

Twin Parish News

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

"Having water available is huge!"

A Mont Blanc youth tells her story.

By Dick Schmidt, Chairperson, Water Committee

Fourteen-year-old **Guillophine Cavalier** lives in the mountain community of Mont Blanc near the city of Côtés-de-Fer, Haiti. Until last year she had never seen clear water. Due to the generous people of the Golden Isles and beyond, funds were made available to drill a well to supply clean, safe water to at least 500 families. **Below she tells how ample, clean water has changed her life.**



“For me it was a dream. Since I was born, I have never seen water flow in Mont Blanc except when it rains. This well is a gift from heaven. It changed our lives. Now is within our reach. We have a lot more time to study and do other things. Having water available is huge. I know some children who would go to school without washing themselves, or who didn’t go to school because there was no water to wash.”

“The well has also changed our habits. Dirty dishes are no longer left behind. As a result, there are fewer germs in the house and fewer harmful insects, such as flies, cockroaches, etc. Some families water their small gardens. The well is really useful to us. It allows us to protect ourselves from certain germs and diseases because now we often wash our hands. We were not able to do that before.”

“So, with this well we no longer drink rainwater which is harmful for our teeth. For these reasons and many more I want to say thank you to Father Islaire and all those who contributed to give us this beautiful gift. Thanks a lot.”

Having clean safe water is a life-changing event. It improves hygiene, reduces disease and makes happy children.

**We can all be PROUD
of our Water Projects,
but there is much
MORE to do.**



2016. Two World Water Relief filtration systems were installed in Côtés-de-Fer: one at the rectory, which also serves the school; the second on the main street of the village for the entire community.

(Photo: The little house at street level houses the water distribution point)



Filtration system



Hand washing station at Mayette and at St. Joseph parish school.



Clean water distribution point, St. Matthias Chapel in Mayette.

2018 Another World Water Relief filtration system was installed at St. Matthias chapel with access for the entire community of Mayette.

- 2018** LifeStraw Purification Systems were installed at St. Anthony and Sacred Heart Schools.
- 2019** A rainwater cistern was constructed at Sacred Heart chapel in Platon
- 2020** A pump was converted to solar at St. Mother Teresa chapel in Metayer.
A rainwater cistern was constructed at St. Lawrence chapel at Boukan Moran.
- 2021** Water for Life partnered with Helping Hugs to dig a deep water well at Nativity of Our Lady chapel in Mont Blanc.
- 2022** A clean water well was completed at St. Lawrence chapel at Boukan Moran.



Mont Blanc



Boukan Moran

SUMMARY: Four communities have access to clean, potable water. There are a total of eleven communities in our twin parish. Four villages remain to get clean water with a well. The remaining three communities have other issues to resolve.

Your participation in the annual fundraiser, the Fête for Haiti, and church sponsored collections (see next page) makes clean, potable water possible.

This year, the Fête will be held on Saturday, November 5th.

Please save the date on your calendar.



Beginning July 2 and 3, volunteers from Helping Hugs, Inc. will be outside after Masses collecting for our twin parish. This collection will continue the first weekend of every other month (bimonthly) through the next fiscal year. Please continue to support Helping Hugs's efforts for our twin parish in Haiti.

Father Jay Harrington:

"No gift is too small for God to multiply."



Next Helping Hugs Meeting

July 21, 2022

10:00 am, Room #1

St. William Parish Hall

During the Summer we are busy

- Updating our brochure
- Updating our website

- Gearing up for new hand-written Thank You notes to our donors
- **Reaching out to the many hands that will make Fête for Haiti a SUCCESS!**

Fête Committees and Chairpersons are listed on the next page. Please pray over it and volunteer to help.



Helping Hugs Inc. for Haiti
Proudly Displays the GuideStar Silver Transparency Seal

GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. GuideStar provides access to the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and accurate nonprofit information available.

Please
tell a Chairperson
you are
willing to help

Fête for Haiti 2022

Theme: Lespwa fè viv - HOPE GIVES LIFE



Fête Chair: Aidine Kiernan

Committee Chairs

Auction Checkout	Kevin Callahan (770) 364-8689	kdawgcallahan@gmail.com
Auction, Online	Bob Hochwald (912) 399-1888	ssirah@bellsouth.net
Auction Setup	Joyce Callahan (770) 653-9509	dawg3215@bellsouth.net
Auction Solicitation	Dick Schmidt (912) 399-0451 Jo Heller-Orr. (706) 238-2609	rs10176@comcast.net joorr1313@gmail.com
Booklet & Bid Cards	Joe & Bev DeFoe (912) 634-1715	BevDeFoe@bellsouth.net
Cleanup after event	Bill Horn (912) 266-0751	bill39horn@hotmail.com
Decorations (Tables)	JoAnn Allison. (912) 638-3007	jaallison@mac.com
Design (Art)	Larry Lynch (912) 399-6160	lawrencelynch29@gmail.com
Dinner Sponsors	Mary Lynch (912) 399-6501	marylynch45@gmail.com
Dishwashers	Jo Heller-Orr (706) 238-2609 Ann Glendening (269) 716-0088	joorr1313@gmail.com aglenden56@gmail.com
Meal Preparation	Ann Glendening (269) 716-0088	aglenden56@gmail.com
Meal Servers	Jo Heller-Orr (706) 238-2609	joorr1313@gmail.com
Publicity	Mary Lynch (912) 399-6501	marylynch45@gmail.com
Table Setting	Trudy Putnam (678) 983-4681	putnamtrudy@gmail.com
Tickets	Jan LaBoone (912) 266-3417	fiftyseveninches@hotmail.com

Join Us In A Little Nostalgia from 2012

By Mary Lynch

April 2011 - St. William Parish forms the Haiti Committee and officers are elected. Aidine Kiernan, President; Diane Smith, VP; and Sandra Hochwald, Secretary.

May 2012

In an effort to lengthen our outreach to Haiti, four members of the Haiti Committee (pictured right) will attend a twinning conference in Washington, DC.



Sandra Hochwald, Aidine Kiernan, Mary Lynch and Diane Smith attend the Parish Twinning Conference, June 2012

August 2012 Sandra reported in *The Light*: "Over the past year we have provided tuition for 35 students, helped start new businesses and provided medical and educational supplies to St. Joseph."

At that time I remember sitting at Wake Up Coffee stressing over how we were going to raise more money for St Joseph. After brainstorming, our first fundraiser was the raffle of a 7-foot Heavenly Angel Christmas tree. Parishioners donated angels for the tree and help with the decorating. Do you remember?

*Our second idea was the sale of Jubilee Angels as Christmas decorations or jewelry. In *The Light*, Sandra described a "circle of love and friendship" that was created with this fundraiser, since the angels were made in Haiti and the proceeds were returned to Haiti. We also made and sold Christmas Tree napkins that year. Do you remember?*

*Ultimately, **Aidine Kiernan** led the Haiti Committee to form Helping Hugs Inc., a certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit. With Father Jude Fils-Aimé she initiated the first student sponsorship program for students in a new school. Aidine stepped down for a while, but has returned to serve again as our president.*

***Sandra Hochwald** is the motivating force behind the dinner/auction fundraiser, the Fête for Haiti, which began in 2013. She desired a sit-down event with china and crystal. To this day it remains the only sit-down event at St. William. Do you remember the first Gala? Sandra has served in numerous roles for the Fête over the years. She and her husband, Bob, steered the event through the pandemic and she has raised the most money for St. Joseph through Fête sponsorships.*

*As Coordinator of the Medical Mission, **Diane Smith** formed partnerships with the Brunswick Georgia chapter of the Links Inc. and the Southeast Georgia Health System and implemented the mission to Haiti. In 2020, the team completed its sixth medical mission and treated over 1000 parishioners. Diane has made nine trips to Haiti. She was among the first St. William visitors to St. Joseph in 2008. She spent a month in Port-au-Prince in 2010, caring for the victims of the earthquake. We are currently looking for a replacement for Diane. A mission trip to Haiti is not a requirement for the position!*

I served in numerous positions with the organization over the years. To raise funds, I started selling gift baskets of fair trade items at Christmas, Valentines Day and Easter, and helped implement many of the projects mentioned above. Please let us know if you enjoyed this look back to the beginning of our twin parish efforts ten years ago. What do you remember?