

Twin Parish News

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

President's Message of Gratitude

Dear Friends of Helping Hugs, Inc.,

As we begin to return to a more normal life and attempt to put the Covid pandemic behind us, I would ask that you say a special prayer that the people of Haiti may also find hope in the promise of returning to a more normal life. The events of this year have caused a considerable amount of pain resulting in unsafe travel, shortages of food, high inflation and a severe earthquake just west of our twin parish of St. Joseph. While dealing with these ever present problems, it is currently almost impossible to move any goods within the country as the gangs have established road blocks to prevent the movement of people and goods. Gasoline used for transportation and in generators to produce electricity has been particularly affected.

Amid all the turmoil however, we have managed to use the resources so generously provided by our community to bring hope to the Haitian communities we serve. This year we were able to drill two wells and bring water to areas where their only source of water was hours away. We completed the reconstruction of the 10 chapels damaged by earthquakes and hurricanes. We converted our clean water systems from generators to solar power to avoid the problems with gasoline. The 3 schools we support have continued to operate and will do so for the rest of the 2021 – 2022 school year. Scholarships were provided for 30 students to attend high school. Although our medical team was unable to safely travel to Haiti, we continued our hypertension program by supplying medication and funding a visiting nurse to regularly check on patients. This was all possible only because of your generosity.



We are now as eager as ever to begin a new year with the funds you have provided in this year's Fete for Haiti. While all the numbers are not in yet, I can share with you that we sold 160 dinner tickets, we received \$6800 from our online auction sales and our wonderful dinner sponsors provided us with over \$52,000.



What will we do with these funds? As our theme this year, “Let the Water Flow” suggests, we expect to continue to drill wells and bring life sustaining clean water to communities in need. We are also looking at converting the power source from our schools from generators to solar power. There are some other projects we will be investigating that will provide a sustainable economic future for the communities that we serve.

I hope that you enjoyed your dinner and had fun with our online auction. For many reasons, we hope that we will be able to gather in person next year and enjoy the company again of each other. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Officers and Members of Helping Hugs, Inc. I want to thank the parishioners of St. William Catholic Church, members of our community, our families and friends, and our wonderful businesses that have been so supportive of us and the people of Haiti during these difficult times.

Thank you and may God bless you all.
Bob Hochwald, President



~ 2021 Fete for Haiti ~ “Let the Water Flow”

- Flowing with Gratitude for our Auction Donors -

BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS:

ACE GARDEN CENTER
JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY
BILLY BEE CHARTERS
SEA ISLAND COMPANY
BIENVENUE
PALMER'S
PORCH
FIDDLERS
BARRIER ISLAND BREWING
ST. SIMONS SEAFOOD
MCGARVEY'S WEE PUB - JEKYLL IS.
SWEET GEORGIA'S JUKE JOINT
DOROTHY'S COCKTAIL & OYSTER BAR
BEACHCOMBER'S
ZACHARY'S RIVERHOUSE
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NATURE GIFTS
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BAILEY BOYS
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GAIL BLANDA
ANN MALLON
MARY KAY RITTER



~ 2021 Fete for Haiti ~
 “Let the Water Flow”
 ~ Flowing with Gratitude for Our Dinner Sponsors ~

Platinum

◀ Pam Guiles ▶

◀ Anonymous ▶

◀ Larry and Mary Lynch ▶

◀ Joseph and Ashley Smith partnered with Shell Oil Company ▶

Gold

Scott Hochwald

Anonymous

Michael J. Sullivan, M.D.
and Nancy A. Denlea, M.D.

Jim and Jan Ancmon

Ann McKinney

Silver

Edward DiPreta

Dianne Durand

Bob Ghioto Real Estate Co., Inc.

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Bob and Sandra Hochwald

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Louise and Barry Johnston

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Cristita P. Lim

Thomas Kitchin

Nick Hart

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Bill and Sandra Johaneck

Kevin and Joyce Callahan

Bronze

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 Sherrie and Billy Welch
 Collette Jackson
 Anonymous
 Janet Brown
 Hartridge Rentals
 Charles and Kathleen Cottone
 Berta Buck
 Barbara Lutz Pelletier
 Kenneth & Mary Amiano
 John and Annette Neu
 Ada Owens
 Robert and Kathleen McCullough
 Taylor House Interiors/Gail Butler

Mary Harvey
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 Beverly DeFoe
 Stephanie and Richard Schleicher
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 Peggy Mitchell
 Anonymous
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 David and Janice Capano
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Synovus Bank
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 Natural Elements Inc. dba Nature Gifts
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 Jean Rizzo
 Delria Baisden
 David and Mary Fox
 Bob and Gert McNally
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 Rose Marie Mohn
 Mary Harvey
 Sheila Colquitt

James & Nadine Keane
 Scientific Turf Enterprises
 H&H Lifestyles
 Lois Richter
 GFWC Brunswick Womans Club
 Sandi & Andi Mock
 Beverly Steffens
 Julia Novak Smith
 Betty Lou Applegate
 Peter and Deborah Murphy
 Susan and Tilman Blakely
 Susan Rassas
 Beth Ann Respass

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work



Volunteers for the Fête for Haiti confer with the Chairperson, Sandra Hochwald, over task assignments for the Fête.

Leadership sets the goals and organizes the project; teamwork makes it happen! Project Leader, Sandra Hochwald, assembled two teams for the Fête for Haiti dinner. The first group assembled salads and prepared the desserts. The second group prepared and distributed the dinners. Everything flowed smoothly without a hitch! **A big THANK YOU to Fête volunteers and to Fête dinner supporters who made it all worthwhile!**



TEAM 1:

Count boxes and
apply 'Thank You' Labels

Portion Salad Dressing
Cut and Box Desserts
Assemble Salads

TEAM 2

Table Setup
Dishwashers/Dryers
Meal Plating
Transport Hot Food in Coolers
Meal Serving
Ticket Taking and Accounting
Clean Up



**Join our team! We have a lot of fun and
the rewards are heavenly!**

Father Islaire Faustin

Tells It Like It Is



No doubt you have heard about the turmoil in Haiti: the assassination of the President, endless kidnappings, fuel and food shortages. Most of the grievous transgressions are happening in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. However, the people of Côtes-de-Fer are experiencing the trickle-down effects of gang rule. Because many of our parishioners have asked about the conditions at our twin parish, we are including Father Faustin's recent remarks that paint the picture of those conditions in October 2021.

10/11 "The fuel crisis still persists."

10/14 **"The news is dominated by insecurity, kidnapping and the scarcity of fuel."**

10/19 "I am so concerned about the situation in the country.....The country stresses us out. We live with fear in our stomachs. Every day the prices of the products increase."

10/20 "Since Monday all roads have been blocked in Haiti. Nobody manages to get out."

10/22 **"Côtes-de-Fer is calm...The most insecure place is Port-au-Prince.**

10/25 "The whole country is on strike. Nothing works.....A gallon of gasoline sells on the black market for \$30 (The usual price is \$10).....The main roads are blocked.....Gangs stop tank trucks from supplying gas stations.....The situation risks becoming untenable.....Within 3 days there will be no more phone or internet signalThe price of food increases further...The country is bad and gives fear to the stomach.....The country goes from crisis to crisis."

10/27 The work on the cistern at St. Lawrence chapel "stopped because we cannot transport the materials...**Now there's no fuel at all.....We're on the verge of famine....Everyone is on foot.**"

Let's show the people of our twin parish our concern for them. Please send me your thoughts, by replying to this email, and I will pass them along to Father Faustin.



Haiti needs our prayers. In response to Father Faustin's request for prayer, two Helping Hugs members created the following prayers. We invite you to join us daily in prayer for Haiti and in particular, for our twin parish.

St. William Parish Prayers for Haiti

Lord, send forth your Spirit to encourage and comfort the people of Haiti in this difficult time. Calm their fears from the civil unrest, keep them safe from all evil and provide for their daily needs. Hold them in the palm of your hand. Amen



God of hope and mercy, we lift up to you the victims of Haiti's natural disasters, Covid, and political turmoil including gang related violence, as well as those responding with assistance and aid. Please protect all who are in any form of danger; provide practical help to those in need; strengthen the weary; console the grieving; heal the suffering; and bless those who are engaged in helping our efforts, with safety and courage. Awaken in us the spirit to respond with compassion and generous hearts.

Grant this through our Savior Jesus Christ, and Mary, Mother of all and Queen of peace. Amen

A Generous Community Donates to Haiti

Members of the **Brunswick Women's Club** put their time of isolation during the coronavirus to good use. They recently donated 56 tee-shirt dresses for girls and ladies, 24 sewing kits complete with eyeglasses, and 25 bathing kits (soap and face cloth) to the people of our twin parish. We look forward to sending them to Haiti in our next shipment. And we are grateful to our good friends in the Brunswick Women's Club for their fine work!



Front Row Left: Jan LaBoone, HH; Patricia Porto, Lillie Smith, Kathleen Orians Dawson, Natalie Hollingsworth - Brunswick Women's Club. Second Row Left: Kevin Callahan, Bill Horn, Dick Schmidt, Bob Hochwald - HH



The Brunswick (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, International Trends and Services facet, received a donation from local citizens of over the counter meds for Helping Hugs' Medical Mission. The chapter is proud to support the mission trips of Helping Hugs Inc. for Haiti. And we are delighted to have the local chapter of The Links as our partner!

Pictured at left:

Dr. Shriley Wilson, International Trends and Services, Chair; Mrs. Jackie W. Bryant, Chapter President



As we give thanks during this season of plenty, we are reminded that many in our twin parish are hungry. If you can, please contribute to the campaign to...

Feed a Family for the Holidays

\$17 Will feed a family for 1 week

Please make a donation at www.helpinghugsinc.org

or send a check to **Helping Hugs Inc. for Haiti**

PO Box 24477

Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

Please label your check "Feed a Family"

Thank You!