

Twin Parish News

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

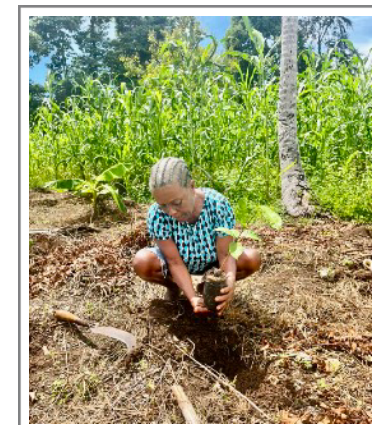
BECAUSE OF YOU, THIS STORY IS POSSIBLE

Marie Jeanne's Journey of Empowerment with SFA

At the age of 65, Mrs. Marie Jeanne Clermosier, a mother of eight, has actively participated in the Smallholder Farmers Alliance (SFA) agroforestry program. Regularly attending training sessions and **engaging in tree-planting activities**, she is a consistent presence in the community's agricultural initiatives.



Benefiting from the SFA's agricultural service in the area, **Mrs. Marie Jeanne has received essential hand tools** for her farm preparations.



Additionally, **she acquired a goat through the livestock-sharing program**. As part of the arrangement, she will officially own the goat after passing on two offspring to fellow farmers in the region.

HOW WILL THE STORY END?

Your gift to St. Joseph parish will provide the continuation of this five-year program. With your help we will see excellent progress by the farmers.



First Semester Report 12/23

OBJECTIVES

- Plant Trees
(15,650 grown; 6,900 planted)
- Increase Food Production
- Improve farmer livelihoods

ACTIVITIES 2023

8 Training Sessions

12 Kombits* for nursery maintenance and tree planting
Participation average = 93 farmers
60% women; 40% men

4 Forest gardens

Agricultural Services:
Tools distribution (240 hand tools)
Animal Husbandry Program (40 goats)



**KOMBIT - a Haitian Creole word that refers to farmers coming together to share the workload. This Haitian tradition contributes to a spirit of community and unity through shared achievement.*



FARMER PARTICIPATION: 360 farmers involved in the program; 40% are women

A Lenten Gift

Rejoice and be glad ... and grateful!

On February 17th, our friend at the Raising Haiti Foundation, Sue Carlson, announced that they would be providing another gift to Helping Hugs of \$4,000.

The SFA contacted the leaders of our agroforestry project about the best use of the funds. They suggested boots and pruning shears for the farmers. Additionally, they recommended increasing the current goat-sharing program by 30 goats.



Sue Carlson & Mary Lynch

Please say a prayer of thanks for the good people of the Raising Haiti Foundation. With the help of their grants, Helping Hugs has been able to fund the Tree Currency Program.

Mary

More Good News

from Father Faustin

I asked the farmer,
"What's your feeling about the program?"



He answered:
"I am proud. I didn't think I could achieve such a marvel. In a while I will be able to sell my papayas."



Your gift made this papaya field possible.

Please, Pray for Haiti

And Join our Twin Parish in Celebrating St. Joseph's Feast Day March 19th

Your contributions to the bi-monthly basket collection support this parish activity.



The community gathers at St. Joseph Church for the feast.



It's standing room only on St. Joseph's feast day.



Priests throughout the diocese gather to celebrate parish feast days.



One of several choirs that perform during the celebration mass.



The most colorful part of the mass is the offeratory procession of food.



Bishop Toussaint blesses Father Islaire Faustin, pastor.

A Few Thoughts

by Evy Marshall, President,
Helping Hugs, Inc.



What does this picture say to you?

I love this picture! I received it from Father Faustin, pastor of our twin parish. He explained that several children came running to him, all excited and happy to see him. They asked him to “take a picture!” I love the spontaneity. Amid all the turmoil in their country, the children remain joyful.

Jean Fernando, in his crisp school shirt, bright eyes, and sweet smile, shows us that, despite all the challenges, life persists. His image reminds us that there can be better tomorrow. Thank you for caring.

The lives of the people in Côtes-de-Fer are improved because of you. As we approach our yearly Education Campaign, we are grateful for your support.

Evy

Upcoming Events:

March 2 & 3: St. William Basket Collection for the operating expenses of St. Joseph parish. (We send \$1,000 each month for this purpose.)

Beginning in April: Education Campaign

April 18: Helping Hugs General Meeting, 9 a.m. St. William parish hall, Room #1. Everyone is welcome to learn about and participate in this ministry.



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



Gold
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2023

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