

Twin Parish News

February 2025

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



A Valentine of Thanks

In every gift, in every prayer,
You've shown the world how much you care.
Your kindness shapes a brighter way,
Bringing hope with each new day.

Thank you for the love you share with
St. Joseph Parish.

*Please see the 2024 impact report inside
and our plans for 2025.*



Your Love Provided All This in 2024

AGROFORESTRY

\$20,153

Farmers receive seeds, tools, training, & animals in exchange for growing & planting trees.

EDUCATION

\$37,800

School Operations for 3 elementary schools;
40 High School Tuition Scholarships

INFRASTRUCTURE

\$26,796

Metal security doors and windows for 2 chapels;
St. Joseph roof repair; paint for 2 chapels;
security fence at rectory; masonry work at 1 chapel;
generator repair

HEALTHCARE

\$ 2,850

Salary and Medicines for Hypertension Project

WATER

\$42,792

New well and cistern in the community of Saurel

CHURCH SUPPORT

\$12,000

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

\$14,000

TRUCK REPAIR

\$ 2,300

DISCRETIONARY

\$ 5,000

TOTAL

\$163,691

Men, Women, & Children Benefitted in 2024



AGROFORESTRY: Your love enables farmers to increase their livelihoods by raising and sharing goats with one another.



EDUCATION: Your love provided teachers' salaries and learning materials for three elementary schools.



INFRASTRUCTURE: Your love provided for the restoration of the St. Joseph church roof.



Your love provided a new well and cistern for the people of Saurel.



Your love provided the salary for nurse Angela to visit St. Joseph and the surrounding chapels to administer the hypertension program.

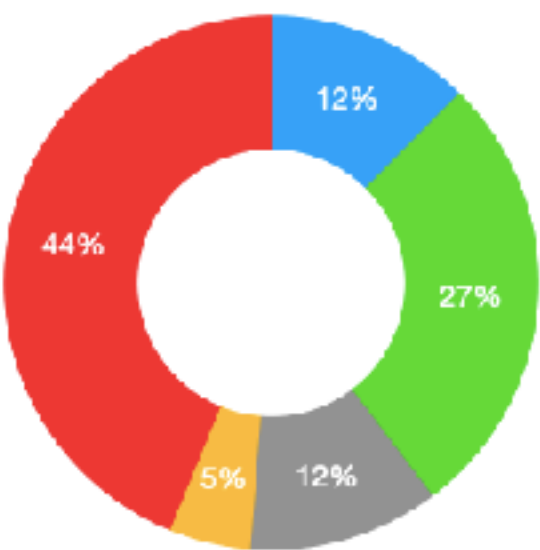
Your Generosity Will Provide All This in 2025

(2025 Approved Budget)

AGROFORESTRY	\$15,000
Ongoing ecological and economic development program for three communities	
EDUCATION	\$33,000
Three elementary schools; tuition for forty secondary students	
INFRASTRUCTURE	\$14,000
Paint 2 chapels; convert St. Joseph church to solar; Install STARLINK WIFI	
HEALTHCARE	\$6,000
Ongoing hypertension project	
WATER	\$53,000
New well at Our Lady of Fatima, Renard; water testing, supplies, and maintenance	
ST. JOSEPH PARISH OPERATING EXPENSES	\$39,300
Administration, truck repair, discretionary fund, Food for families, motorcycle, priest support	
EMERGENCY RESERVES	\$10,000
DISASTER RELIEF	\$ 5,000
HELPING HUGS, INC. ADMINISTRATION	\$ 3,000
Tax return preparation, wire transfer fees, credit card fees, website, PO Box rental, postage, printing, supplies	
TOTAL	\$178,300

2025 Program Areas = \$121,000

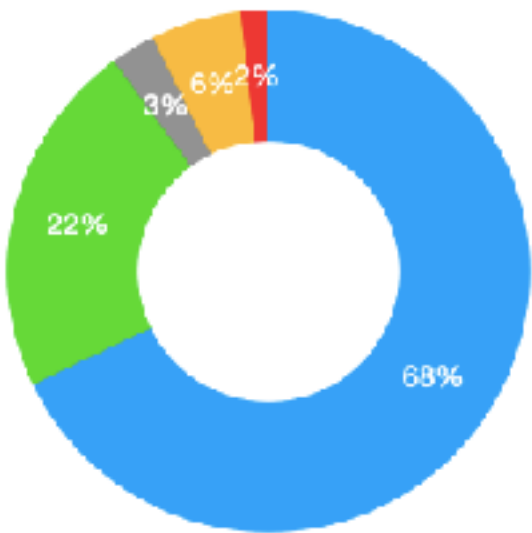
Money Out	
Agroforestry (Tree Currency Program)	\$15,000
Education	\$33,000
Infrastructure	\$14,000
Healthcare	\$6,000
Water	\$53,000
Total expenses	\$121,000



- Agroforestry (Tree Currency Program)
- Education
- Infrastructure
- Healthcare
- Water

2025 TOTAL BUDGET = \$178,300

Program Expenses 2025	
Programs	\$121,000
St. Joseph Church Support	\$39,300
Disaster Relief	\$5,000
Emergency Reserves	\$10,000
Helping Hugs Inc. Administration	\$3,000
Total expenses	\$178,300



- Programs
- St. Joseph Church Support
- Disaster Relief
- Emergency Reserves
- Helping Hugs Inc. Administration



Hearts of Giving: Celebrating Our Donors

SMALL MIRACLES

By Martha Hayden

Witnessing Helping Hugs accomplish its mission continues to motivate and inspire donor Colonel Nick Hart, USMC (ret). Nick has a special connection and love for the country, having spent his first years of life there—speaking Haitian Creole before English—and fondly remembers the loving care he received from Haitians Gwendolyn, Aga, and Albert. The beautifully illustrated map of Haiti hanging in St. William's entryway was a baptismal gift from his godmother.



Nick Hart

Nick and his family arrived on St. Simons Island by chance after a distinguished Marine Corps career and a stint in Jacksonville as a Navy contractor. Friends in Washington, DC, unable to take advantage of a Sea Island vacation, offered it to Nick and his wife, Emily. Nick credits his clever wife for knowing about the area and jumping at the opportunity to experience it. During that fortuitous trip, the Harts fell in love with St Simons and settled here shortly thereafter. Nick became a part-time history teacher and model UN sponsor. He met Monsignor Kenneally at a newcomers' luncheon and a long friendship began. Nick attributes the Haiti program's success to Msgr. Kenneally's keen interest in it, along with the excellent leadership and dedication St. Williams's volunteers have offered throughout the years.

Nick has been an enthusiastic Helping Hugs supporter from its inception. He attributes the program's success to trips St. Williams' volunteers made to Haiti to meet counterparts and witness transformations in the villages, parish, and school. While appreciating all of its projects, clean water to villages in the Côtes-de-Fer area is the most significant quality of life improvement, in Nick's mind. The clear benefits to the Haitian people and their evident appreciation make it a truly worthy cause. Father Faustin's beautiful photos of improved village life, parish events, and smiling faces testify to the "small miracles" the program has worked.

Helping Hugs recognizes and thanks Nick for his unfailing service to the people of Haiti. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, please contact info@helpinghugsinc.org or see the website: www.helpinghugsinc.org.



A Few Thoughts.....of Gratitude



Evy Marshall



For the past two years, Evy Marshall has written the *A Few Thoughts* column as president of Helping Hugs Inc. As she steps down from this role, we extend our heartfelt thanks for her dedication to St. William and our twin parish.

Evy shared her love of humanity with steadfast optimism. Even amid the political challenges in Haiti's capital, she reminded us that our efforts are truly making a difference for the people of St. Joseph Parish.

Her warmth shone through in every column, meeting, and interaction with supporters of Helping Hugs Inc. Evy encouraged us by celebrating our shared accomplishments and inviting us to deepen our involvement. She reminded us we are at our best when we serve others and that true joy is found in helping those in need.

Evy reached out to Father Faustin, encouraging him to share more photos and stories of our successful projects. She played a key role in implementing the new agroforestry project and ensured that new wells were built for the chapel communities. Her leadership also shone in the redesign of our website and the valuable additions she made to the newsletter.

In February 2024, Evy shared that her favorite word is LOVE. She truly embodied that spirit in everything she did as president of Helping Hugs, Inc.

Evy, thank you for embracing the challenge of the presidency in 2023 & 2024, and demonstrating a faith-filled commitment to our twin parish. We look forward to the love and energy you will continue to bring to Helping Hugs in your next role.



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

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

or on our website: www.helpinghugsinc.org

