



WINLPG

Women in LPG



Kalinda Magloire

CEO
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“THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENTS WOMEN CAN HAVE IN THE LPG INDUSTRY. BY COMMITTING TO WINLPG, I VOW NOT ONLY TO SHOWCASE STORIES OF MULTINATIONAL INDUSTRY CAPTAINS, BUT ALSO THE STORIES OF SMALL ENTREPRENEURS, OWNERS OF CYLINDER EXCHANGE CENTERS OR FRANCHISEES SELLING LPG KITS IN RURAL AREAS, ALLOWING HAITI TO TAKE STEPS TOWARD THE FUTURE.”

Kalinda Magloire

Meet the Role Models

WINLPG Role Models introduce successful individuals in the LPG industry and gives an insight into their career path, their challenges and their advice to fellow WINLPG members.

I was born in Montreal, Canada where I spent part of my childhood before leaving for Haiti with my mother after the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship in 1986. My mom has been an exile from her home country for almost 30 years, and I grew up surrounded by people passionate about Haiti and constantly looking for ways to turn the country into a place where its citizens can thrive and achieve their potential.

The environment I was raised in had a lot to do with my career choices. I chose Communication, Latin American Studies and Political Sciences as minors in undergrad at the University of Montreal and continued with a master in Political Sciences at the same University. I then went back to Haiti with a clear intent to put my skills to use in institutional capacity building, especially at the Haitian government level. After six years of working in different types of donor funded programs, I realised that my academic background was too theoretical and went back to do a master in Development Management at The London School of Economics. This program at LSE helped me grasp better the challenges of the international aid system that I had been experiencing first hand in Haiti. I guess that is where the desire to use a market based solution for Haiti's cooking energy problems came from.

The 2010 earthquake and a certain sense of urgency also played a big role in the creation of SWITCH. In 2012, we created SWITCH to provide a sustainable solution to 90% of Haitian families still obliged to use charcoal as cooking fuel and help them convert to LPG, a cleaner, cheaper and healthier energy. Today I am the Chairman or should I say Chairwoman of SWITCH's Board.

“ Leading an enterprise in Haiti is always a challenge, for a women it is a thousand time more difficult and it asks of you to draw strength in the resilience and courage that has allowed Haitian women of former generations to be at the forefront of all the social, economic and political struggles of their time.”

Kalinda Magloire

SIX KEY QUESTIONS

What is your goal today?

To scale up SWITCH and ensure the lasting social impact of the work we are doing, while at the same time making sure that I provide a loving family environment for my three-year-old daughter.

Did you have a mentor and how did this help?

The closest I had to a role model, was my mother, we chose different sectors, paths and strategies but her courage, independence and integrity are forever an inspiration to me.

Describe your Pathway?

I'd like to think it is not over! I reserve the right to review these line in 30 years. But so far, it as been all but linear, with all one thing remaining the same, the focus on Haiti.

What does leadership mean to you?

Being a leader is not about you, but about the others, It is about being able to create a environment or the inspiration to help others realise their full potential.

Did you face any specific challenges?

I am a woman entrepreneur in Haiti!

What three pieces of advice would you give to someone embarking on their career with LPG?

Network. There are plenty a resources out there, people who have embarked in the same journey and are ready to share tips and technical advices.

Think Global. The LPG industry is a global family and you will succeed better by partnering with others to ensure synergies in different aspects of your business.

Be Open. The LPG industry is constantly innovating, and welcoming these innovations will make you stronger and more competitive.



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Women in LPG Global Network

www.wlpga.org