

## **NADINE C. PATRICE**

Nadine C. Patrice is the co-founder and Executive Director of Operation Green Leaves Inc., a non-profit 501 ( c ) 3 environmental organization registered in the State of Florida since 1991. Operation Green Leaves' mission is environmental education, ecological restoration and the reforestation of the Island Nation of Haiti. Nadine was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, left Haiti at a very young age. It was her first visit to Haiti 20 years later that changed her life forever. On that visit after witnessing the extreme poverty in Haiti, working tirelessly to improve the standard of living of her people became her life mission. Understanding that everything is connected to the environment, Nadine knew that addressing environmental issues in Haiti would have the most impact in improving the standard of living of the people of Haiti.

Nadine's work includes connecting thousands of people with the national parks in South Florida, including the Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks, as well as the Big Cypress National Preserve. Simultaneously, Nadine has helped develop and sustain popular community gardens in the urban areas of Miami, as well as conducting hands-on environmental education programs in local elementary and high schools.

But it is in Haiti where Nadine is most focused, and understandably more so since the earthquake last year. OGL is uniquely connected to a network of community based groups suffering through the effects of the earthquake and aftershocks, and is working in proactive ways to reduce suffering and provide hope for the neediest people. She is currently working on a project to build an environmental Center and Volunteer Village in Arcahaie, Haiti. The center for which she is seeking support is a key part of her efforts to help sustain the local community, and provide hope, opportunity, training and resources.