

Twin Parish News

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

You Make a Difference For the People of St. Joseph Parish



A Word of Thanks

Dear benefactors of St William Parish and dear friends of Helping Hugs for Haiti,

It is with joy and gratitude that I write to you at the beginning of this year of grace 2023, to renew my best wishes for this year.

I also take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the families benefiting from the food kits for the end of year celebrations. We were able to help over 200 families. Thanks to you, Father Christmas brought happiness as evidenced by a man from

another parish. He told me that he was in dire straits. He was in pain but came because he'd heard that we were distributing food. He asked for any help we could give him. He was so grateful to receive our food kit.

Thank you very much on behalf of the whole parish. You are in our prayers.
May your love and humanity continue to grow.
May God bless you all and protect you!

Father Islaire Faustin



After the long climb up the hill, the needy of Côtes-de-Fer gather outside St. Joseph Parish school for the distribution of food kits on Christmas Eve.



Christmas Eve at St. Joseph



One of our favorite celebrations is the children's mass on Christmas Eve. The same is true at St. Joseph Parish. Here the children gather in song to welcome the infant Jesus. Mary and Joseph are in the foreground.



Angels and Shepherds process into St. Joseph church for mass on Christmas Eve. The children love recreating this Nativity scene each year.



December 28 - an Outdoor Party!



Your gift provided this event for the children of the parish. On December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, Father held a party for the children. Music and dancing were a big part of the celebration. **Thank you for your kindness.**



Helping Hugs Officers Reach Out To Inform and Find Heroes



Helping Hugs officers, Evy Marshall and Mary Lynch; Abbott Institute officers, Donna Bassett and LaTanya Abbott-Austin

December 10, 2022

With a new major project on the horizon for the farmers of Côtes-de-Fer, Helping Hugs is reaching out to our community to find new heroes (donors).

Evy Marshall and Mary Lynch made presentations about the organization and the Tree Currency Program to members of the Robert S. Abbott Race Unity Institute, Inc. at their December meeting.

The Abbott Institute actively supports racial and religious harmony, advocates for social justice, and fosters relationships between people of multicultural backgrounds.

To learn more about the Abbott Institute visit www.theabbottinstitute.org. Robert Abbott's story is very interesting.



Aidine Kiernan

December 17, 2022

Aidine Kiernan, told the story of Helping Hugs to a group assembled at the Historical Harrington School Cultural Center. She explained the history of Haiti and described the projects that Helping Hugs' very generous donors make possible.

The Harrington School is a preservation project of the Saint Simons African American Heritage Coalition. It is located at 291 South Harrington Road, on St. Simons Island.

Read more about the school and the coalition at www.ssiheritagecoalition.org

Please Join Me



Evy Marshall

My name is Evelyne Marshall. To my friends, I'm Evy. To the people of Cotes-de-Fer, Haiti, I am "che zanmi", "a loving friend.

I am the new President of Helping Hugs. In this organization, I work with individuals who are equally committed to the betterment of the people in our twin parish community. They too are "che zanmi." How blessed are we when we have an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life? And we do make a difference in many people's lives.

Your contributions have made it possible to build wells so that there can be fresh, unpolluted water. Your generosity has repaired chapels so that there is better, safer access. Medical teams have been sent to provide some necessary medical help and oversight. The investment you are making in the schools is providing an education for the children.

Over the last 12 years we have been so gratified to see the changes taking place in our Haitian twin parish communities. Now, we are excited to announce the start of a Tree Currency Program that aims to create self-sufficiency and promote reforestation. Please check us out to learn more about this exciting new program.

COME BE A SPECIAL FRIEND! We need you to come and make a difference in the lives of so many.

**Please join us for our General Meeting on January 19th
at 6 p.m. in the parish hall.**

**If you can't make the meeting, but would like to learn more about
Helping Hugs, please text 404-895-8831 or "Reply" to this email.**

Let's Have a Conversation

In this new year, Helping Hugs has a new executive committee that I'm honored to be leading. To be successful and effective I need not only your support but most definitely **your input**. Here are a few questions I need answers to.

What inspires you to donate to Helping Hugs?

What are we doing well?

What else would you like to see us doing?

Do you feel that your donation is well used?

Are we communicating with you frequently enough?

What would you like to get more information about?

Do you enjoy reading and staying informed through the Twin Parish News?

Please tap "Reply" at the bottom of this email to send your response.
Thank you, Evy

Happy New Year

Father Faustin says, "Thank you for all the help received from you in 2022. God bless you!"

Bonne Année.

Many thanks to Father Faustin for sending the photos used in this newsletter.



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

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