

# Twin Parish News

## APRIL 2025

A partnership between St. William and St. Joseph, Côtes-de-Fer, Haiti



## Annual Twin Parish **Education Campaign** Invest in a Child's Future Through Education



For the children of St. Joseph Parish, education is the key to a brighter future—one that your support can help unlock. Many families in Côtes-de-Fer struggle to afford school fees, but with your generosity, we can provide the gift of education to eager children.



Just \$80 covers a full year of elementary education, including a uniform, daily hot meals, and essential school supplies. A donation of \$130 allows a high school student to continue their studies, opening doors to greater opportunities.

Your support today will empower the next generation of leaders in St. Joseph Parish. **Please donate to our twin parish education campaign:**

1. On our website ([www.helpinghugsind.org](http://www.helpinghugsind.org)) with the QR code, or
2. By check payable to Helping Hugs Inc. sent to PO Box 24477, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522



**Give the gift of education — change a life today.**



Taissa Pamfill  
St. Joseph Parish

## A Friendship In Bloom

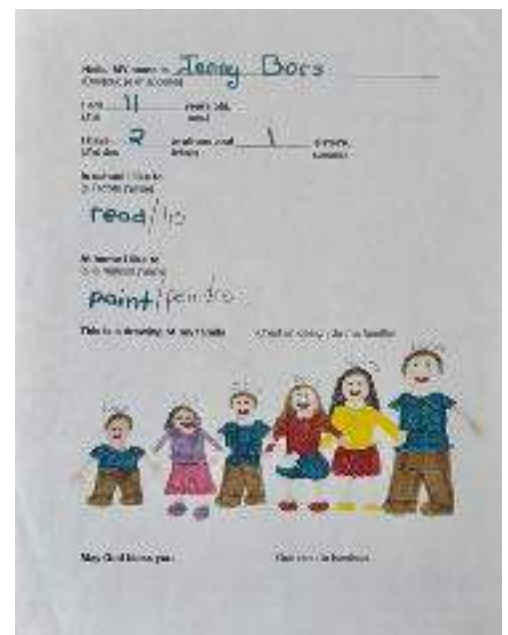
Six years ago, children from St. William's **education program** sent letters and school supplies to students at St. Joseph Parish. Several months later, Father Faustin visited St. William for the annual fundraiser, bringing reciprocal letters for St. William students. Among them was a heartfelt note from Taissa Pamfill to Jenny Bors, forming a connection across miles.



Though time passed, the memory of that exchange remained. Now, thanks to a newly installed internet connection at St. Joseph Parish the friendship planted so long ago can finally take root and grow.

Despite living with sickle cell anemia, Taissa continues to serve her parish faithfully, setting up the altar for daily Mass before heading to school. She attends high school with students whose education is supported by the tuition assistance funded annually by our **Education Campaign**.

We are fortunate to have copies of the original letters, tangible reminders of the connection that started six years ago. Their story is a testament to the power of education—not just in shaping young minds but in building lasting relationships that transcend distance and time. With your help, we hope to build on this idea and develop more relationships in the future.





## *Jan Mansfield, A Powerhouse for Education*

By Martha Hayden

What is the definition of a powerhouse? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, it is “one having great drive, energy, or ability.” We can add experience and knowledge to that, making them defining characteristics of Helping Hugs’ Education Chair Jan Mansfield.

Jan had a stellar career in education before arriving on St. Simons. She moved to Georgia from Pennsylvania in the 1980s and held various positions in speech pathology and special education--at one point serving as an assistant school superintendent with expertise in special education law. She topped off her career as a Georgia state director of special education, traveling around eight coastal counties to advance professional development. In the midst of her busy career, Jan joined her two children going off to college and received her PhD in education.

Jan moved to St. Simons in 2010, became a member of St. William, and got involved in the Helping Hugs mission. She has faithfully served the ministry as past vice-president and president.

Now, the Côtes-de-Fer community benefits from Jan’s vast experience in the field of education to ensure the best possible outcome for its children. As Education Chair, Jan is tasked with evaluating the monetary requests for St. Joseph’s schools, setting the budget, appealing for donations, and thanking donors. Your gifts provide uniforms, supplies, meals, teachers’ salaries, training, and more.

Because most education in Haiti is private, without these monies, the children would likely not be able to attend school. In addition, the donations may have an exponential return—with educated young adults remaining in and serving the community.

Jan is devoted to excellence in education. She is especially passionate about professional development. She is currently working to determine what type of training the Haitian teachers need and find a way to provide it. If you’d like to join Jan and Helping Hugs in the quest to provide critical education to St. Joseph’s and the Côtes-de-Fer community, you can donate to the Education Campaign or volunteer. Contact [info@helpinghugsinc.org](mailto:info@helpinghugsinc.org) or visit the website: [www.helpinghugsinc.org](http://www.helpinghugsinc.org).



Donate to Education



# Partnering For International Projects

**The Brunswick Chapter of The Links, Inc.** has partnered with **Helping Hugs Inc.** in its medical mission to St. Joseph Parish since 2015.

This February, we returned the favor by helping The Links pack "survival kits" of toiletries for their trip to Ghana.

The kits will travel with the Links' medical mission to the impoverished people in the village of NunGua, outside of Accra, to help maintain their hygiene and, thus, their dignity. Dr. Shirley Wilson will lead the Links medical mission.

Building strong networks is one of the most effective ways to achieve our missions. We are deeply grateful to our community for their unwavering support in making this project a success.



From Left: Dr. Shirley Wilson, Rebecca Markert Wilcox, Jo Heller-Orr, Jacqueline Bryant, Beverly Lewis, Diane Smith, Ann Glendening, Sandra Hochwald, Evy Marshall, Bill Horn, Sherie Welch, Bob Hochwald

## Organizations Involved in the Success of Our Medical Missions

### *High School groups collected toiletries:*

Interact Club at Glynn Academy,  
Key Club at Brunswick High,  
Beta Club at Camden County High, and  
Future Business Leaders of America at McIntosh County Academy.

### *Drawstring bags were sewn by:*

Dorcas Group, First Baptist Church, St. Simons Island, and  
Sew and So ministry of St. William Catholic Church.

# Earth Day is right around the corner—April 22, 2025

## Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day is a reminder that small actions—when multiplied—can make a world of difference. In Côtes-de-Fer, our **Agroforestry Tree Currency Program** empowers families to plant trees to restore the land, provide food, and build a more sustainable future.

This Earth Day, join the movement! **Plant a tree, reduce plastic waste, clean up your community—every effort helps protect our planet.**

Together, we can care for God's creation and make a lasting impact.

🌱 What will you do for Earth Day? 🌍



**TWIN PARISH MEETINGS are held on the first THURSDAY of the month at 9 AM in Room #1 of the parish hall. ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
**NEXT MEETING - APRIL 3rd**



Scan to Donate

Helping Hugs, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity.  
All donations are tax deductible as provided by law.

Contact: [info@helpinghugsinc.org](mailto:info@helpinghugsinc.org)

Donations may be made to  
Helping Hugs Inc.,  
P.O. Box 24477, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

or on our website: [www.helpinghugsinc.org](http://www.helpinghugsinc.org)

