

# Twin Parish News

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



## God Bless America

Where were you born? Where were your grandparents born? How many of us came from elsewhere? How many of you, like me, came from other countries?

America has been such a generous country. This country, our country, is the aim, the goal, the dream of so many. I sometimes think, What have I done to deserve to be here?

**I am truly blessed to call the United States home. To call St. Simons home.**

As we celebrate America's birthday let's reflect on the promise of America, embodied in our constitution. What is our role in the world as Americans? What is our responsibility to each other as Christians?

I feel that we at St. William are called to help the poor in our twin parish - St Joseph. We share our blessings and help feed, care for, and continue to find ways to help our Côte-de-Fer community to become self-sustaining. Toward that goal we are especially proud to initiate the Tree Currency Program this month.

**Thank you for your support.**

**You make me proud to be an American at St. William.**

**God bless Haiti, God bless America.**

Evvy Marshall  
President  
Helping Hugs Inc. for Haiti

# Your Generosity

Makes **NEW Agroforestry\* Program** Possible

*"Trees have become currency used to build healthy farming community ecosystems."*



JOIN US in our enthusiasm for this new program that began in a northern region of Haiti in 2010.

The Tree Currency Program has proven to

**help farmers increase their crop yields an average of 40% and household incomes by 50 to 100% ?**

**THE PROBLEM:** Haiti is severely deforested. The lack of tree cover reduces agricultural productivity, raises average temperatures and makes rural areas more susceptible to flooding.

Low agricultural productivity leads many of Haiti's farmers to cut down their trees to produce charcoal to supplement their low incomes. As a result of this activity, **the cycle of deforestation and rural poverty continues.**

**THE SOLUTION:** The Smallholder Farmers Alliance has developed a program that makes trees worth more alive than dead. In this program trees have become a form of currency to improve agriculture. By growing, transplanting, and caring for trees, SFA farmers earn credits which they exchange for...



**... SEEDS ..... TOOLS & ..... AGRICULTURAL TRAINING.**

Last August, SFA agronomists made an initial visit to Côtes-de-Fer to assess the feasibility of this program. In a 25-page report they relayed general conditions of the area and documented "serious problems related to natural resource management and inappropriate agricultural practices being implemented by local farmers."

They recommended the application of the SFA agroforestry program named **Tree Currency** for a period of **5 consecutive years**. This will be followed by a transition of the program to the people of Côtes-de-Fer.

Thanks to your continuous support for our twin parish, we gratefully announce that funds are available to begin year one of the Tree Currency program. Your support for the Fête for Haiti will help us continue this program. Thank You.

**There is much to explain about the Tree Currency program. There will be more features on this topic in future issues of Twin Parish News.**

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***\*Agroforestry is the intentional integration of trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems to create environmental, economic and social benefits.***

# You are making a difference!

## Look what you've made possible in 2023.

### CLEAN WATER

June 21st the THIRD WELL became operational in Villa.

\$969.

### EDUCATION

January, Operating Expenses were sent to three Elementary Schools.

\$12,500

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Security doors and windows were installed in St. Lawrence & St. John the Evangelist chapels.

\$5,000

### MEDICAL

Funds were provided for hypertension medicines and nurses's salary

\$12,900

### AGROFORESTRY

Payment for the first semester of the TREE CURRENCY program

\$14,500

### MONTHLY CHURCH SUPPORT

Thanks to your gifts to the bimonthly collections, \$1000 is provided monthly for St. Joseph's operational expenses.

\$6,000

### FOOD FOR THE POOR

Funds were sent to Father Faustin for food.

\$16,000

### TRUCK MAINTENANCE

Father requested funds for the maintenance and tires for the parish truck.

\$960

## **It's Hurricane Season - Please Pray for our Haitian Neighbors**

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Father Faustin sent this dramatic photo of the Côtes-de-Fer River on June 3rd. The village of Côtes-de-Fer lies a short distance East of the river.

St. William parishioners who have visited our twin parish have crossed this river entering the village. Father said that the bridge across the river was destroyed years ago. In the dry seasons the river is passable. It is impossible now with the current conditions. **Please pray for the people, their land, their homes, and crops as we enter the hurricane season.**



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### **Computer Science Program Graduates Fourth Class**



Recent graduates of the Computer Science Class proudly display their diplomas. This is the fourth class to graduate since Father Faustin started this Microsoft Office course in 2021 with two computers provided by St. William parishioners. Students of all ages were eligible to participate. They studied Word, Excel and Power Point. Because of your generosity to the Education Campaign this year, we will be able to provide more computers for this program. Thank you for your faithful support.

# Fête for Haiti



## ***Growing a Better Future***

***October 21, 2023***

**Your twin parish needs your involvement in this major fundraiser of the year!  
How can you help? Come to the next Helping Hugs meeting and learn how!**

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**Thursday, July 20, 2023**

**9:00 A.M. in Room #1**

**St. William parish hall.**

***Everyone is welcome!***

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**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)**

