



2022 ANNUAL REPORT





To the bravest, kindest, and the most loving person, my late grandmother, Shirley Shaffeeck. As a survivor of domestic violence, she fled to Venezuela to save her life. Using her own life story as a guide, she believed that it was necessary for all of us to do our part to speak out on the violence against women and children in Guyana. The Breadfruit Collective is a continuation of gender-based work she was a part of. Despite being only a teenager, my grandmother believed that it was necessary for me to be involved in this movement.



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Message from the Founder | 4 |
| About The Breadfruit Collective | 6 |
| 2022 Highlights | 7 |
| Major Projects and Undertakings for 2022 | 8 |
| Partnership Building..... | 8 |
| Public Programs..... | 11 |
| Blog Posts | 15 |
| Mutual Aid Drives..... | 16 |
| Features on The Breadfruit Collective | 17 |
| Funding & Support | 18 |
| Team Members..... | 19 |
| Thank You! | 20 |

Message from the Founder



A new year always signals a sense of renewal and it calls on us to reflect on our goals and accomplishments. In 2021, the blueprint for our work began, and in 2022, we continued to build off what was started with an emphasis on centering and strengthening our partnerships in Guyana, the Caribbean, and the diaspora. This year allowed the team to execute programming in a hybrid mode in Guyana. Partnerships from 2021 expanded in 2022. This can be seen through our mutual aid drives, the Men's Day Panel with The Glenn Family Foundation, and the continuous engagement with our Youth Ambassadors. In 2022, the team

embarked on new programs to expand the conversation on climate change, gender justice, mental health, transformative education, and reproductive access.

This year, The Breadfruit Collective became a registered group and received its Certificate of Incorporation under the Companies Act of Guyana. This milestone achievement would allow us to participate fully and apply for grants as a registered entity to access resources to complete our targets and goals.

The Breadfruit Collective was able to collaborate to execute a new calendar event, the Caribbean Women for Climate Justice (CW4CJ) Conference. Additionally, the group was involved in the consultations with young people in Guyana and the Caribbean on the Youth Declaration on Transformative Education. We were given the opportunity to attend the Transform Education Summit in New York City in September, 2022.

Throughout our successes for 2022, it is significant to note that our small community has experienced great loss to two matriarchs. In March of 2022, we lost our Youth Ambassador Seeromanie Persaud's mom, Bhagyamatie Persaud. A week later, my grandmother, Shirley Shaffeeek who has inspired my work in gender justice passed away. It is our goal that we remember both women and continue to be inspired by the lives they lived, centering gentleness, hard work, and speaking up against injustice.

Despite reports of Guyana moving up the scale on the Global Gender Gap Index, this year, nineteen (19) women were murdered as a result of gender-based violence. Gender-based violence is preventable and it should not be tolerated in any form. I ask that you remember these women and hold their families and loved ones in your thoughts.

As Guyana is rapidly developing its fossil fuel industry, there is still little consultation being done with community members and especially with young people. Along with a group of forty-four (44) activists, I signed on to a letter to His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, entitled 'A Fair Deal for Guyana - A Fair Deal for the Planet,'

ahead of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) expressing the deep concerns of citizens.

As we bring the year to a close, we welcome new members to our team who were instrumental in the visible expansion of our work; Afeefa Richardson - Digital and Communications Manager, and two new bloggers - Natalia Surujnath and Malika Singh.

Excitedly and graciously, TBC was selected for two grant opportunities; one with The Global Green Grants and the other with Frida - The Young Feminist Fund to expand and continue our programs in 2023.

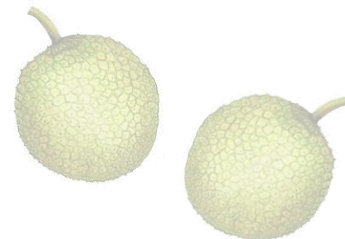
The work of The Breadfruit Collective continues to connect the climate crisis to the gender crisis. The burden of it all falls on the shoulders of those most vulnerable. Our work ahead is difficult and not fair. We know that a small group of people when committed can get much done and we can use 2022 as an example of how much work we were able to accomplish. We have not reached the point where any member can commit to TBC in a full-time capacity. Acknowledging this, it's necessary to give ourselves grace and find joy in our activism.

With youthful energy, we welcome 2023. It is another opportunity for us to continue to learn, re-learn and unlearn. I believe that with the right partnerships and support, we will continue to see changes in the climate and gender justice space in this new year.

In Solidarity,

Christine Samwaroo

Founder and Managing Director



About The Breadfruit Collective

The Breadfruit Collective (TBC) is a registered Gender and Environmental Justice NGO based in Guyana. The work became public in July 2020, during the pandemic as a response to the brutal murder of women in Guyana. However, the inspiration to start an organization like this was thought up years prior given the lived experience of gender injustices faced by Christine Samwaroo and the women in her family. With her academic interest in intersectional environmental justice work, The Breadfruit Collective was conceptualized.

The Breadfruit Collective believes that we cannot have a functioning society until it forms a healthy, positive relationship with its women, girls, and the environment. The organization strongly believes that the issues are interconnected, inclusive and an intersectional approach must be used.

The Breadfruit Collective aims to work alongside women and girls and eliminate gender-based violence by pushing for policy change, aiding in self-healing, and providing leadership training and mutual aid support. The organization intends to highlight the current state of affairs for climate change in Guyana and continue to push for programming to address issues of climate injustice. The group is committed to building connections and partnering with local and international organizations who are involved in similar work.



2022 Highlights

- Became a registered NGO in Guyana
- Created over 40 handmade cards for Mother's Day, 2022, by the Youth Ambassadors
- Executed 7 mutual aid drives of groceries and period products benefitting approximately 100 women and girls
- Launched the inaugural CW4CJ Conference in collaboration with The Climate Conscious Podcast
- Read *The Sprouts and the Mystery of the Flood* to over 40 learners.
- Reached 1700 Instagram followers
- Signed 5 petitions/letters as it relates to prioritizing the lives of Guyanese citizens over those of companies in the oil and gas sector.
- Published 7 blog posts on the intersections of climate justice, gender justice, access to menstrual products, mental health and community partnerships
- Secured 4 grant opportunities
- Featured in 4 written pieces across the Caribbean
- Collaborated on 8 partnership building activities
- Executed 13 public program events
- Selected as Co-chair for the Gender Working Group as part of CANARI's Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance
- Selected as Co-lead Climate Education and Climate Justice Working Group Member, Transform Education hosted by UNGEI
- Updated website with resources available in Guyana for mental health and gender-based violence.
- Expanded TBC's team with three new members

Major Projects and Undertakings for 2022

Partnership Building



Picnic with Art.ives, Guyana | January 16, 2022

Art.ives is an emerging organization that promotes art as a cross cutting means of addressing societal issues in Guyana. Afeefa and Christine met up with founders, Chris and Kezyah, at the Guyana National Park for a picnic to reflect on current work, synergies, and ways to collaborate more closely in future projects.



Rest and Replenish Retreat | February 6, 2022

The Breadfruit Collective was invited to attend a Rest and Replenish Retreat hosted by Vaksana - A Different View Project. The event was a networking retreat for Guyana's change makers to connect with fellow social justice advocates. TBC was invited to do a read aloud of *The Sprouts* and *The Mystery of the Flood* at the event. The event was hosted in-person at Armadillo Earth Farm on the Linden Soesdyke Highway, an Earth based community dedicated to the path of freedom and love for the natural world.



Ah Love Yuh - What does love look Like? | Sunday 13th, 2022

In partnership with Feminitt (Trinidad) and Tamukke Feminists (Guyana), TBC co-hosted a virtual discussion unpacking what love looks like from a Caribbean perspective. Given the extremely high intimate partner violence rates in Caribbean countries, the groups decided to host the event in observance of Valentine's Day to discuss healthy relationships, self-love, and healing trauma.



Mentor with GirlsCARE Young Women's Climate Change Programme 2022 | Started in March, 2022

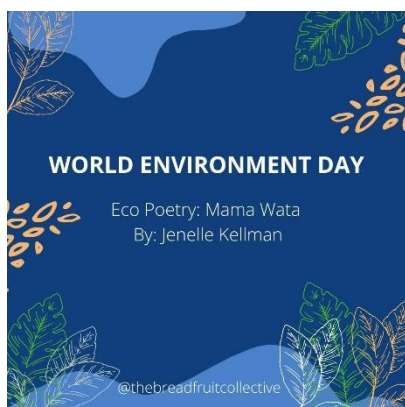
Given The Breadfruit Collective's work on the intersections of gender and environmental justice and its intention to include young people, Christine Samwaroo was selected to serve as a mentor under the GirlsCARE program. Christine was one of fourteen (14) Caribbean women's groups who were selected to mentor twenty-five (25) young women from across the Caribbean. The opportunity not only provided a positive experience to network with women across the Caribbean, but it also allowed TBC to share ideas, learn from experts working in the field and exchange life journeys with mentees as a young Caribbean person that is interested in climate justice.



The Breadfruit Collective and The Lilypads Project Instagram LIVE in observance of Menstrual Health Day, 2022 | May 28, 2022

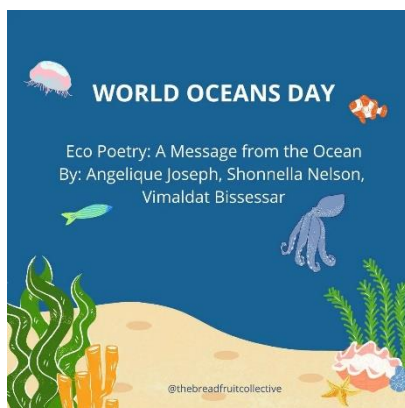
The Breadfruit Collective is committed to taking a whole of society approach when addressing issues around Gender and Environment. In this regard, conversations around menstruation, period poverty, access and sustainability of products are necessary.

In observance of Menstrual Health Day, 2022, Christine and Afeefa hosted an [Instagram Live with Amy Li Baksh](#), founder of Lilypads based in Trinidad and Tobago. During the conversation we learned about how Amy started their business and the model they used to center sustainability and self-care. We learned about Amy's passion to make period products sustainably and accessible. We also discussed the challenges around conversations on menstruation in the Caribbean. The team discussed their own menstruation stories.



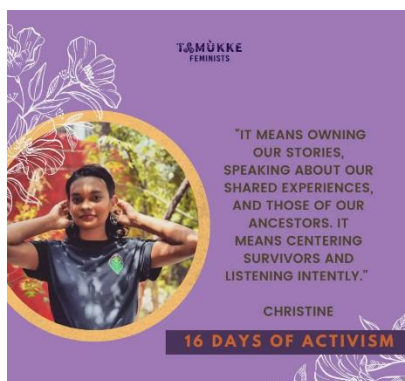
World Environment Day Poem - Mama Wata by Jenelle Kellman | June 5, 2022

The Breadfruit Collective was pleased to highlight a powerful [eco-poetry piece](#) by a University of Guyana student on the connection and reference to women and the environment. The poem can be accessed through The Breadfruit Collective's Instagram page.



World Oceans Day- A Message from the Ocean by Angeliue Joseph, Shonnella Nelson, Vimaldat Bissessar | June 8, 2022

In observance of World Oceans Day, TBC highlighted an [eco-poetry piece](#) that spoke to the magnitude of our oceans, the harm that is currently being done, and it ended by providing hope of actions that should be taken to protect our oceans. The piece was a reminder that the oceans connect, it doesn't respect borders, it ebbs and flows. It sustains, it heals and it provides. It is also the largest carbon sink. The poem can be accessed through The Breadfruit Collective's Instagram page.



16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence | November 25 - December 10, 2022

Christine Samwaroo was featured on Tamükke Feminists on her thoughts on what collective activism to end violence against women means to her?

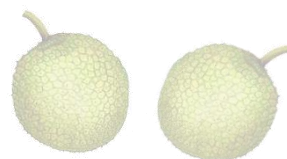
"It means owning our own stories, speaking about our shared experiences, and those of our ancestors. It means centering survivors and listening intently. It's necessary to connect to the past with the future- involve marginalized voices. It requires a deep understanding that at the heart of collective work, they are intersections of our lived realities."



Christine Samwaroo as Co-lead Climate Education and Climate Justice Working Group Member, Transform Education hosted

by UNGEI was asked to share her thoughts on ending gender stereotypes in the classroom in order to create a safer future for all.

"Gender-based violence should not be accepted as the norm for any country. GBV is 100% preventable. Our work towards protecting our planet is only possible if we educate and protect the rights of all women and girls."



Public Programs

Panel with Caribbean Links | January 22, 2022

Christine Samwaroo was invited to speak on a virtual panel 'Climate Change in the Caribbean' hosted by Caribbean Links, a Caribbean millennial collective with an aim to educate the Caribbean diaspora on issues relating to the Caribbean. Christine joined fellow panelist, Dr. Thera Edwards, Lecturer at the University of the West Indies to unpack the current and future impacts of climate impacts on Small Islands and Developing States and their current work in addressing the climate crisis.

Circle of Justice - Exploring Gender Justice and Climate Justice | March 12th, 2022

A virtual conversation shared with regional partners Caribbean Feminist, IGNS Ignite, Transform Education on the intersections of gender and climate justice. During the discussion, we discussed ways Caribbean people have been incorporating sustainability in their daily practices for decades but which are often overlooked for example the common reusing of containers, the way we depend on the sun to dry our clothes. We discussed ways we can work towards unpacking ideas and looking for ways to build synergies in our efforts.

Caribbean Women for Climate Justice - Virtual Conference in Celebration of Earth Day | April 21-24, 2022



In celebration of Earth Day 2022, The Climate Conscious Podcast and The Breadfruit Collective hosted the inaugural Caribbean Women for Climate Justice Conference (CW4CJ). The 4-day Conference facilitated regional engagement on the intersection of climate and gender justice through a Caribbean focused lens.

The event attracted over 200 registrants from across the Caribbean and the diaspora and featured an equally diverse cohort of speakers, including representatives of youth and Indigenous communities.

Participants discussed issues critical to the overarching theme, shared ongoing work related to climate justice, and identified recommendations and corrective actions for advancing gender-sensitive climate action.

The [detailed report](#) can be accessed through TBC's website and the panel discussions are saved on the organization's [YouTube page](#). Additionally, TBC and TCCP recorded an Instagram live and one podcast episode prior to the event that can be accessed on TBC's Instagram page.

Justice Delayed is Justice Denied | June 6, 2022

Christine Samwaroo was asked to join a virtual panel discussion on the intersections of gender and climate justice and the work of TBC at the Caribbean Youth Environment Network's Climate Justice Awareness week. TBC shared the panel with IAMovement and Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project. The event provided a space to share and also a space to learn about regional groups who are using a social, racial and environmental justice lens to address climate solutions.

Transform Education, Caribbean Regional Youth Consultation | July 31st, 2022 & Guyana National Youth Consultation for the Youth Declaration on Transforming Education| August 13th, 2022



The Breadfruit Collective was fortunate to lead the virtual Caribbean Consultation and in-person consultations in Guyana with youths in preparation for the Transformative Education Summit held in New York City. Education is a cross-cutting issue and it should address the climate crisis. From the consultations, representatives shared that the education systems need to look at the intellectual needs of different groups of students and incorporate different ways of knowing. It should be flexible and address the colonial underlying of the current curriculum. It must allow students to think critically and allow young people to speak out on their own needs and implement solutions driven by students.



Persons from across the Caribbean attended the online consultation. In Guyana, there were representatives from high school students, LGBTQIA+ organizations, persons with disabilities, teachers, youth and climate justice groups,

university students and child rights advocacy groups.

The feedback from both consultations fed into the [Youth Declaration on Transformative Education](#) that was adopted.

Panel Discussion: Living Good 2: Righting Justice, Making Just Communities | August 19th, 2022



Christine Samwaroo along with six other panelists from civil society justice organizations in the Caribbean discussed what a good life means to them given the high rates of inequality, climate change and instability within the region. The panelists spoke on their take on what it would mean to “live good” if every person has a right to a dignified life. In the conversation, panelists discussed the importance of

righting justice and engendering just communities.

Partnership Building with The Guyana Gender Hub: Discussion on the Escazu Agreement | September 11th, 2022

In an effort to raise awareness on the Escazu Agreement, TBC in collaboration with the Gender Hub held a virtual discussion on the Agreement hosted by Vanda Radzik. The Escazu Agreement is the region’s first environmental treaty with provisions on human rights defenders in environmental matters. Members discussed what this meant in actuality for Guyanese citizens.

Picnic, Gyaff and Mindfulness | Saturday October 8th, 2022



As part of the week of regional action for climate with a focus on adaptation hosted by the Caribbean Climate Network (CCN), TBC received generous support to host an in-person event at the Botanical Gardens in Guyana. The space allowed people to share their current work and how it connects to climate change. We had a discussion on "development" and what that means for Guyana. A lot of the discussion centered around race, class and

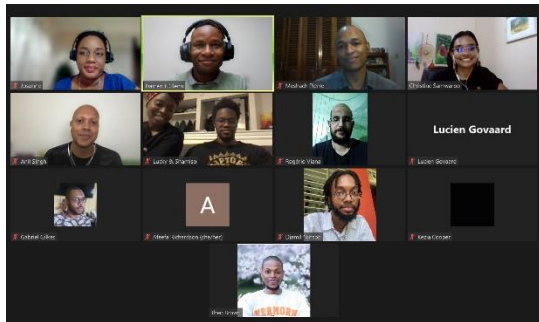
how those are issues that we NEED to address if we intend to form mass movement within the country for climate action. Members talked about changing culture and mindset and working with Indigenous peoples in Guyana. Throughout the discussion, it was acknowledged that young people are often overwhelmed when it comes to the oil and gas development in Guyana.

The 15 persons who came out were from various backgrounds, including teacher, reporter, scientist studying monkey, human rights activist, aspiring nurse, another person studying human wildlife conflict, writer, film maker, and youth climate change activist.

International Day of the Girl Child - Networking Event: Girls Education and Climate Change Research | October 11th, 2022

Virtual event held in partnership with UN WOMEN, UNFCCC, Transform Education, Empoder Clima and The Breadfruit Collective in celebration of International Day of the Girl Child to foster networking between senior and early career climate researchers. Christine Samwaroo shared her academic experience and the current work she is involved in with The Breadfruit Collective.

Men's Mental Health in observance of International Men's Day, 2022 | November 17, 2022



In what has become an annual event, in partnership with the Glenn Family Foundation (GFF), TBC hosted a virtual event with Caribbean men: Anil Singh, Associate Director and Illustrator; Darren Glenn, Librarian and Executive Director of GFF; Gabriel Gilkes, Community Manager, Guyana Association for Persons with physical Disabilities; Djamil Ninsoo, Author and Cultural Educator; Lucien Govaard,

Health Communications and Youth Development Consultant; and Meshach Pierre, Interdisciplinary Scientist and Photographer. As a continuation of 2021, the conversation aimed to destigmatize the discussion on mental health and foster an understanding that despite our backgrounds, it is necessary to call in our community and talk about our mental health.

The conversation allowed panelists and participants to speak openly on the challenges they face given their lived realities. Two interesting points raised during the conversation were “parenting with softness” and sometimes how it can feel to “raise our parents”.

Children and the Environment - World Children's Day | November 19, 2022



In celebration of this year's children's day, a free and in-person event was hosted at the Guyana National Library. Approximately 30 children participated in a read-a-loud of [The Sprouts and the Mystery of the Flood](#), and interacted with Christine and Afeefa on the relevance of the book to children, Guyana, and the environment.

Children are key stakeholders when it comes to planning for the future and in all discussions on climate crisis their future must be considered. Two physical copies of the book were donated to the library and the book can be accessed for free on the TBC's website. The Sprouts and the Mystery

of the Flood was written in collaboration with the Guyana Youth and Environment Network in 2021.

Set the Agenda: Gender and Climate Justice | December 8, 2022

The Breadfruit Collective was asked to present and lead the discussion as part of CANARI's final Set the Agenda: Gender and Climate Justice in the Caribbean. The conversation took place virtually with over thirty (40) participants from across the Caribbean. Christine Samwaroo presented on the connection between gender and climate and the current work of TBC in Guyana.

As co-chairs of the Working Group on Gender with CANARI, Derval Barzey and Christine Samwaroo, led two breakout groups unpacking- What are the key concerns and issues in promoting gender and climate justice? The breakout groups discussed the barriers to more women engaging in climate leadership. A discussion on the current status of gender and climate in respective countries was discussed. Members sharing their views on their country's gender policies and whether the climate change plan integrated gender.

Blog Posts

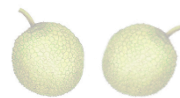
Writing is a positive tool for activism. This year, we explored topics on gender-based violence, climate justice, mental health and community partnerships. TBC is committed to sharing this space with anyone who is interested in sharing their perspectives on the intersecting issues we are working to address. All [blog posts](#) are accessible through The Breadfruit Collective's website.

- A blog post entitled 'Reflecting on 2021 and looking ahead to 2022'. The post was written by Christine Samwaroo.
- In observance of International Day of Women and Girls in Science, TBC featured a post on Mrs. Nikita Bagot, Hydro-Chemist at the Hydromet Guyana. The piece was written by Afeefa Richardson.
- 'Cultivating Love through Community Partnership' blog piece was written by Christine Samwaroo to reflect on the work that was completed in February. The piece highlighted various partnerships and organizations doing intersectional work in Guyana and the diaspora.
- 'Sounding the Alarm on the Intersections of Gender and Climate Justice', a reflection from the CW4CJ conference written by Christine Samwaroo

- 🍌 'Exploring Mental Health, Trauma and the Links to Environmental Consciousness' written by Christine Samwaroo
- 🍌 'Making Mental Health a Priority in Guyana' written by Malika Singh highlighted Mental Health Awareness Day observed in October. On the blog current mental health support that is available in Guyana was highlighted.
- 🍌 'Say her name Oma Devi Virasamy' In the final blog post of 2022, Natalia Surujnath, wrote a piece dedicated to the late Oma Devi Virasamy, 30, who was murdered by their intimate partner in November of 2022. In her piece, Natalia also highlighted the names of women killed by their partners in 2022.

IN LOVING MEMORY AND REMEMBRANCE

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Loretta Simon, 24 | Vanna Girod, 30 |
| Lauren Smith-Fields, 23 | Savitri Raj, 57 |
| Shenese Walks, 19 | Waynurnattie Permaul, 53 |
| Deissy Anthony Perdomo, 49 | Omega Ault, 41 |
| Miriam Edwards, 25 | Agnes Dillon, 86 |
| Donalesa Park, 29 | Cindy Ramchandrar, 25 |
| Tasina Dazzle, 28 | Nirmala Sukhai, 33 |
| Analee Gonsalves, 20 | Sharon Scott, 53 |
| Oma Devi Virasamy, 30 | Kelly Charlotte, 22 |
| Asasha Ramzan, 31 | |



Mutual Aid Drives

TBC believes in solidarity, in sharing space, in sharing resources and in using our platform to spotlight groups working on the ground. Access to period products is limited and expensive in Guyana. TBC has continued to work with communities and organizations to provide these necessary items to those in need throughout the year. We hope that in 2023, we can reach and support more groups with these resources.

- 🍌 Period Drive and Grocery Drive, Help & Shelter - February 2022

- 🌱 Period Drive, Help & Shelter - March, 2022
- 🌱 Mother's Day Card Drive, Help & Shelter - May, 2022
- 🌱 Period Drive, St. Ann's Orphanage for Girls - May, 2022
- 🌱 Period Drive, Help & Shelter - December, 2022
- 🌱 Period Drive, St. Ann's Orphanage for Girls - December, 2022
- 🌱 Period Drive, Amerindian Hostel - December, 2022



Features on The Breadfruit Collective

Features can be accessed through the TBC's [Link Tree](#) in the bio on Instagram. Features are also highlighted on [TBC's Instagram](#) for quick access.

- 🌱 Guyana: NGO Working towards Climate and Gender Justice by Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, 2022
- 🌱 Regional Climate Activist by Sunday Market Network, 2022
- 🌱 Guyana: NGO working towards climate and gender justice by Loop Caribbean, 2022
- 🌱 The Breadfruit Collective feature on Caribbean Feminist - Climate Conscious: A Conversation with Christine Samwaroo, 2022

Funding & Support

The Breadfruit Collective is committed to building partnerships to maximize resources. To carry out our mutual aid drives, products were donated by kind hearted persons. Additional work on digital activism and hosting of events were done by TBC's members as their schedule permitted.

In collaboration with The Climate Conscious Podcast, TBC received a small grant from The Open Society Foundations to cover the cost of a graphic designer and event management service to carry out the CW4CJ conference.

The organization is grateful to the Caribbean Climate Network who provided support for TBC to host its first Picnic, Gyaff and Mindfulness in-person event in observance of the week of regional action for climate change.

As we approach the new year, the organization received two grants, one from the Global Green Grants Fund and another from the FRIDA Fund to execute programs in 2023.



Team Members



Christine Samwaroo
Founder & Managing Director



Afeefa Richardson
*Digital Communications
Manager*



Iyana Alleyne
Research Associate



Malika Singh
Blogger



Natalia Surujnath
Blogger



Seeromanie Persaud
Youth Ambassador



Nathan Ramsarran
Youth Ambassador



Daena Richards
Youth Ambassador

Thank You!

The Breadfruit Collective is indebted to the following persons for creating space, sharing resources, creating opportunities and their overall kindness: Jhannel Tomlinson, Ashlee Burnett, Ayesha Constable, Derval Barzey, Jennefer Ramcharran and Vidyaratha Kissoon.

We are thankful to everyone who contributed to make the mutual aid drives successful. We continue to enjoy being in community with people at our virtual and in-person events. Thank you to persons who continue to support our work in the diaspora, we are grateful for your engagement on our social media platforms.

Thank you to our donors for trusting us with this critical work. A major aspect of our work is to strengthen our community partnerships. Thank you to Tamùkke Feminists, Feminitt, Glenn Family Foundation, The Green Heart Movement and Transform Education.





- January 9, 2023 -

The Breadfruit Collective

Design & Layout by Afeefa Richardson

For more information, contact us at thebreadfruitcollective@gmail.com