



Sa kap pase nan St. Jean?

What's happening
in St. Jean?

THE HOLY REDEEMER - HAITI TWINNING NEWS

2019-2020

Providing Medical Care in St. Jean du Sud

Since 2004, the Holy Redeemer Haiti committee has sponsored annual medical mission trips to promote health care in St. Jean du Sud. In recent years, these trips have been disrupted by natural disasters and political unrest. For example, while our mission team was able to deliver a large cache of medicines to Haiti in February 2019, the team was forced to abandon the week-long medical mission due to road closures and escalating violence. The opening of a new health clinic in nearby Ti Rivy  in the U.S.-based organization *Mission-Haiti* in March 2019 led us to reconsider the need for annual medical missions. In 2020, we are initiating a pilot program with *Mission-Haiti* to offer subsidized care at this new health clinic. For the same price we used to charge people for the annual medical mission, we can now offer them

year-round health care access, all tracked with an electronic medical record system. This improves upon the care we were able to provide during those annual mission trips.

Dental Care Expands

The dental clinic building was built in 2012-2013 on the grounds of St. Jean Baptiste Church, thanks to generous donations from Mary Queen of Peace parish in Webster Groves. Since then, the clinic has provided people in the area with preventative and restorative dental care services as well as tooth extractions. A Haitian dentist from Les Cayes works every other Wednesday. When school is in session, a dental hygienist works every Wednesday, focusing on teeth cleaning and sealant treatments for the school children. While the children are generally provided free dental care, adults are charged on a sliding scale based on their ability-to-pay. Holy Redeemer subsidizes

the dental clinic with an annual stipend of \$4800 per year, providing part-time salaries for the dentist, hygienist, and building administrator. Post-pandemic, we hope to do a dental mission trip to promote preventative dental care, particularly among the school-aged children.



Sponsor-A-Student

Thanks to generous donations from our parishioners, Holy Redeemer is able to fund the *Sponsor-A-Student* program at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Catholic School in St. Jean du Sud. The Principal at St. Therese manages the program, reviewing the

applications and awarding the sponsorships. For \$100, the Sponsor-A-Student program provides tuition, books, and hope to a child whose family would otherwise be unable to afford schooling for their children. For the 2019-2020 school year, 170 children were sponsored at St. Therese. For the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, over 200 children will receive tuition support. The school serves about 400 children from pre-school to 8th grade.

Harry Hosey School

Harry Hosey school in the nearby village of Boyer was established by Father Jacquette, a former pastor in St. Jean, for students who were unable to afford a Catholic school education. Starting with a small one-room classroom, Harry Hosey School has now grown to seven rooms, six grades plus pre-school, and serves ~200 students. Eight sponsoring families in St. Louis provide the generous donations needed to support the seven teachers and the principal, at an annual cost of \$11,700. The school was named in honor of Harry Hosey, one of the founders of the *Parish Twinning Program of the Americas*.



Harry Hosey School

Scholarships

The post-secondary school scholarship program began in 2007 in an effort to support the educational pursuits of the youth in St. Jean du Sud. Scholarship applications are reviewed and awarded by a committee of community leaders. Scholarship applicants provide information regarding their current academic achievement and future areas of study, activities within the parish and community, and letters of recommendation. The awards are distributed to the students in time for them to begin school in October. In 2019, \$5,000 were awarded to 21 applicants. Areas of study included education, accounting, agriculture, law, masonry, nursing, computers, plumbing, auto mechanics, carpentry, economics, and communication. We have budgeted \$5000 for the program in 2020.

Centre Menager Sewing and Cooking School

This past year, ten young women attended a small vocational school in St. Jean, learning to sew and cook and gaining skills to help them obtain employment. Because of the lack of electricity, treadle sewing machines are utilized. The HR Haiti Committee provides \$1000/year to support the teacher at this school. In addition, sewing supplies and the occasional treadle sewing machine are included in the annual sea container shipment in support of this school.

Pandemic Response

In April-June of 2020, we collaborated with a consortium of organizations including the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas, the Raising Haiti Foundation, and the Smallholder Farmers Alliance to organize and train a Covid-19 Prevention Response team in St. Jean du Sud. This CPR team, comprised of ten leaders from the community, participated in a training workshop on May 29th and were tasked with outreach to the neighboring communities, educating people about the virus (addressing misinformation), and promoting hand washing, social distancing, and the use of face masks. To supplement this effort, the HR Haiti committee paid young women at the sewing school to make face masks for the community, \$ 1/mask. Over the ensuing weeks, the women succeeded in producing over 1380 masks and delivered these to the Covid-19 prevention team for distribution in the community.



Students at the Centre Menager Sewing School

Clean Water is Essential

Many of the diseases diagnosed by our medical mission team over the years have been caused by poor hygiene and contaminated water sources. More education is needed about the importance of clean water, but so are the tools to provide clean water. Over the past few years the Haiti committee has experimented with the use of Sawyer water filters to provide point-of-use water suitable for drinking. In both 2017 and 2019, we collaborated with the organization *Water with Blessings* and adopted that organization's community-organizing model to train 120 women in the use of the Sawyer water filters that remove disease-causing bacteria from their drinking water. Because each "water woman" covenants to share that filter with 3 other families, there is a multiplier effect that can provide safe drinking water for over 2000 people. Follow-up surveys indicate positive user experience and a reduction in gastro-intestinal issues. The Haiti committee is once again planning another clean water mission with *WWB*, pending a return to normalcy post-pandemic.



Water Women

Sea Container

Annually, the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas sponsors a sea container shipment to Haiti. Each year, we ask our sister parish what types of supplies are needed and then ask our parishioners to contribute items and/or funds for the shipment. The Lenten "Giving Tree" wish list emphasizes those items that help enable students and adults in the St. Jean community: school supplies, reading glasses, sewing supplies, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and other personal hygiene items such as soap and birthing kits. Frequently, large items such as church furnishings, dental chairs, air compressors, and treadle sewing machines have been shipped. Our giving needs to be smart! Items such as food and clothing have been removed from the donation list because the distribution of these free items can adversely impact small businesses in St. Jean and nearby Les Cayes. In 2020, we requested monetary donations (\$60) for Sawyer water filter systems that can provide families with safe drinking water. As noted earlier, contaminated

drinking water is a major source of disease in the St. Jean community. Because of the pandemic, the PTPA has postponed the next shipment until 2021. In April of 2019, Holy Redeemer shipped over 150 boxes of items at a cost of \$2,250.

Completion of the new community center

In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew destroyed the dilapidated community center that once served as the site for our annual medical missions. Since that time, the HR Haiti Committee has succeeded in raising \$70,000 to build a new community building adjacent to St. Jean Baptiste Church and the Dental Clinic building. This fundraising project would not have been completed this year without the contributions of several large donors. Construction of the building was completed in June 2020 and will serve as the center for all cultural activities in the St. Jean community. On behalf of Father Jean-Charles Clody and the people of St. Jean, we thank you for your generous support.



New Community Building

Haiti Committee

Chairperson: Jim Baum
 Treasurer: Carol Nicklaus
 Secretary: Bev Simmerman (Tina Tlapek)
 Medical Director: Dr. Joe Rudolph
 Dental Director: Dr. Steve Fleischut
 Sustainable Health: Kathy Murphy-Baum
 Sea Container Shipment: Harry Bahr
 Education: Corky Bahr and Kathy Murphy-Baum
 Fundraisers: Carol Devanny and Sue Darcy
 Haitian Advisor: Mary Routier
 Haiti Liaison: Geto Sainristil

needs while promoting sustainable community development.

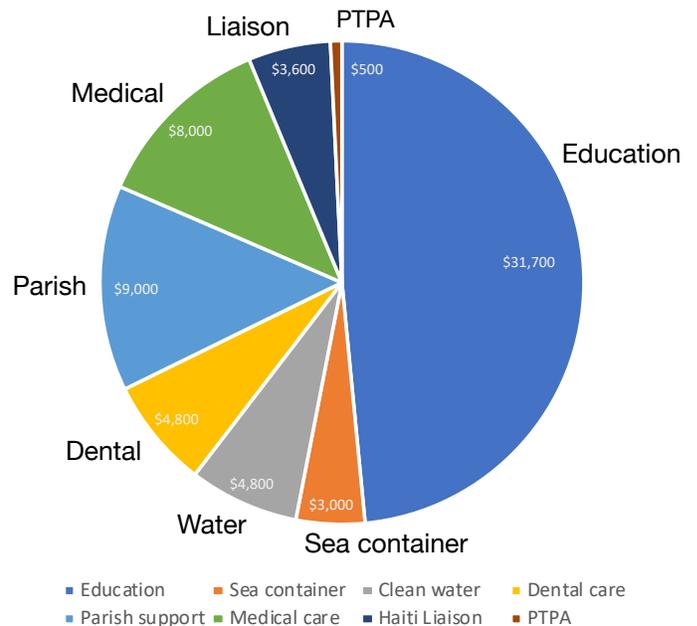


Ongoing volunteer opportunities with the Parish Twinning Program

- Assist with fundraising events
- Pack the annual sea container
- Prepare birthing kits
- Prepare for and work on various mission trips
- Serve as a committee member
- Provide technical expertise: water sanitation, solar power, small business development, grant writing

Contact Jim Baum at 314-853-7747 or jk.baum@sbcglobal.net

2020 -2021 Expense Budget



Who we are

The HR Haiti parish twinning group belongs to the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas. The PTPA was co-founded in 1978 by Theresa Patterson and Harry Hosey. The Parish Twinning Program is a nonprofit organization focused on creating lasting sister parish relationships in the U.S./Canada and Haiti or elsewhere. Although based at Holy Redeemer, we draw our membership from several Catholic churches in the Webster Groves area. We are dedicated to maintaining a supportive and collaborative relationship with our twinned parish in St. Jean du Sud for the purpose of addressing the community’s spiritual, medical and educational

Financial support for the HR Haiti mission comes from on-line giving, the Sunday collection, fundraisers, our many student- and teacher-sponsors, and other generous donors.

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10