Supply Drive

All donations will be given to students in need throughout Jamaica

__ Pens	__ New or gently used school uniforms (all sizes)
__ Pencils	__ Socks, undies, and bras (all sizes)
__ Erasers	__ (new, must be in package)
__ Markers	__ Closed-toe black shoes (all sizes)
__ Crayons	__ Backpacks
__ Colored Pencils	__ Lunchboxes
__ Glue/Glue Sticks	__ Re-usable water bottles
__ Notebooks	__ Hand sanitizer
__ Loose Leaf Paper	
__ Binders	



Pictured above is Cornerstone Collaborative Jamaica's address in Halfway Tree, Kingston, Jamaica

It's Back to School

As vaccines are being administered throughout the island, many students have the option to return to the classroom. Regardless of where students will be learning this year, we want to give them all the tools they need to succeed. To support this goal Cornerstone Collaborative Jamaica is partnering with **HeavenSent Foundation** to support a Back-to-School Drive for students through September 30, 2021. Please see the Back-to-School Supply Drive list (shown in the left margin) for items needed and the drop-off location. Monetary donations can be made by visiting <https://www.cornercollab.org/heavensent-foundation>. 100% of donations (large and small) will be given to Jamaican students in need.

Groceries Distribution

The **HeavenSent Foundation** aims to feed the indigent and to provide support those faced with hunger. Canned items and non-perishable dry foods such as rice, beans, macaroni, and flour can be donated in Kingston at Building A, Aqueduct Flat
UWI Mona Campus, Kingston 7

Support for Housing

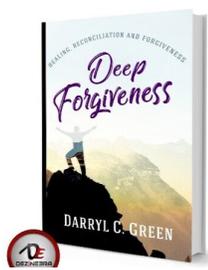
Through construction and renovation projects, the **HeavenSent Foundation** Housing Initiative aims to assist those who live in dilapidated and inhabitable homes and offer long term sustainable housing solutions. Visit <https://www.cornercollab.org/heavensent-foundation> to learn more, view the community spotlight, and meet the HeavenSent team.

Mustard Seed Communities

Mustard Seed Communities serve over 400 children, young adults, and families who belong to the most vulnerable groups in Jamaican society. Cornerstone's team comprised of Dr. Anne-Teresa Birthwright, Director of Operations, Ricardo Riley, and Dr. Shaneica Lester conducted a site visit in St. Ann to establish a working relationship toward to improving the Communities' self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Bookshelf Spotlight

Deep Forgiveness was conceived in 1988, Darryl Green's younger brother was stabbed to



Darryl C. Green is an advocate for the restoration of families, economic empowerment for the dis-enfranchised, staunch proponent for libertarian reconciliation and forgiveness,

death over a pair of tennis shoes. Twenty-five years later, while Green testified to get the murderer's life sentence reduced and now the two work together in hopes of making a difference.

Our Growing Ecosystem

Click below to Join Us!

[CONTACT US](#)

Florida

Orlando
Tampa
West Palm Beach
Ft. Lauderdale
Miami
Jacksonville
Gainesville
Daytona Beach
Ocala
Tallahassee

Other States

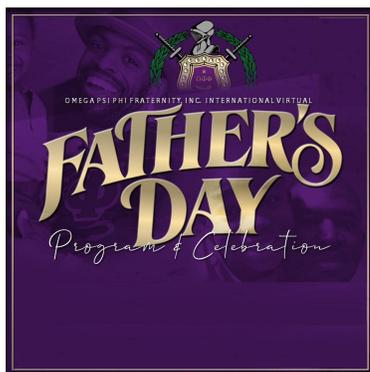
Massachusetts
Nevada

Jamaica

Community Engagement



Cornerstone Collaborative's network of caring individuals and committed organizations directly engages vulnerable populations and people in need of support for education, training, employment, legal advocacy, housing, health, nutrition, wellness, and whose underserved communities need immediate and sustainable economic development.



Celebrating Fathers

For almost two hours on Father's Day, June 20, 2021, Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. from all over the world celebrated virtually the Fraternity's Inaugural International Father's Day Program and Celebration. The theme of the event was *Fathers celebrating Fatherhood* which was created and co-hosted by Executive Director of Cornerstone Collaborative Massachusetts, Francois Fils-Aime.



Lunch Anyone?

Katherine Gergen Barnett, Vice Chair of Primary Care Innovation and Transformation and the Program Director in the Department of Family Medicine at Boston Medical Center (BMC), speaking to participants of the **Lead Boston** healthcare roundtable



Pictured above is Executive Director Francois Fils-Aime and Courtney Pong, Owner of ComedySportz Boston



Pictured above is a completed water catchment system with water tank installed in St. Ann, Jamaica.



In July 2021, a timely lunch conversation among community stakeholders took place to discuss healthcare gaps in Boston communities. Sponsored by **Lead Boston**, Executive Director of Cornerstone Collaborative Massachusetts and Lead Boston Alum, Francois Fils-Aime was invited to participate in this virtual luncheon with five other community organizations who have committed to continuing the conversation to improve healthcare outcomes.

In August, 2021 Cornerstone Collaborative Massachusetts Executive Director attended an Improv class hosted by Courtney Pong Owner of **ComedySportz** Boston. Afterwards, the two met to discuss future collaboration toward grant funding aiming to support and expand community theater and providing classes in community neighborhoods to build life and professional skills through youth and adult mentoring.

Watering Farms in Jamaica

We are so thankful to our donors who have completed the funding for Alica, our third water tank recipient! Installation of Alica's tank will be completed in the coming weeks as the logistics affected by weather and COVID-19 will allow. You may learn more about Alica and the successful campaign to fund a water tank and catchment system for her family [here](#):

Meet Hernel...

Hernel is from the rural community of Fort George, in St. Ann, Jamaica. At 14 years old Hernel left school to begin farming to support his family. Since that day, Hernel has been a farmer. "Everything I have achieved in this life has been through farming.", he says. "I grow everything, cabbage, lettuce, pumpkin, yam, cucumber, bok choy, you name it, I grow it".

There is no running water in the community of Fort George, so residents put barrels under their roofs to catch water to bathe, cook, and clean. This past year Fort George experienced 6 months of drought from January through the rainy season. Hernel says there are springs but with the drought the water is limited.

"Farming is a gamble, sometimes you make a little money, and sometimes you lose everything. And just because you lose, the game doesn't change, you go back and try to



win the next time around,” he says. Hernel’s positive attitude is contagious, that brings a smile to everyone he meets.

Cornerstone Collaborative would like to help Hernel increase his chances for success by helping to purchase a water tank and catchment for his farm.



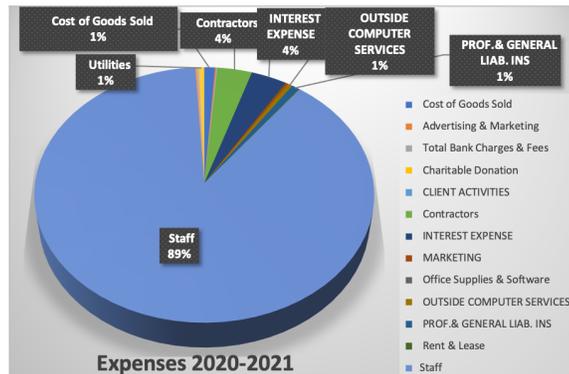
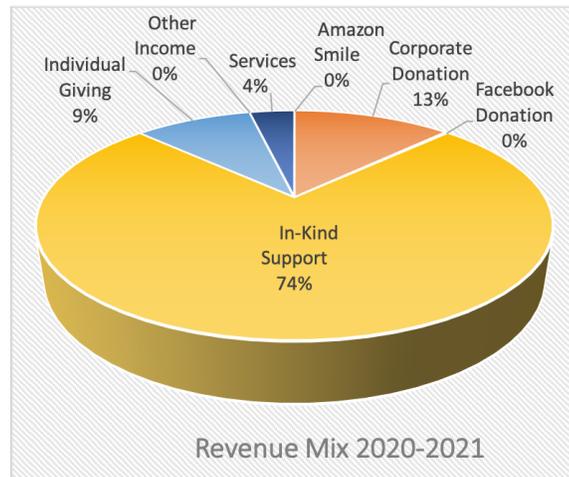
Learn more and support the current funding opportunity for Hernel [here](https://www.cornercollab.org/jamaica) or visit us at <https://www.cornercollab.org/jamaica> for additional information and many more photos of the community-led effort to provide water security and support sustainable agriculture and income stability for rural farmers in Jamaica.

~

Share your ideas to Help!

CONTACT US

Finance



Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Lumens

Cornerstone accepts donations of certain Cryptocurrency. We accept these charitable

“A meritocracy is a system in which the people who are the luckiest in their health and genetic endowment; luckiest in terms of family support, encouragement, and, probably, income; luckiest in their educational and career opportunities; and luckiest in so many other ways difficult to enumerate — these are the folks who reap the largest rewards. The only way for even a putative meritocracy to hope to pass ethical muster, to be considered fair, is if those who are the luckiest in all of those respects also have the greatest responsibility to work hard, to contribute to the betterment of the world, and to share their luck with others.”

— Ben Bernanke



contributions, then sell the asset, converting it to cash within 30 days of receiving the charitable gift.

To learn more and to make a crypto donation visit our website [here](#). All cryptocurrency donations are considered unrestricted gifts unless specified by the donor which means the gift will be used in the manner management determines it will have the greatest mission impact.

Please email info@cornercollab.org if you have any questions.

Planned Giving

Our planned giving program ranges from recurring monthly or annual gifts to estate contributions. Join our giving program to support current and emerging initiatives to improve community health, promote youth and adult literacy, strengthen public safety and support education, training, and workforce development.

Please email compliance@cornercollab.org if you have any questions or donate today to get started.

Cornerstone Collaborative Florida Inc. is an IRC 501(c)(3) organization and your donation is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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