

# Twin Parish News

## September 2024

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



## 12th Annual *Fête for Haiti* Fundraiser

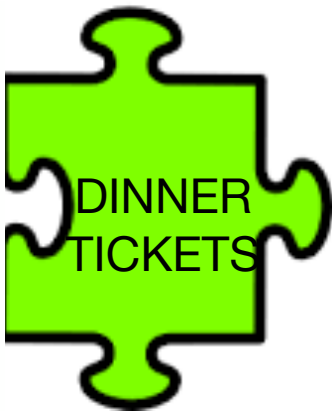
### *Shaping a Better Tomorrow Together* - October 26, 2024

**YOU Bring It All Together**



**Please select one or more ways to support our twin parish.**

1. [Make a donation](#) and become an event sponsor by September 30th.  
Reply form at end of newsletter.
2. If you own a business, [make a donation for the auctions](#) by September 30th.
3. [Purchase an event ticket](#) for the dinner and auctions by October 20th.  
Reply form at end of newsletter.
4. [Shop the silent auction and live auction](#) at the dinner event October 26th
5. [Shop the online auction](#) from October 19th, 9 p.m., to October 27th.  
[www.helpinghugsinc.org/auction](http://www.helpinghugsinc.org/auction)



**Saturday, October 26, 2024**  
**St. William Parish Hall, 6-9 p.m.**  
***Sit-down Dinner by Sea Island Chefs***

*Tangled Field Greens & Foccacia*

Caramelized Sweet Potato, Chianti Pickled Red Onion,  
Goat's Cheese, Pumpkin Seeds,

*Milk Braised Short Ribs*

Creamy Parmesan Polenta, Roasted Broccoli Florets,  
Garlic Oil, Red Wine Braising Jus

*Tiramisu*

Espresso-Soaked Lady Fingers, Sweet Mascarpone Cream,  
Dark Rum, Cocoa Powder



**TICKETS \$100**

Online: [www.helpinghugsinc.org](http://www.helpinghugsinc.org)

After Masses October 5-6, 12-13, 19-20

Call Bob or Sandra Hochwald 912-638-3143

Deadline to purchase: October 20, 2024

**PROGRAM**

**Honored Guest Speaker: Timoté George**  
**Co-founder, Smallholder Farmers Alliance**

**LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS**

Online Auction: [www.helpinghugsinc.org/auction](http://www.helpinghugsinc.org/auction) October 19-27

# How Hurricanes Lead To A Farming Revolution in Haiti

## *The Origin of the Tree Currency Program*



"Apocalyptic devastation" hit the city of Gonaives in the late summer of 2008. In less than a month, one tropical storm and three hurricanes hit the area. Treeless hillsides acted like funnels to catch the rain and send it rampaging through the farmland taking the topsoil into the city. "It took over a year to dig

out several feet of compacted soil deposited on every street and the ground floor of every house and building in the path of the floodwaters."

Hugh Locke was working for a humanitarian organization in Gonaives when he experienced this disaster. Having a life-long commitment to environmental action and experience with forestry programs as part of the United Nations, he decided to address the root cause of this problem of barren hillsides. He decided to plant trees.

**Fortunately Hugh crossed paths with Haitian agronomist and tree expert, Timote Georges. He too was enthusiastic about planting trees, so they teamed up.**

They approached a large, global corporation with a TREE LOGO - TIMBERLAND - for sponsorship.

After some initial discussion, they decided to approach smallholder farmers as small businesses that needed help to increase their yields and profits - and somehow fit tree planting into that mix. Thus, the Tree Currency Program was born.



Timote Georges and Hugh Locke  
Co-Founders  
Smallholder Farmers Alliance

***P.S. Timote Georges will be the guest speaker at the Fête for Haiti fundraiser, October 26th.***



Timberland Boot with Tree LOGO

## *Why Should We Give Attention to Smallholder Farmers?*

The Tree Currency Program is a revolutionary new business model. It uses tree planting to transform a smallholder farmer into a self-financed, profitable force for change.

The term "smallholder" identifies farmers who work on less than 5 acres. These farmers are not subsistence farmers, growing just enough to feed their families. Many farmers sell their excess produce in local markets, but they remain in a cycle of poverty because of low yields.



Hugh Locke tells the story of Gustov and Rosemary, both farmers, who could not afford to send all of their children to school. (In Haiti, most schools are private and require tuition.) After working in the program, all of their children were getting an education.

Smallholder farmers are completely marginalized and forgotten people in Haiti. However, most smallholders actually function as small businesses.

Thinking on the grand scale there are:

500 million smallholder farms in the Caribbean, South America, Asia and Africa.

2.5 billion people live and work on those farms which is

$\frac{1}{3}$  of the entire global population. Astonishing!

Think about it! **Smallholders actually constitute the largest business category in the global economy.**

Smallholders, many of the poorest and most marginalized people in the world, are not the problem. They, in fact, are part of the solution. Given a little bit of strategic support to function more efficiently as small businesses (*the Tree Currency Program*) these farmers have the potential to feed the world and at the same time combat climate change and affect the status of women.

*St. William is very fortunate to have the assistance of the Raising Haiti Foundation to implement the Tree Currency Program at St. Joseph Parish.*



## *How Does the Tree Currency Program Work?*

Trees were already part of the basic business model in Haiti. Trees were cut to sell for wood and charcoal, accounting for 70% of Haiti's energy consumption. Deforestation was already a profitable side business for a lot of farmers.

However, to increase their incomes, farmers needed:

1. Better quality seed, but they couldn't afford it,
2. Good hand tools which were expensive,
3. Agricultural training to improve farming techniques which was almost impossible to find.

Because farmers were willing to plant and look after trees in order to earn these three things, Tree Currency became the revolutionary business model.

**Trees became more valuable in the ground than cut for charcoal.**

**Farmers increased their yield by 40% and their incomes doubled.**

There is a change in the landscape. Trees are planted in farms, orchards, as living fences on fields, and along roads.

Abandoned land has been reclaimed as forest areas.

Other things have developed, which Hugh Locke calls a "Farm-Community Ecosystem." These initiatives have been implemented by farmers themselves with a bit of extra support and guidance:

1. Adult classes in literacy
2. Basic business training
3. Microcredit banks for loans to women farmers
4. Leadership training for woman farmers
5. Community seed banks



**Because of YOU, our twin parish has been enrolled in the Tree Currency Program. Thank you for your continued support of our twin parish.**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: You can enjoy a more detailed version of this story on the You Tube: Ted Talk - November 28, 2017 - Hugh Locke.*

# August Confirmation in Côtes-de-Fer

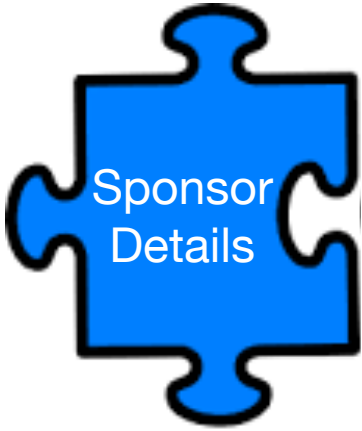


The Right Reverend Glandas Marie Erick Toussaint, Bishop of the Jacmel Diocese, confirmed 102 young people of St. Joseph parish on August 25th.

## September-October in the Golden Isles



The current issue of Golden Isles Magazine features a story about your work in Haiti. Special thanks to Lindsey Atkison, Editor, for spreading the word about the Fête for Haiti on October 26th.



**Yes, I'd Like to be a Dinner Sponsor**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Platinum \$5,000 and above**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Gold. \$1000 to \$4,999**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Silver \$500 to \$999**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Bronze \$100 to \$499**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Any other amount**

*Donations of \$100 or more will be published unless you wish to remain anonymous.*

**Please make your check payable to Helping Hugs Inc.**

**Mail to: Helping Hug Inc.  
P.O. Box 24477  
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522**

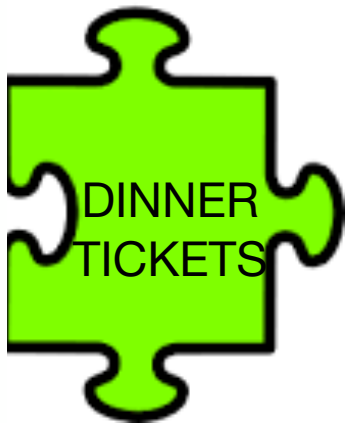
**Name, as you'd like it to appear:**

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**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for helping to make life better  
for the people of Côtés-de-Fer.**



Please submit the following to purchase tickets.

Helping Hugs Inc., P.O. Box 24477, St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Name of person purchasing tickets:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$100.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print names of all individuals at your table:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_





Evy Marshall  
President

## A Few Thoughts...

Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. She explained that in the animal kingdom, no animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal. A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said. "We are at our best when we serve others."

I believe we all want to be at our best, and to serve others to make the world a better place. Let us help you in your desire to do just that. With the money you give to Helping Hugs you are feeding a family, educating a child, funding a well, and providing the tools, seeds and plants that enable a family to become self sufficient.

Your donation is the first step in making an impact in Côtés-de-Fer possible. With God's grace, you are brightening lives and creating a better future for our twin parish .

As your chosen charity, we at Helping Hugs are honored to help you accomplish your goal of making a difference - making the world a better place.

Let's shape a better tomorrow together.

Blessings,

*Evy*



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](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)

