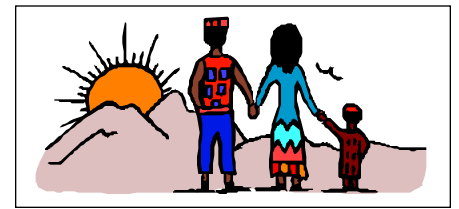


# ZANMI

# Friends

# ANSANM

# Together



Fall 2007



*News and Information  
about the  
Episcopal Diocese of  
Milwaukee  
HAITI PROJECT*

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“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing”. John 15:5

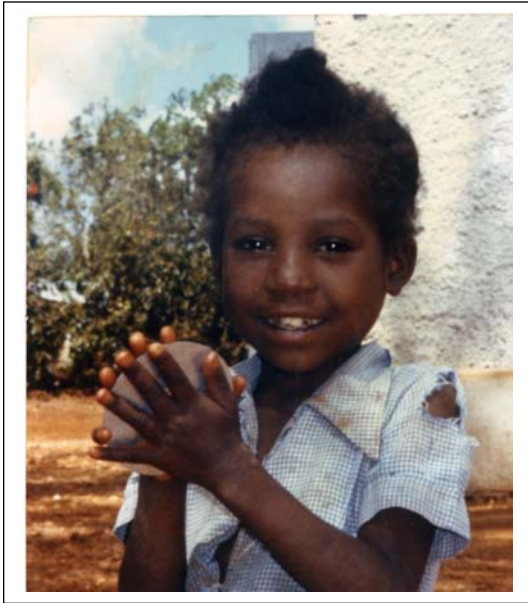


### SPONSORSHIPS—THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

By Nancy Frana, Sponsorship Coordinator

The holiday season is fast approaching. It's a wonderful time of year when giving to others is an act of love. When you are thinking of a "gift" for someone special this year, maybe you would like to consider a gift that would sponsor a year of education for a child in Haiti. With almost 700 children in school, we are in need of lots of new sponsors. This might be a very nice time to start a family tradition and watch a child grow in Haiti. Can you think of someone—maybe your parents, children or grandchildren; your group at work, golf club, card club or family members? Please check out our webpage at [www.haitiproject.org](http://www.haitiproject.org) or call the coordinator for information on sponsorship. A sponsorship is a gift that will outlast the holidays and mean so much to a child.

To all our wonderful, faithful sponsors, the renewal letters are coming in the mail soon. We traveled to Haiti several times this year and took pictures of the children on three occasions. There were only a few children who were not at school one of these times. We also have a new school report form from the teachers that we hope to include. You should all be very proud of how well the St. Marc's students are doing. Look inside for the story of our first child!



Margarete 1988



Margarete 2005

## THE STORY OF MARGARETE— THE BIRTH OF THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

By Dianne Dawson

Twenty years ago a Mother/Daughter team went on a mission to Jeannette. At that time, the mission teams slept in tents gathered around the priest's house, just down the mountain from St. Marc's Church.

One evening, just before sunset, the group of Americans was taking a walk along one of the many red clay paths on the side of the mountain. They came upon an old lady, very thin and very weary, leaning on a hoe in an already harvested potato patch. Along with her was a little girl, also thin and dressed in a ragged dress. The grandmother, as it turned out, was gleaned what had been left behind after the harvest. Her granddaughter, who was named Margarete, was an orphan, both parents having died. When asked what she needed most, the grandmother rubbed her stomach and that of her granddaughter as well, and said "food". Then she went on to request that Margarete be baptized and be allowed to attend St. Marc's School. And she would need help to pay for Margarete's uniform and school supplies once she was accepted in the school. The group returned to Father LaFontant's house and gathered for evening prayer in a semicircle in the lingering light of day. As they drew to a close after praying for Margarete and her grandmother, the 15 year old daughter suddenly called out "Mom, I know what we can do. We can send money each month for Margarete, so that she can get a uniform and attend the school". So it was settled. The baptism was arranged and the Americans would make it possible through an on-going financial partnership, to prepare and keep Margarete in school. And thus was born the Sponsorship Program!

Margarete is now 25 years old. She graduated from St. Marc's School and is studying to be a nurse. Throughout the years the American family and Margarete have remained as Christian partners, praying for one another and becoming friends. The reciprocal relationship has been a blessing in so many ways. If you are not a sponsor, please consider sharing in this partnership. If you are already a sponsor, please pass this story on to friends and family.

If poor nations like Haiti are every to prosper, the children and young people need education to participate in an economy that can sustain them and their families. Be a part of this process by becoming a sponsor.

(Editor's Note: The mother in this story is the author who is returning to Haiti October 1 with the sponsorship coordinators from the Diocese of Eau Claire, John & Carol Meacham).

## WELCOME NEW SPONSORS

Marjorie Ganzel  
Cynthia Ganzel  
Elizabeth Herdendorf

St. Thomas of Canterbury  
Larry Jaskulski  
Stanley and Zoe Richardson

## TRIPS TO HAITI

In May, Fr. Scott Leannah and Mary Alice Eschweiler led a college-age trip to Jeannette. An experienced educator, Melanie Stewart, also went with the group and held workshops for the teachers at St. Marc's. She and Mary Alice cleaned and organized the elementary school library. Students were Nicole Brusky, Alison Eschweiler, Kayla Spensley, Michael Balen, Hannah Brown, and Jacob Slocum. Some of the group did nutrition education for the children and others stocked and organized the pharmacy. Fr. Leannah cleaned the preschool storage room and office and spent time with Fr. Lazard learning about his duties as priest.

## FUTURE TRIPS

- October 1-6           Dianne Dawson & Eau Claire sponsorship coordinators Fr. Stamm & John and Carol Meacham. The fall trips both hope to return with our first coffee harvest.
- November 6-15       Coordinator Dr. Jan Byrd and former coordinator Ginny Wolfe with "newbies" Charles & Evelyn Payson and "Just Coffee" Rep Mark, the Spark, Bystrom.
- January 22-30        Two part trip with an early group tentatively meeting with Cindy Obenhaus, Director of Healthy Mothers-Healthy Babies Foundation then joining Bishop Miller, Canon Pfaff and the Rev. Scott Leannah.
- February or March    Dates have not yet been set. Stay tuned and let us know if you are interested in joining a trip.

## GIFT OF WATER NEWS

The Haiti Project water task group continues to work with the Gift of Water, Inc. organization to provide pure water to families in St. Marc's Parish, Jeannette, Haiti. Many of you are now familiar with the simple two-bucket system with bleach in the top bucket and a filter for impurities. The 400 buckets in place have made a long-term difference to the families, especially to children under 5 years of age. Contaminated water causes malnutrition and even death from diarrheal diseases. Two young men from the community have been trained as water technicians and are responsible for monitoring of the systems in the homes to verify purity. Mark and Nancy Frana made rounds with them on a spring trip and found that most systems were being used properly. Some problems were noted with dilution or degradation of the liquid bleach. GOW is now converting to effervescent bleach tablets to correct the problem. Thanks to your concern and generosity, funds are available to place more buckets. However, rain remains the only source of water in Jeannette and this precious commodity is collected in community cisterns. The mission trip in May 2007 unfortunately found that almost all the cisterns were leaking and/or empty. The Gift of Water organization has been contacted and will send an engineer with the October mission trip group to inspect the cisterns and provide an estimate for repairs. Further placement of home units is on hold until this report is received and repairs completed. You can find more information on Gift of Water at their website [giftofwater.org](http://giftofwater.org).

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### MERCI / THANK YOU, DONORS!

Ann Clements	\$ 50	Progressive Baptist	\$ 200	Grace Church	\$285
Charles Bradley	\$ 100	St. Dunstan's	\$1000	Vanda Weigert	\$ 50
Mary Gage	\$ 100	St. Michael's, Orlando	\$ 500	Holy Cross	\$ 100
Grace ECW	\$1500	Steve & Carol Smith	\$1500	Community of St. Mary	\$1000
Sally Harper	\$ 100	Ivan & Betty Springstead	\$ 500	Anonymous	\$6000
Holy Communion	\$1325	Thelma Sutton	\$ 100	Mr&Mrs Gerald Mainman	\$1600
Diane Hollender	\$ 25	Dr. & Mrs. Greg Rypel	\$ 500	St. Mary's Dousman	\$3400

## MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH GRANT FROM THE COMMISSION ON GLOBAL RECONCILIATION

The Haiti Project strives to meet many of the Millennium Development Goals including universal primary education through St. Marc's School, working to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and ensure environmental sustainability through the trade school and coffee programs, reducing child mortality through Gift of Water, vitamin supplementation, and basic health care at St. Marc's Clinic. In an effort to further reduce infant mortality and improve maternal health, the Commission on Global Reconciliation (CGR) has provided additional funding of \$4,600.

Due to extreme poverty, 97% of births occur at home in unsterile conditions with untrained birth attendants, while an excess of nurse midwives remain unemployed. Infant mortality is the highest in the Western Hemisphere and one in sixteen mothers dies in childbirth. In February, 2004, coordinator, Dr. Janis Byrd and veteran missionaries Dr. John Brusky, Patti Brusky and Nancy Frana, both RN's, Mark Frana, and Ted and Barb Chesney visited a maternal/child health program in Jeremie, Haiti. Although births there take place in a nearby government hospital, we learned about their extensive educational program for mothers, infants, and new fathers and saw their simple home delivery and infant kits. Another program at Holy Cross Hospital in Leogane, decreased childhood malnutrition by teaching mothers to use appropriate locally available foods rather than vitamin supplementation.

Tetanus immunization for mothers was already being given at St. Marc's Clinic to prevent neonatal tetanus and expectant mothers received donated prenatal vitamins. With funds from the Haiti Project Board, HIV testing was begun at St. Marc's Clinic but it was quickly discovered that malaria may be a much larger problem for our moms. Some donated infant kits were available and delivery kits were made from donated supplies. However, numbers were inadequate for the needs. With the gift from CGR, we will be able to provide increased supervision of prenatal care including HIV and malaria testing and treatment, monitoring and referral of patients with high blood pressure and other high risk conditions, and classes on breastfeeding and parenting. Home birthing kits will be provided containing handwipes, gloves, pads for delivery, blades for sterile cord cutting and tying, and tablets to treat postpartum hemorrhage. To encourage an early checkup with the baby, infant kits containing soap, shampoo, lotion, shirt and diapers will be given at postpartum visits along with reinforcement of breastfeeding and parenting education. Funding will also allow our nurses and healthcare workers to attend the nutrition program at Holy Cross Hospital. Other funding is being sought to hire a nurse midwife and perhaps allow for births to occur in a clinic or birthing center.

## HAITI PROJECT BOARD REORGANIZES

Bishop Miller has appointed Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. David Pfaff as liaison to the Haiti Project. He will serve as an ex-officio member of the new "board" which has been renamed the Steering Committee. Membership will be made up of prior Haiti Project Board Officers with new members appointed from the Executive Committee of the Diocese. Smaller task groups will work on the various focus areas of the Haiti Project such as Education, Finance, Fundraising, Agriculture/Coffee, Sustainable Development, Trade School, Clean Water, Building and Grounds, and Healthcare. Details are still being worked out and a roster will be published in the next newsletter. Anyone with interests in a particular area is welcome to join a work group.

## ZANMI ANSAM/FRIENDS TOGETHER

is a newsletter of the **Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee Haiti Project** which is a partnership in mission and community development with St. Marc's Parish, Jeannette, Haiti.

**Bishop:** The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, DD  
**Canon to the Ordinary:** The Rev. David Pfaff

**Co-Chairs** Ann Brophy & Mary Alice Eschweiler.  
**Treasurer** Christophe Nicaise  
**Secretary** Steve Smith

**Diocese of Haiti Partnership Coordinator:**  
Fr. Kesner Ajax [kesnerajax@yahoo.com](mailto:kesnerajax@yahoo.com).

**Priest in Charge St. Marc's** Fr. Amirold Lazard

**Diocese of Eau Claire Partners**  
**Coordinator** Rev. George Stamm  
[frgcss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frgcss@sbcglobal.net)  
715-828-4633

**Partnership Coordinators** John & Carol Meacham  
[johnm1825@yahoo.com](mailto:johnm1825@yahoo.com)  
715-475-8340

**Diocese of Milwaukee Coordinator** Dr. Jan Byrd  
[Jan@haitiproject.org](mailto:Jan@haitiproject.org)  
608-212-7971

Please share your email address with us. Advise us if you wish to be removed from the mailing list.

[www.haitiproject.org](http://www.haitiproject.org)

## SIGN UP TODAY!

I wish to sponsor a child at St. Marc's School.  
\_\_\_ \$ 200 annually

\_\_\_ \$ 50 quarterly

\_\_\_ \$ 17.50 monthly

I would like to give a family a water purifier.  
\_\_\_ \$ 100

I would like to make a contribution to be used where needed for education, water, agriculture, trade school, or healthcare. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute to the Trade School Building Fund. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a gift to the Haiti Project Endowment Fund. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Diocese of Milwaukee Haiti Project  
804 E. Juneau Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

## STRAWBERRY FEST

Parishioners from St. Mary's, Dousman once again did an astounding job of raising funds for the Haiti Project by making Strawberry pies, tortes, sundaes, shakes, chocolate-covered strawberries and other treats. The book and media sale were popular venues begun last year and this year was also held the week prior to the festival. Festival goers could relax under tents and listen to live music or browse the Haitian artwork and craft sale. Altogether over \$6,000 was sent to the Haiti Project!

### More Donations Just Received—Merci!

Christine Blum \$20, Darlene Harvey \$10, Joyce Metter \$10, Brad & Kathleen Miller \$100, Margaret Page \$25, Claire Greene \$200, Merrill Aronson \$10, Ken Restall \$200, St. Francis \$583, Barb & Ted Chesney \$1,000, Steve & Susan Webster \$1,000, Ascension, Hayward \$200, Sisters of St. Mary's \$50, Stephen & Carol Smith \$1500, Patrick & Janet Sullivan \$100.