



# 2022 social report

## Preface by Joost de Jong, managing director

**2022 was an exciting year for us.** We moved to a new location on Pondfill road in Philipsburg in the WIFOL building. Very central, very spacious and very much our 'own'. We could do what and how we wanted.

Because of the many possibilities this location had, we could restart cooking and selling meals for the general public, which started to make an income for the foundation. Plus the airconditioned space made it possible to keep all fresh produce from the Food Market longer available.

**St. Maarten Development Fund** and **R4CR** funded the Food Market program and the immense positive response from them, but also from the beneficiaries and the community of St. Maarten has made us feel humble and very grateful to be able to continue our mission.

We had some issues with staff in 2022, but found new staff members through our **volunteer database** and have realized that it's the best way to enter our organization: volunteer first, see if you like what we do, understand what we do fully and then consider to apply for a job opening.

The new location also provided us with space to **start a thrift-store**. Sitting in the middle of all donations typing this, makes me laugh and feel proud. **Laugh**, because I remember the space empty in January 2022 and now we have outgrown it because of the tremendous amount of donations we receive on a daily base.

We will have to move to a bigger location, but the current one has given us the opportunity to try out what we thought would work and YES! it does. After a year of promoting and our costumers slowly growing into the feeling that one persons waste is another persons treasure, it now has a place within the community and our beneficiaries (and many others!!!) not only enjoy food, but also enjoy affordable shopping while contributing to **a more sustainable St. Maarten**. And that's what I am proud of!

And I'm also **proud** of our team of volunteers. We have so many loyal and committed volunteers each week. From the 40 area volunteers who take care of the food waste program and open up their porches and gardens for their community members to the ladies that come on Wednesday and help DJ cutting vegetables and packing the free meals our beneficiaries receive each week, and to the never-ending support and laughter from our ladies that come on Thursday and Friday to run the Food Market and welcome our beneficiaries and make them feel at home.

And despite of all the positivity that embraces our organization, there's also **a big concern**. The demand for our service is growing, the applications keep coming in and we have limited space in the Food Market program. It's my answer when people, well meant, tell me the foundation is doing good: "But unfortunately that means that the island is not."



Joost de Jong

*Managing director*

I know that **a world without hunger** is an utopia, but it is my goal that at some point Freegan Food Foundation can cease to exist. Until then, we are extremely grateful for all organizations, companies and individual sponsors that help us in many ways by donating food waste, monetary donations, clothing/household/furniture donations, connecting us with other organizations, with people in need, mentioning us in (social) media outlets and all other ways.

It is how we can continue to grow, how people know where to get help, and how we can thrive as an organization. I'm **deeply moved** by the help offered, many times from unexpected sources and I hope we can continue this mission to create a more sustainable world for all earth's inhabitants.



From left to right:

**Seeta:**

Volunteer Thrift-store  
& Food Market

**Angela:**

Allround volunteer

**Minerva:**

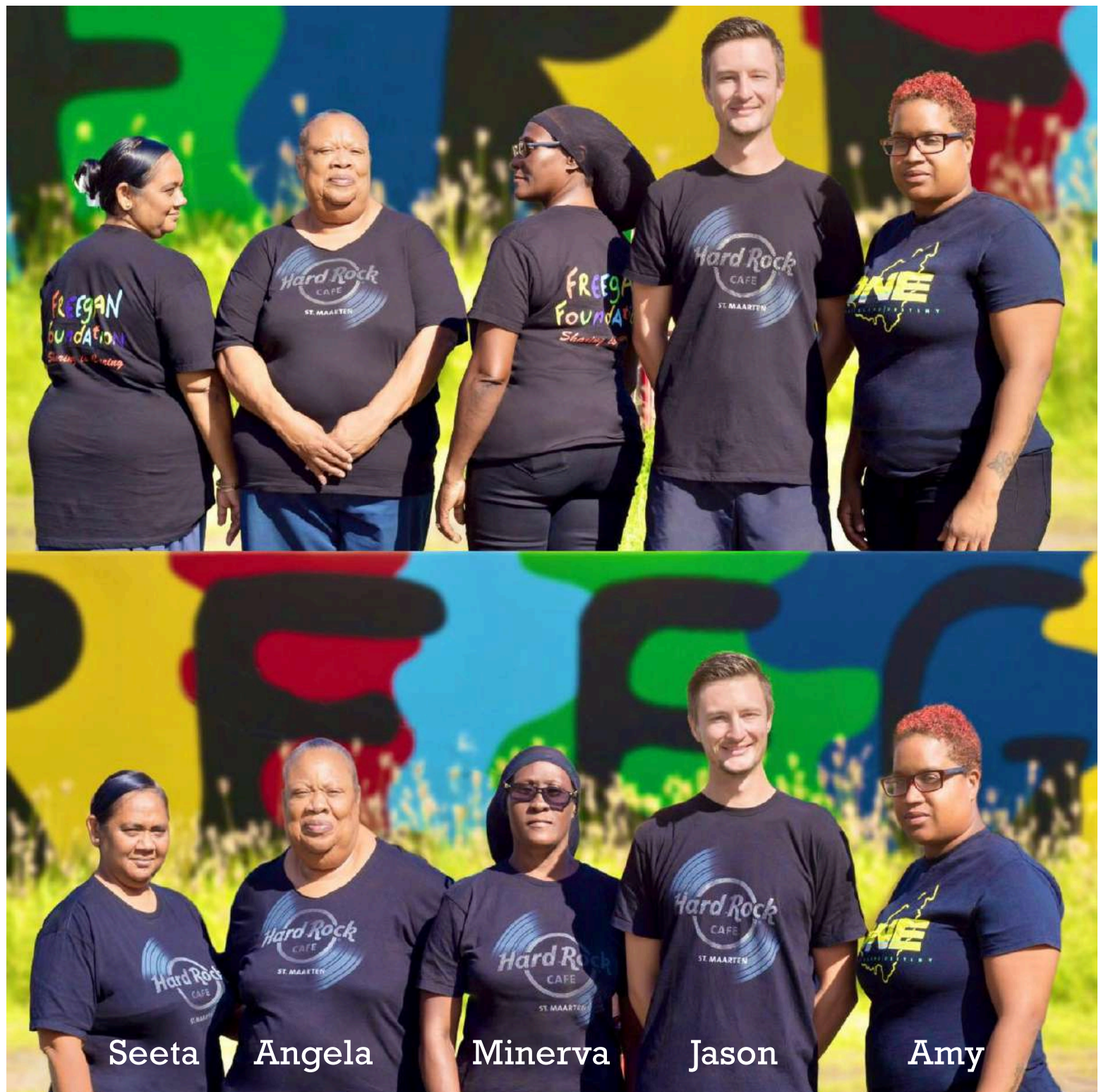
Driver  
Food Waste Program

**Jason:**

Project manager  
Food Market

**Amy:**

Ass. manager  
Food Market & driver  
Food Waste Program







## 2022 in short

Still feeling the effects of the pandemic, 2022 turned out to be a year full of new projects, new staff members, but most of all a warehouse full of Hard Rock Café merchandise. The fact that we started our thrift-store in March, opened the Food Market on a new location and hired 2 extra staff members to get all work done in time, did not take away that all of our endeavours were infused with a Hard Rock Café shot (glass).

In April 2022 we received a call from the curator who took care of the bankruptcy from, yes, Hard Rock Café St. Maarten. The request was if we could use the left behind merchandise for our beneficiaries. We of course said yes, because otherwise it would end up on the dump.

At first it was only what was in the shop on the Boardwalk, but afterwards they appeared to have a storage container and another storage room behind the shop as well. We are talking about thousands and thousands of t-shirts, glasses, caps, clothes pins, stirrers, napkins, bags, even their menu covers found a way to the thrift-store.

It took us weeks to go through everything, but eventually everything found a way into the world. Be it in a gift bag to all our beneficiaries and volunteers, be it sold in the thrift-store, be it gifted to people abroad and taken on planes everywhere in the world. When driving through the streets of St. Maarten, you will probably see a Hard Rock Café t-shirt somewhere. Almost 100% sure it was donated through us.

And it gave us our sustainable company attire. Win-win-win-win-win!



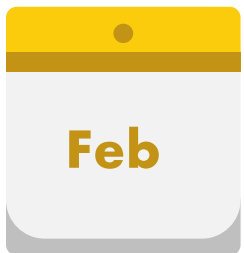
# Highlights of 2022



Divico donates handsanitizer – Pandemic finally over?



Freegan Fairies smoothy workshop in primary schools



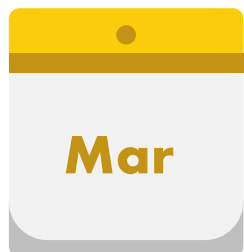
New kitchen equipment donated by private sponsor



Opening for new beneficiaries



Virtual hugs for Ukraine



12600 cans of soup and 6 pallets of coke donated



SXM Doet: our walls are painted



# Highlights of 2022

April



Hard rock Café merchandise takes over the island

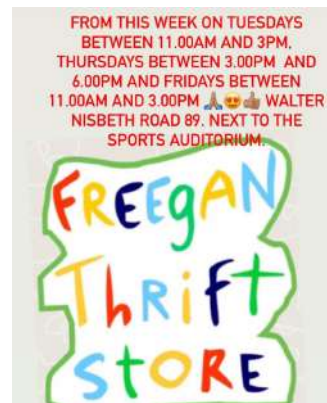
May



Celebrating liberation day with Freedom Soup

Healthy buffet for the nurses at St. Maarten Medical Center

June



The Trift-store opens its doors

Food Waste delivered on your doorstep

DJ's famous coleslaw - for 200 persons



# Highlights of 2022

July



1st yard sale raises almost \$2000

Dog food donated to Animal defenders

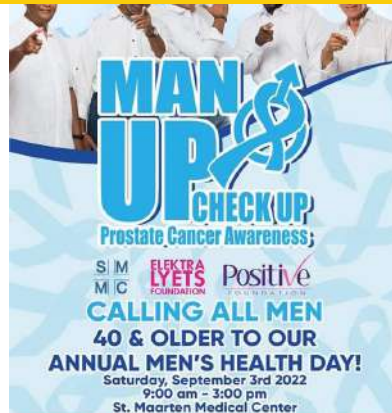
Aug



Rice cooker donated, makes cooking a lot faster!

The food waste keeps helping 100's of people each month

Sept



Providing lunch during prostate cancer awareness event

Tortuga Beach Bar donates gift cards for our volunteers



# Highlights of 2022

Oct



New dream team on the bus: Amy and Minerva

Nov



3260 pineapples that were going to waste donated

First Focus Group meeting

Did we mention pineapples yet?

Dec



Tribute troupe christmas caroling raises \$3000



Cifsef Sint Maarten helps with distributing by involving their beneficiaries

# Mission, vision and goals



## Our mission

We believe that there is enough for everyone in the world, it just needs to be divided differently.

We actively promote sustainability, amongst which by preventing food waste, but we also collect and distribute clothing, furniture, appliances, toys, books, anything that deserves a second life.

When all supermarkets, wholesalers, restaurants and hotels would donate their waste, no one on St. Maarten would have to go hungry.

We care about the planet, the animals, our health and you

- Distribute as equally as possible over the island
- No animal derived products are purchased, however if it is wasted then it will be distributed
- The distributions will always be free of charge
- Community for community. No politics involved

## Our goals

To keep (food) waste from going to the landfill. As long as there is waste, we will keep going.

Finding a bigger location in 2023 for the thrift-store and open a professional kitchen to be able to support the efforts from the foundation and make it (more) self-sustainable.





# Our area volunteers

# grateful



# thank you

