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Haiti Project

I am the vine, you are the branches.



June E-News 2015

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News from St. Marc's

Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity, it is an act of justice. Nelson Mandela

Hopes and prayers for 2015-2016 school year

Greetings from Pere Lenord! This is the time of year when school budgets and teacher contracts are being set for the 2015-2016 school year at St. Marc's. With the desire to complete the high school by adding 13th grade (the typical progression in the French educational system which Haitians follow), Pere prays for generous hearts to help the community of Jeannette achieve their goal. There are currently 22 students in the 12th grade.



In June, St. Marc's and the community of Jeannette, Palliant will begin Phase I of an Episcopal Relief and Development project to increase income generating by extending loans to low income families, particularly female-headed households, who would like to start small businesses.

Learn More about Episcopal Relief and Development's approach to expanding micro-finance in Haiti through [PROCREEH](#).



The Haiti Project website has been revamped. We thank Betsy of Trinity Church Wauwatosa for her countless hours of work.



If you would like to assist in assuring this reality for the 2015-2016 school year, please contact Heidi Ropa at (608)235-9393 or info@haitiproject.org to discuss your gift or send your donation to Dio-Mil Haiti Project, 804 E. Juneau Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

St. Mary's Strawberry Festival in Dousman - June 28th 11 am-3:30 pm

How you choose to spend your money has a serious economic and social impact on our neighbors in Haiti. Drink Singing Rooster Coffee and support Haitian artisans through your purchase of hand melded and hammered metal art. Attend St. Mary's Strawberry Festival in Dousman on June 28 from 11:00 am-3:30 pm where the money you spend will translate into economy building and education in Haiti.



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The Haiti Project thanks **The Rev. Charles and Rev. Evelyn Payson** for the many talks they have given in the Diocese of Milwaukee to promote the Haiti Project partnership. The Paysons received a warm welcome in Beloit, Platteville, Janesville and Fort Atkinson.

We also thank **Mary Alice Eschweiler** and **Mark Bronner** for their talks in Baraboo, Racine, Lake Geneva and Hartland. Email Heidi Ropa at info@haitiproject.org to set up a visit for your parish.





Chocolate-dipped strawberries, strawberry shortcake and maybe even some pie will be available for purchase at the Strawberry Festival.

Share Haiti: Sponsorship Dinner brings in 16 student sponsorships for St. Marc's School!

Terri Longo took her first trip to Haiti in the Fall of 2012 with St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Barrington, IL. She immediately connected with the children and wanted to be part of helping to bring about a brighter future for them. Terri returned the following summer to build a playground and basketball court at St. Marc's School. After attending a HP Steering Committee meeting in January, she was determined to assist in securing the financial stability of St. Marc's School.



Terri hosted a sponsorship dinner in her home on March 13 which brought in 16 more student sponsorships and additional donations for the school. One person with a passion for Haiti can do amazing things when they share their story. How will you share Haiti?

When Chris and Molly Nicaise of Singing Rooster Coffee began working in Haiti, they saw how opening a market to Haitian products would be a way to make a real difference in the day to day lives of the hard working farmers. From their diligence and relationship building, Singing Rooster Coffee has become an award winning commodity and the coffee farmers have prospered. Drink Singing Rooster, Help Build an Economy. Molly is looking for a Coffee Coordinator for the Diocese. Please email Molly if you have questions molly@singingrooster.org.

[Learn More](#) singingrooster.org



A Haitian Creole Class is being offered this summer at St. Andrew's in Madison by Clarel Algere, a Haitian Madison College student. Contact Heidi Ropa atinfo@haitiproject.org if you are interested in joining the class.

Monica Gagnon R.N., of St. Mark's brings a quiet determination, kind heart

Every morning during her stay in Jeannette, Monica Gagnon set off to organize medicines and supplies at the St. Marc's Health Clinic. She observed the local Haitian nurses and learned how they make due without running water, electricity and other necessities to provide basic care for the people of Jeannette. The nurses deliver babies, give vaccinations (there is a UNICEF-provided propane-generated refrigerator for vaccines) provide contraception, and care for those with high blood pressure and diabetes.



To prepare for her trip in March, Monica received an outpouring of supplies from her home parish of St. Mark's Beaver Dam, among those items were birthing and newborn kits.

Monica is already planning her return to Haiti. Addressing requests from the nurses in the St. Marc's health clinic, Monica has already collected 20 glucose monitoring machines to bring on the upcoming July trip.

Carrol Boyle Returns to Jeannette with her practical skills and heart of gold

By Carrol Boyle

I went to Haiti for the first time July 2012 and was so impressed by the people of Jeannette that I left with a heavy heart. Feeling as if I left a large part of me there, I vowed to return. After 2 years of saving, I was able to travel with a wonderful group of people in March.



It was special to reconnect with my past friends and make new ones. I was impressed to see that in 2 years Port au Prince has



Upcoming trips to Haiti: Back by popular demand, VBS returns to St. Marc's July 24-Aug. 2. John Meacham and Mark Bronner trip co-leaders.

A trip is being planned in October as well. Tentative dates: Oct. 23-Nov. 1. Please contact Mary Alice Eschweiler for more information: sheppatch@aol.com.

We thank all our sponsors of students at St. Marc's. You are the financial backbone of the school.

Sponsoring a student at St. Marc's School is a meaningful way to become engaged with the partner-ship. For \$250 you can send a child to school for a year! If you are interested in sponsoring a student at St. Marc's please e-mail Heidi Ropa at info@haitiproject.org.



made great strides in recovering from the disaster of 2010. It also seemed to me that the village is doing better.

I applied my carpentry skills to projects at the Presbytere, the priest's home and guest house. Pere Leonrd's wife, Madame Fifi, Nadege and other house staff were very happy to get new covers for the cistern. They no longer have to worry about twin toddlers, Lara and Laurie, falling in and getting hurt. I also made several low stools for them as they are needed for food prep. It warmed my heart when they gave me the biggest smiles that I have ever seen from these women.



The other big item on my agenda was to help start a garden for the school. The community embraced this idea going straight to work clearing the land. The whole village joined efforts and completed this in about 2 days.

We planted:

- 5 pounds of heirloom black beans
- melons, squash, cucumbers
- 4 nursery beds of cabbage, egg plant, tomatoes and peppers (300 each)

I learned about Haitian gardening practices and I came away with more than I gave. I will be back to make sure that this project continues for many years in the future.



The Haiti Project is an Outreach Ministry of the Episcopal Dioceses of Milwaukee and Eau Claire. We work in partnership with others from all walks of life who share the belief that education, clean water, access to medicine, and compassion are basic human necessities. Join us.

Diocese of Milwaukee - Haiti Project

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