

Twin Parish News

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

Because of YOU, another Chapel gets Clean Water

*An **Infrastructure** Report By Gracia Stucky*



Cistern under construction next to Sacred Heart Chapel, Platon, Haiti

If you attended the ***Fête for Haiti*** last year, bought an auction item or made a donation to Helping Hugs, you can pat yourself on the back! The money you provided is now being used to build a cistern to collect clean water for the people of Sacred Heart chapel and school.

Sacred Heart is located in a remote area of our twin parish. Until now, it took a long, two-hour walk to the base of a mountain to find drinkable water. Imagine the stress of that task, carrying water for your family's basic needs. This is the reason that Father Faustin put Sacred Heart at the top of his list of priorities for clean water this year.

Dick Schmidt, Chairman of the Water Committee, researched the latest technology to provide drinkable water from cisterns. He found that rain water, if collected to remove all debris, is potable. Simple tweaks to traditional collection methods can render the water coming out of the cistern safe, without resorting to expensive filtration systems.



Cistern at Sacred Heart gets a finishing coat of cement.

The new cistern being built at Sacred Heart will hold about 46,000 gallons of water. It is designed to collect rain water from the gutters of the roof of the church. To collect the water properly, the gutters are covered with metallic malleable mesh called gutter guards. Two very inexpensive flow diverters are attached at the inflows of water into the cistern to remove more debris. Finally the water can be treated with very little chlorine once a month and tested with testing strips regularly.

Helping Hugs hopes to reproduce this model in the next cistern to be built this year at Jesus Good Shepherd Chapel, an even more remote area.

Editor's Note: Gracia Stucky has served as translator and member of the Water Committee.

Donors-Our Greatest Blessing

A Medical Mission Report by Diane Smith, RN

Without you, our donors, we would not have the resources to conduct an annual **Medical Mission to Haiti**. And without the caring doctor and nurses from the Southeast Georgia Health System, who give their vacation time as well as money, medical services could not be provided. We also receive financial and volunteer support from the Brunswick Chapter of The Links, Inc. for the medical mission project. A big thank you to all who make this mission possible.

Photo: From left, Dr. Shirley Wilson, Physician at SGHS, Dr. Jean Georges Baptiste, local physician in Côtés-de-Fer and Madame Carmelita, translator, share a warm embrace for the camera. Dr. Georges is “trying out” a new apron donated by the Dorcas Group from St. Simons First Baptist Church for his wife.



Haitian women who lived and worked in the United States are invaluable translators for the medical team. From left, Madame Marie and Madame Carmelita, age 85.



The 2019 medical team included translator, Madame Marie, from left, Dr. Shirley Wilson, Dr. Chris Pope, Pharmacist, Nikki Pope RN, Teresa Howard RN, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Morgan Hooker, RN



Ann Stone RN helped organize and distribute medications with pharmacist, Dr. Chris Pope.



At left, Nikki Pope tends to an injured child.

Below, Nikki Pope and Morgan Hooker spend the evening counting medications for the next day.



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Education is a Child's Best Hope
for a Better Life



You are a very important person in the life of a Haitian child.
Your gift to the current education campaign demonstrates that you care and that you want life to be better for them each day.

A child in our twin parish needs your help.

Please send the gift of education to a Haitian child today.

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