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Haiti Project

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Update on PROCREEH: Episcopal Relief and Development Micro-loan program



Women Beginning to Reap Benefits from Micro-loans

This past year the Haiti Project, St. Marc's in Jeannette, and Episcopal Relief and Development launched PROCREEH, a micro-loan project, with the aim of creating opportunities for people to start or expand small businesses, support their families, improve the local economy, and promote self-sufficiency. In the first year, 15 women have received micro loans to start or expand small businesses. On a recent trip to Jeannette, Haiti Project Coordinator, Heidi Ropa, met with a group of the loan recipients to learn about their businesses and how the program is being implemented.

- Mona and Yvelise sell soap and body products using the income to support themselves and four children.
- Annette, who has 8 grown children, and has always worked in the school kitchen, now sells fritay (fried vegetables), and other food staples near the school and says the teachers are big customers. With the extra revenue she now "can buy meat to sell." Some day she would like to open a restaurant.
- M. Rosier uses her loan to pay for monthly travel to Fonds des Negres, where she buys sandals to sell in Jeannette. She has been able to increase her inventory.



Upcoming Haiti Project Trips:

St. John's NW Military Academy Mission Trip March 11-21

Haiti Project Haiti Connections Conference April 5-13

Christ Church Whitefish Bay June 17-25 and June 24-July 2

Haiti Project November 11-21

Contact Mary Alice Eschweiler at sheppatch@aol.com



Haitian Creole Classes at St. Andrew's Madison Resume Tuesday March 1 8-week class \$120

Join Clarel Algere and others interested in Haiti for classes in Creole Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Madison,

The micro- loans are given out and repaid on a monthly basis, and the women meet monthly with Loan Officer, Judith D'or, one of St. Marc's former students and Business Administration graduate of the Episcopal Business and Technical Institute, to discuss their progress and challenges. All of the products are sold locally and the women reported that they have good support from their neighbors and community. Though "sometimes sales are slow," so far, they make enough money to pay back their loans. The women are eager to advise others interested in starting a business. They are learning about banking and when asked what advice they would give, replied "save half and use half of earnings." Wow, if we could all learn that lesson!

Submitted by Susan Webster, Grace Episcopal Church, Madison
[Read more about Episcopal Relief and Development Micro-finance](#)

Lenten Reflection....



French orthodox theologian, Olivier Clement, in his *Roots of Christian Mysticism*, wrote; "The sanctified person is someone no longer separated." This person is identified, "in Christ with the 'whole Adam.'" He quotes Pseudo-Macarius, Eighteenth Homily 9:34, 79:

"Those who have been judged worthy to become children of God and to be born from on high of the Holy Spirit...not infrequently weep and distress themselves for the whole human race; they pray for the 'whole Adam' with tears, inflamed as they are with spiritual love for all humanity. At times also their spirit is kindled with such joy and such love that, if it were possible, they would take every human being into their heart without distinguishing between good and bad. Sometimes too in humility of spirit they so humble themselves before every human being that that they consider themselves to be the last and least important of all. After which the Spirit makes them live afresh in ineffable joy."

(Photo above: A closeup of the bronze sculpture, "Whatsoever You Do" by artist Timothy Schmalz shows a homeless man's feet with nail wounds, revealing the figure to be Christ located outside of Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C.)

Prayers for Dr. Craig Dopf and family

1833 Regent St.

Call Heidi Ropa for details at (608)235-9393



30 Year Anniversary of the Haiti Project

Stay tuned for special events celebrating the partnership of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee with St. Marc's, Jeannette, Haiti

If you are interested in serving on the 30th Anniversary Committee please contact Heidi Ropa: (608)235-9393 or Ann Brophy at (414)257-1740



The Haiti Project wishes to express our deepest sympathy to Dr. Craig Dopf who lost his 20 year-old son, Charlie, unexpectedly on February 13th. Dr. Dopf was the first orthopedic surgeon to reach our nursing school in Leogane after the earthquake in 2010. It was his first trip to Haiti but we were able to connect him with a group of nurses headed by Dr. Tim Bristol who had worked with Director Hilda Alcindor at the nursing school previously. Since the hospital had been severely damaged, triage was set up at the nursing school where they did many surgeries under rudimentary conditions. Charlie accompanied his father on several subsequent mission trips and became good friends with Rigan Louis, a nursing student who also spent several months in the US for further training with Dr. Dopf.

Submitted by former Haiti Project Coordinator, Dr. Jan Byrd

Nancy Frana's visit to Myrtha Ferme's lakay (home) on behalf of former sponsor



For many years, Nancy Frana kept track of the student sponsorship program at St. Marc's School for the Haiti Project. For the past 20 years, Nancy has continued to travel to Haiti on an annual basis to share her nursing skills and deepen her relationships with the people of Jeannette.

On her recent trip, she was asked by Mark Bialecki, a sponsor of students at St. Marc's, if she could find the whereabouts of Myrtha Ferme. Myrtha was a student he sponsored long ago. Nancy asked around about the family and was led on a two mile walk through the countryside to meet Myrtha, who walks with a distinct limp due to deformities from a fall in her teenage years. (Due to lack of health care services, her fractures were never treated). She lives near family, as is typical in rural Haiti in what is referred to as a lakou, and is supported through her family network. She has three children: Amanda (8), Rose Berline (4) and Wensler (2 1/2). The two girls attend St. Marc's School despite their distance from the campus.

Nancy brought a photo of Mark's family and explained that they prayed for her over many years since her childhood. Myrtha was so excited to know her sponsor still held her in thought and prayer over so many years.

While we acknowledge the work of the Haiti Project in Jeannette is limited, when we visit the story of Mark and Myrtha, we see the lives of two families forever woven together in a relationship only God comprehends.

Two Medical Trips in January/February!



John Meacham of Spooner, WI has become a tireless advocate for the community of Jeannette, Haiti. Over the years, John has shared his stories of visits to Haiti with parishes in the Diocese of Eau Claire.

This year, an enthusiastic, committed medical team of twelve traveled to Jeannette to work in the St. Marc's Health Clinic. Over three community health clinic days they saw 190 patients: common illnesses are high blood pressure, diabetes, stomach aches, and fungal infections as well as some critical cases. This group is energized to invest resources and time to making needed improvements to the clinic.

Is your training in the medical field? Are you being called to serve where access to care is limited? Do you have a gift for teaching others your skills? The local staff in Jeannette could benefit from financial commitments to the clinic as well as shared expertise and regular visits offering support.

Menstrual Education Project with Lucie Merzier and Nancy Frana



The Haiti Project thanks Lucy Merzier of Jeannette for leading a discussion and education session with 14 girls from St. Marc's School to answer questions they have about their menstrual cycle. We also thank Nancy Frana, RN and Patty Brusky, RN of Wisconsin for

initiating this project. We are grateful to the young women of St. Marc's for their questions and enthusiastic participation in the project. During the education session, Nancy learned that many girls did not know what their menstrual cycle was when they began. This program envisions older girls teaching younger girls about menstruation and how to manage their flow through the use of cloth pads. Lucy, who is currently in nursing school, is helping assist with teaching the girls. Madison nurse, Becca Hennen of St. Andrew's, and Andrea Stomberg of North Dakota, plan to follow up with this group on their April visit.

Stay tuned for updates after the April 2016 trip.

Trinity Baraboo Pancake Supper combines Haiti Project Art Sales and Singing Rooster Coffee

Special thanks to Sara Strozinsky for holding a successful Haiti Project fundraiser selling Haitian Art and Singing Rooster coffee. With art sales over \$400, Sara saw an opportunity to raise awareness for the Haiti Project Partnership during an already popular parish event. Does your parish hold an annual event that could also include education about our Partnership in Haiti?

Contact Heidi Ropa to discuss how we can work together to increase awareness.

info@haitiproject.org or (608)235-9393



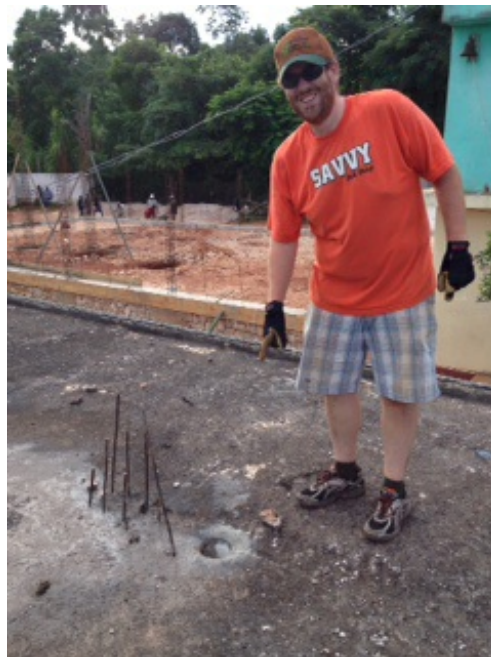
Mark your calendars for Strawberry Fest at St. Mary's Dousman. Sunday, June 26 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Updates

The **water catchment on campus and cistern repair** was completed and three days of rain fall was caught during this dry season. Thank you for the many hours of work on this: Tom Cramer, Pere Lenord, Ted Chesney, Nelisse Edmond, Carrol Boyle, Andrea Stomberg, Emanice Montelas, Jon Cushman, Owen Britton, Mark Frana and Mary Alice Eschweiler.

Thank you to the many educators who gave to the **Educators Empowering Educators Program.**

Together, we have raised \$1,500 so far. We look forward to sharing photos from the St. Marc's Teacher's Professional Development Trip.



Contact Haiti Project Coordinator, Heidi Ropa at (608)235-9393
or go to our website: haitiproject.org

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Haiti Project
804 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
US

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