

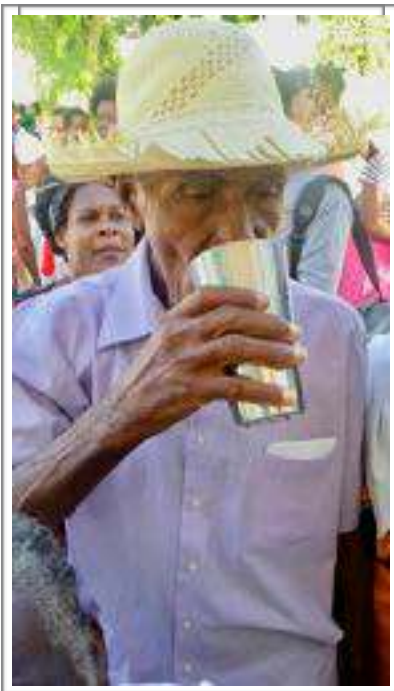
Twin Parish News

A Partnership between St. William (St. Simons Island, GA) and St. Joseph (Côtes-de-Fer, Haiti)

Water for Life

A Review of Helping Hugs' Water Projects

by Robert Hochwald, President, Helping Hugs, Inc.



Retired chapel Director, André St. Juste takes his first drink of clean water in Mayette

Water is basic to life. For those in Haiti it is a daily struggle to first find a source of water and then haul that water back to their home. For many, that source of water is the nearest stream or river. For others it may be rain water collected in a cistern at home or at their local parish. Unfortunately, Haiti is currently experiencing a severe drought leaving the streams, rivers and cisterns dry. Haiti frequently goes through cycles of wet and dry periods except, this year, the rainy season was not wet at all.

If finding water was not in itself a difficult problem, consider that most of the water is not fit to drink. The results are illnesses that we do not experience here in the US. Water borne diseases are a major health issue in Haiti. Many areas of Haiti are currently experiencing Cholera outbreaks. Other illnesses attributed to contaminated water are E.Coli, Typhoid, Hepatitis A,B,E, Salmonella Typhi, Meningitis, Worms, Amebic Dysentery and more. While many NGO's in Haiti are working to combat this problem, there is much ground to cover.

Helping Hugs' medical team recognized this problem early in their visits to Côtés-de-Fer and reported back to our organization. That is why, in 2016, we undertook and completed our first water project, for the St. Joseph Parish and the community of Cotes-de-Fer. Helping Hugs, Inc. funded the project which was built by World Water Relief, a water purification company founded by Dr. Kevin Fussell, a local practicing physician. The system uses a government supplied source of water, which is not safe to drink, and through a series of filters renders it potable. It is then stored in large tanks and distributed on a schedule to those in need. Our medical team has indicated that they have seen a decrease of medical issues related to clean water in this area.



The community of Mayette gathers for the first distribution of water.

Last year we identified a new area which needed our assistance to provide a source of clean potable water to that area. Mayette had a well but could not afford to purchase a pump to make water available. We agreed to undertake a project to provide the needed pump and build a purification and storage system so that the water would be available and safe to drink. Mayette frequently experiences outbreaks of Cholera especially during the rainy season. It is our expectation that the project will result in a reduction of health issues for the area as well as supply that community with a much needed reliable source of water. The project was completed the end of August 2018.



“Merci Seigneur” (Thank you God)” was the reaction of the parishioners of St. Matthias chapel when the pure water flowed, August 27th. These people have been working toward this day for many years. Thanks to our partner, World Water Relief, we were able to provide water on the main street of the village for the community and behind the chapel for children’s hand washing.



- Removes
-  Bacteria & parasites
 -  Viruses
 -  Microplastics

While we are pleased with our accomplishments to date, we still have work to do. Our school children also need a clean safe source of water to keep them healthy and in school. We have authorized Father Islaire to purchase a small water purifying system, manufactured by LifeStraw, for one of the schools. This system will supply enough water for drinking and cooking. Hope for Haiti, another U.S. organization providing help in the area, is also helping bring clean water to the schools and will be providing equipment over the next year for two schools.

We are currently investigating the feasibility and cost of drilling a well near the church and rectory in Cotes-de-Fer. This would allow us to provide a larger volume of water to feed to our purification system there. The government water source has been erratic during the drought and there is always a fee for the water used. A well would eliminate the cost as well as interruptions in the water supply.



Above: Teachers use the hand-washing station outside St. Joseph parish School. Left: The “little house” Father Islaire built at street level in Côtés-de-Fer for the distribution of water to the community.

We appreciate the support you have given to the people of Haiti in supplying some of their basic needs. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Together we are making a difference. Let's continue to work together to bring safe drinking water to the communities served by our twin parish, St. Joseph.

**Special Thanks to
our photographer
in Haiti,
Father Islaire Faustin**



Mayette: This is where it all begins, in a building behind the church that was completed by World Water Relief and fitted with a steel door for safety. Water is pumped from the well through the filters to a storage tank on the top of the building. It then travels down the hill, where it is accessible to the people.



Pipes were laid and secured underground.



A hand-washing station, at child height, was built behind the chapel.



Water reaches the distribution point.



The facility is painted to make an appealing presence in the community.

A message from Father Islaire Faustin

Mayette is one of the most beautiful places in the town of Côtes-de-Fer with its greenery and the magnificent sea view. This community with a high Catholic proportion was severely affected by the cholera epidemic that struck Haiti. The water that people use is soiled and often causes disease.

At the announcement of the installation of the purification system in Mayette, the population applauded both hands for this project. For the water treated in Haiti is still unfortunately a luxury reserved for those who can pay for it.

Since the installation of the 700-gallon system, people have come and gone in order to get treated water. Some come to me thanking me for thinking of them as part of this project.

On behalf of the public, I thank the donors and the members of HH for this precious gift made at the chapel of Mayette. Thanks to you and your generosity, the poor people of Mayette can avoid getting sick, because they now have access to drinking water.

**Thank you for your generosity.
God bless you all!
Father Islaire Faustin**

Fête for Haiti NEWS

The renovations to the parish hall this year have required us to make changes to our "**Fête For Haiti**" dinner/auction fundraiser.

We believe we have acquired a great venue for this year's event. **Bennie's Red Barn** has agreed to host our event on **Friday, November 9th**. Tickets will be \$60.

Attendees will have their choice of Steak (T-Bone or Filet) or Seafood Platter (Fried or Broiled). Dinner will include a Baked Potato or French Fries, Salad, Rolls, and a Beverage (Water, Iced Tea, Soft Drink or Coffee).

Dinner entree selections will be required at the time of ticket purchase so that the restaurant can plan accordingly. **Seating arrangements will vary** this year because a mix of table sizes (from 6 to 12 persons) is available at the restaurant. While we will try to accommodate special requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be met. **An early purchase of a complete table is more likely to be accommodated.**

A full service cash bar will be available for those wishing an adult beverage. Wine will not be placed on the tables as in years past, due to the variety of table sizes.

Doors will open at 6 pm for socializing and shopping the auction. Although dinner is scheduled to be served at 7 pm, we may serve some tables early if all are present at that table. This will help the restaurant provide the best food and service for everyone.

Tickets will be available soon on the website and from members of Helping Hugs, Inc. They will also be available by mail.

We are excited to provide you with a wonderful event, at a great place that is well known for its steak and seafood. Our event committee is also working hard to obtain outstanding auction items. We hope everyone will join us this year so that we may continue to help our sister parish, St. Joseph in Haiti. **Father Islaire Faustin will be in attendance.**

Thank you for your support.

Robert Hochwald, President

Bill Johanek, Vice President and Event Chairman



Fête for Haiti
In the Spirit of Giving
November 9th - Bennie's Red Barn

**Open your heart
to the poor by:**

Being a Donor **with an auction item**
contact smjohanek@att.net

From now *until October 18,*
auction items are being collected.

Being a Patron **by buying tickets**
contact wjohanek@att.net

Being a Sponsor **with a \$ gift**
contact ssisandra@bellsouth.net

Congratulations and Thank You!

The St. William mission to Haiti - Helping Hugs, Inc. - is so very grateful for your prayers and contributions to the annual **Education** Campaign. We have reached our goal of \$16,000. to support the operating expenses of three schools. Father Islaire Faustin, pastor, sends his “Merci beaucoup” as well. Because of YOU he is able to provide education that will lift the needy out of poverty.



PTPA Honors the “Mother Theresa of Haiti”



Theresa Patterson, co-founder of the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas, was recently honored at the PTPA National Conference and 40th Anniversary Celebration for her tireless work for the people of Haiti. Her first trip to Haiti was in 1978. Since then she has made 122 trips as she accompanies first-time groups on their visit to their twin parish. As Executive Director since 1978, Theresa has performed many roles in the organization. Among the most noteworthy is her care for children with physical abnormalities, bringing them to the United States for surgery.

And the Band Plays On

One month after receiving their instruments, music students in Côtes-de-Fer played together for the parishioners at St. Joseph. Father Islaire has sent a short video of their music. Everyone will get to hear their first tune at our next monthly meeting!



You're Invited
to the next meeting of
Helping Hugs Inc. for Haiti

September 20, 2018

9 A.M.

Thrive at Frederica
3615 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island

Come help us plan our annual Fête for Haiti

The Spirit of Giving

to be held at Bennie's Red Barn
Friday, November 9, 2018

Got time? We'll be happy for your help!

Please join us!

Dates of Note:

- Sept. 5** Feast of St. Mother Teresa - a chapel of the parish
- Sept. 6** Executive Committee meeting
- Sept. 8** Feast of Nativity of Our Lady - a chapel of the parish
- Sept. 20** September general meeting, Helping Hugs, Inc.

- Nov. 9** Fête for Haiti - ***The Spirit of Giving***
Bennie's Red Barn