

HAITI OUTREACH MISSION



An Ecumenical Humanitarian
Lay Mission

501©(3) non-profit
charitable organization

5700 Crooks Road
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Troy, MI 48098-4100
248-474-3548

www.haitioutreachmission.org

Dear Haiti Outreach Mission Members and Supporters,

Well, we have made it to Twenty years!

I would like to personally thank our church partners and individuals in the United States and in Haiti for continuing to support our Mission. Together we have achieved something rare.

I hope you had a chance to look at our last newsletter written by Jan Ernst, "Haiti, A Reflection." (Issue Thirteen) She has "retired" from traveling to Haiti on our annual Mission trip but will continue to do the work she has always done, such as helping me organize the prescription and over-the-counter meds we take to Haiti. In fact she is working hard right now helping to organize the annual St. David's Comedy Castle fundraiser. Please see the next page for the details about this fun fundraiser!

We are all thankful for Jim Schairbaum's continued recovery from oral cancer and Kate Messina's return to health.

Kathy Graham has gone to Haiti with HOM more than any other medical missionary. Sadly, she lost her father, Alphons Francis Uriwal and her brother, William Randall Uriwal in early October. Pray for her loved ones and for her.

I hope to see everybody at our annual meeting. Please see the next page for details. Watch out for news about our upcoming trip to Haiti!



Dr. Dominique Monde-Matthews

You are invited to the annual Haiti Outreach Mission Board and General Membership Meeting:

Sunday, November 4, 2018

2 pm - 4 pm

St. David's Church

16200 Twelve Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48076

www.stdavidssf.org/

Please use the parking lot behind the church. Enter through the rear door on the left.

St. David's Help For Haiti
November 7, 2018

WHERE **COMEDY CASTLE**
310 South Troy, Royal Oak

WHEN **Wednesday, November 7th, 5:30-9:00 p.m.**

WHAT A fundraising evening sponsored by St. David's in Southfield to help support the St. Pierre Medical Clinic in Mirebalais. The clinic is staffed by Haitian medical personnel and is open year round.

This fun filled evening includes:

- Silent Auction**
- 50/50 Drawing**
- Dinner**
- 60 minutes of Comedy!**

COST **\$40 a ticket - Cash Bar**

TICKETS or INFORMATION:

Lise-Pauline Barnett
(248) 712-6999

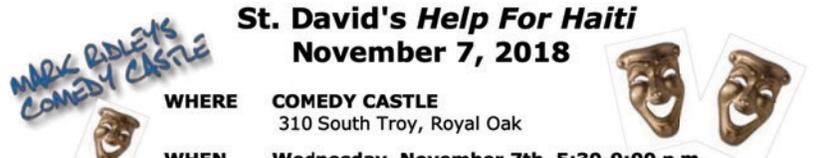
Janny Milton (248) 827-4638 **Janet Ernst** (248) 981-8851

The St. Pierre medical clinic is funded by the ecumenical Haiti Outreach Mission organization. St. David's is a supporting member of Haiti Outreach Mission.

Bring your family and friends for an evening of laughter and fellowship at the Comedy Castle. If you are unable to attend, any contributions toward this event are greatly appreciated.

HAITI OUTREACH MISSION INFORMATION:
<http://haitioutreachmission.org/>

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
16200 WEST 12 MILE RD
SOUTHFIELD, MI. 48076
(248) 557-5430
WEBSITE: WWW.STDAVIDSSF.ORG




Comedy by:
Crystal P

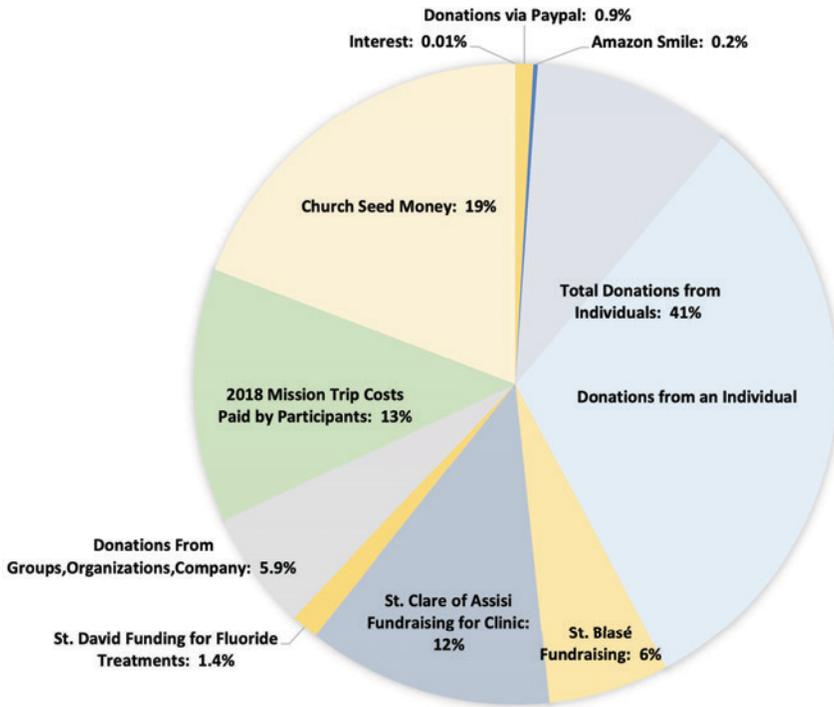


THE DINNER BUFFET



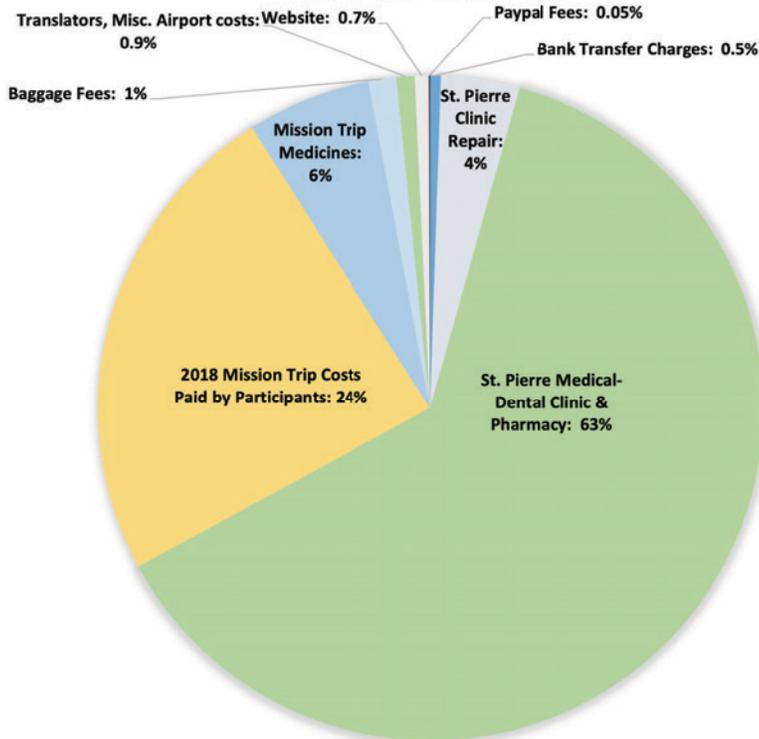


HOM FUNDING JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018



The HOM Funding pie chart includes only donations of money that were received by Haiti Outreach Mission. It does not include donations of over the counter medicines, clothing and other items that HOM received for the 2018 Mission Trip. Also, the chart does not include airfare because each person who participated in the trip paid their own airfare, not HOM.

HOM EXPENSES JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018



Donations HOM received via PayPal were donations from individuals. They are listed separately because several individuals chose this method of payment. A single one-time donation was 74% of the individual donations.

The HOM Funding and the HOM Expenses pie charts include mission trip costs paid for by participants. These costs paid were paid by the mission trip participants to HOM for food, lodging and transportation while in Haiti. In turn, HOM paid for the goods and services for the group. HOM did not retain any of this money.

Charts by Executive Committee member Tom Maza

Mission Trip 2018 April 27 - May 4



Packing HOM purchased and donated items from member churches



Jan Ernst RN and Dr. Patricia Barber in the St. Pierre Pharmacy

2018 Patients

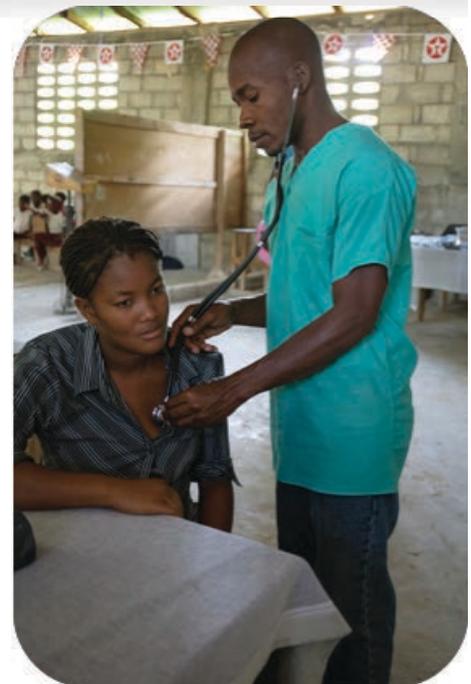
Monday: Peds: 106
 Adults: 107
 Total: 213 (includes a few children from the weekend)
 Dental: 30

Tuesday: Peds: 81
 Adults: 98
 Total: 179
 Dental: 29

Wednesday: Morning in Noyou; PM in Clinic. Numbers combined
 Peds: 98
 Adults: 136
 Total: 234
 Dental: 27

Thursday: No age breakdown as we had to leave the forms with the clinic.
 Total: 201
 Dental: 25

Trip totals: Clinic: 827
 Dental: 111



St. Pierre Clinic's Dr. Cadet with patient at Our Lady of Deliverance Chapel in Noyau



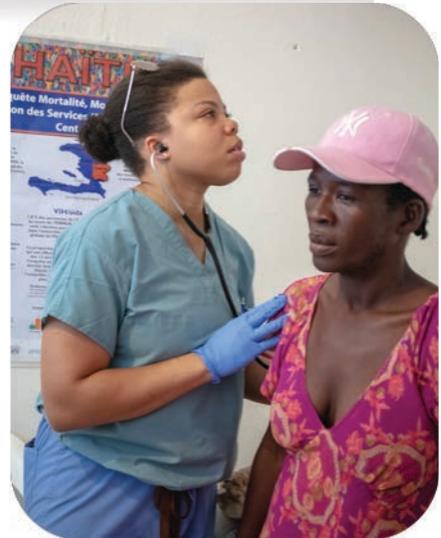
Mobile Medical Triage: Wally Rydzewski and patient.



Golds Mithe Joseph, Kathy Doucet, Dr. Kathy Spangenberg, Dr. Lauren Robinson working mobile medical



Happy patient with new dress



Dr. Victoria Cohen-Bradford and patient at St. Pierre Clinic



Yoldie Esterlin and Jan Ernst: Mobile Pharmacy



Haiti Outreach Mission Team 2018

May 14th, 2018

Haiti Outreach Mission April 27-May 4, 2018

Fluoride Team Report

My thanks to the board for giving us the construction team in the mornings-with such a small team, it really helped. I have addressed several topics below:

Team Members: McKinley Garcia, Mary Jane Olsen, Kari Brown, Jeff Kendall, John Messina, Jim Lotito and Marla Smith. Translator Mark

Toothbrushes/Paste – Definitely liked giving out toothpaste and decent brushes.

Fluoride-The Embrace Varnish seemed to work well. Although the directions said the teeth should be dry we were assured that this was not necessary. Directions also said that teeth need not be brushed prior to use. In the older kids (after 3rd grade) on the last day we opted to just give the pills and then administer fluoride and give unopened toothbrushes and paste to the students. I do have a question (Dentist or Hygienist) about the worm pill remnants in the mouth-but since the fluoride is time-released over four hours, it may not be a problem with the older kids and we do have the younger children brush. The packets were more awkward to use than the trays, but we developed a system that seemed to work. We need to have a process that keeps the applicator brushes and treatment packets together so we do not end up with excess brushes or packets.

Students/Treatments:

Due to the unforeseen May 1st school holiday, we interacted with fewer students than anticipated, but have the potential for many more in the future if we continue to add Sacré-Cœur in Hinche, which is equivalent in size to St. Pierre. Also, because of the May 2nd holiday for St. Pierre, we missed all the Episcopal schools. Over the last few years as we expanded our reach outside of Mirebalais, we have added new schools and dropped others. For instance, in 2014 notes from Hinche indicated three small schools in outlying areas. In 2016 and 2017 we were in the same small school outside Hinche. In 2018 we were in Sacré Coeur and Noyau, both new schools in terms of fluoride. My feeling is that the fluoride treatments are effective when done year after year in the same schools, catching the same students as they grow.

Referrals: We did refer quite a few St. Louis students to the dentist and are still seeing evidence of dentist care in terms of fillings. I gave the St. Louis referrals to Fr. Romel Eustache and asked him to give the Desvarrieux referrals to the Priest in charge of that school.

Bracelets: Thanks to Kari, we had bracelets to give to everyone, who seemed to appreciate the gift.

HAITI OUTREACH MISSION FLUORIDE STATS									
Total Individules seen, including Pre-K who do not receive fluoride									
School	2008	2009	2010	2012	2013	2014	2016	2017	2018
Trianon			102	127	123	151	108	99	0
St. Louis-Grade School			322	298	291	276	316	215	244
St. Pierre			923	705	648	685	642	376	0
Desvarrieux			324	373	355	0	398	336	248
St. Louis-Mnsr. Remy						59	62	158	0
Hinche schools						208	189	249	0
Noyau									92
Sacré Coeur-Hinche									516
Total			1671	1503	1417	1379	1715	1433	1100
Total fluoride treatments administered									
Trianon			102	127	123	105	72	67	0
St. Louis-grade			322	298	291	276	269	177	202
St. Pierre			923	705	648	597	564	314	0
Desvarrieux			324	373	355	0	322	279	226
St. Louis-Mnsr. Remy						59	62	158	0
Hinche						208	107	145	0
Noyau									71
Sacré Coeur-Hinche									343
Total fluoride			1671	1503	1417	1245	1396	1140	842
Notes:									
*estimate includes pre-K so overestimated fluorides									
2010-post earthquake									
2014-Begin travelling to Hinche and skipped Desvarrieux									
2017-Only St. Pierre Students through 9th grade									
2018-May 1&2 school Holiday for St Pierre (skipped St. Pierre and Trianon)									

As always in Haiti, things change and best laid plans need revision. The national school holiday of May 1 and the unofficial holiday on May 2 necessitated changes in plans for the fluoride team. This year for the first time we serviced Noyau which was a very small school. I believe that this school will be larger next year as Golds Mythe Joseph told me that students would be moving into the new school buildings next fall, and that not all of the students were in class on May 2. Likewise, the small school we serviced outside of Hinche last year was skipped and we were introduced to the students of Sacré Coeur, with a population at least as large as St. Pierre. We left plenty of fluoride supplies, brushes and paste for the dentist in Mirebalais to distribute to the students of St. Pierre and Trianon that we missed. Over the three working days we saw 1100 students/teachers (distributing worm pills, toothbrushes and toothpaste), and did fluoride treatments on 842 of them. Pre K students do not receive fluoride.

Please do not hesitate to ask if anything needs clarification.

Best.
Marla Smith

Construction Report for April 27-May 3, 2018 Revised

St. Pierre Church & School

The church has been demolished except for the twin steeples in front. New footings are complete.

The kindergarten has a second story and is not complete. It is very difficult to do an assessment when we do not have a site plan & there are construction projects at different locations.

The intermediate school looks OK except for electrical wires visible at some areas. I think this wire is temporary. Most of the light bulbs are missing in the classrooms, but the fixtures and switches appear to be intact.

St. Pierre Clinic

The construction team replaced a missing toilet seat in the clinic bathroom from our supply of plumbing we have in the sea container.

The new well at the clinic is not pumping water. We were told that the submersible motor was burned out. We located the motor/pump combination and Jim Lotito diagnosed the problem. The motor was working but the pump was not. We separated the parts and brought the pump with us where we hope to get parts to rebuild it. We were told by Fr. Alphonse that they do not sell the pump separate in Haiti and the system was over \$600.

Both dental chairs have rips in the vinyl which can be easily repaired by purchasing gray vinyl in the States & can be contact cemented in place & would hold up very well to keep the chair from deteriorating further.

St. Pierre Medical Clinic

- 1) Since the last visit from the HOM Construction team the main electrical panel in the St. Pierre Clinic has been rewired. This modification to the panel wiring is incorrect. All of the electrical circuit breakers in the panel are now wired to only one leg of the 220 volts main feed. This condition could potentially overload this leg and present a safety issue.
 - 2) One of the most common complaints in the medical clinic was the lack of proper ventilation. Each room where patients / medical staff congregate needs a fan. Some of the rooms currently have ceiling fans that are either old or broken. During our stay at the clinic three standing fans were purchased to help create some ventilation. However because these fans are portable they are often missing. The proposed solution from the construction team is to purchase oscillating fans that can be permanently mounted to the wall. These fans could be mounted and wired by the construction team.
 - 3) The construction team recommends that all the current light bulbs in the medical / dental clinic be replaced with LED bulbs.
 - 4) Currently a small bucket and a large bucket are being used to flush the toilet in the medical clinic. The large bucket is used to draw and transport city water from the cistern to the toilet. Then the small bucket is used by individuals to flush the toilet. This process is inefficient in that the small bucket uses too much water for each flush. There use to be an electrical pump that was used to pump city water from the cistern to the water holding tank which is located on the roof of the medical clinic. The construction team proposes that new pump be purchased and placed into operation so that running water can be restored to the toilet.
 - 5) On two occasions during our trip to Haiti a medical / dental clinic were setup offsite to treat patients. On both occasions there were instances where there was intermittent or no electrical power. The construction team proposes that we are allowed to investigate the feasibility of building a portable light weight solar panel. This panel would be able
-

to be transported on the bus and be quickly setup if and when power is needed. The panel will provide enough capacity for portable LED lighting and some ventilation.

St. Pierre Dental Clinic

- 1) Since the last visit from the HOM Construction team the main electrical panel in the St. Pierre Clinic has been rewired. This modification to the panel wiring is incorrect. All of the electrical circuit breakers in the panel have been wired to only one leg of the 220 volts main feed. This condition could potentially overload this leg and present a safety issue.
- 2) The shop vacuum that is used to supply suction for the dentists in the dental clinic is not operational. A quick inspection of the shop vacuum was conducted and it was determined that this piece of equipment is not repairable. A new shop vacuum needs to be purchased and installed.
- 3) Currently pieces of wood are used to seal the window openings in the dental clinic. The St. Pierre Dental Team has requested that the HOM construction team replace these pieces of wood with pieces of plexiglass. This change in material would allow outside light to illuminate the dental work area. The construction team took measurements of the three openings. The plexiglass needs to be bought, cut and installed.
- 4) The St. Pierre Dental team requested a clock that can be mounted on the wall and would run off AA batteries. The construction team looked to purchase one in Mirebalais but could not find one.
- 5) The St. Pierre Dental team requested that a new sink with running water be installed in the dental clinic. This sink would be connected to the existing water and sewer lines that are next door in the latrine.

St. Louis

We met with Fr. Romel at St. Louis school & church to review projects.

1. Church has a beautiful wood ceiling which conceals the rafters. Unfortunately the metal roof leaks when it rains and will damage the new wood ceiling. The metal roof needs to be replaced. The sacristy roof is new, but needs proper flashing where that roof meets the main church wall.
2. The school classrooms need to be painted, but the walls are so dirty they should be power washed first or the paint may not stick to the wall.
3. There are currently 5 students to a bench where there should be 3 students to a bench, with a very small writing surface. Fr. Romel requested new school benches with a proper writing surface. I feel the old benches could be repaired and just replace the top writing surface with a larger board and just build some additional benches for 3 students to a bench as needed.

The electrical needs to be redone. The wire from the church to the school is under rated. The wire appears to be #14 gauge, but should be at least a #6 triplex from church to school.

St. Louis rectory had ceramic tile in the bathrooms approximately three years ago. It is literally falling off the walls. It is hazardous to use bathrooms. If wall is touched or bumped, the tile falls off. There are 4 bathrooms all in this condition. We could remove the tile to be safe and just paint the wall. Painting would be considerably cheaper than tile. I am sure Fr. Romel would want tile again.

Fr. Romel also would like the large area that is the auditorium divided into classrooms.

Water system at school (orphanage) is non functional and needs to be totally redone with UV light systems that would be available in Haiti, so repairs & parts would be obtained.

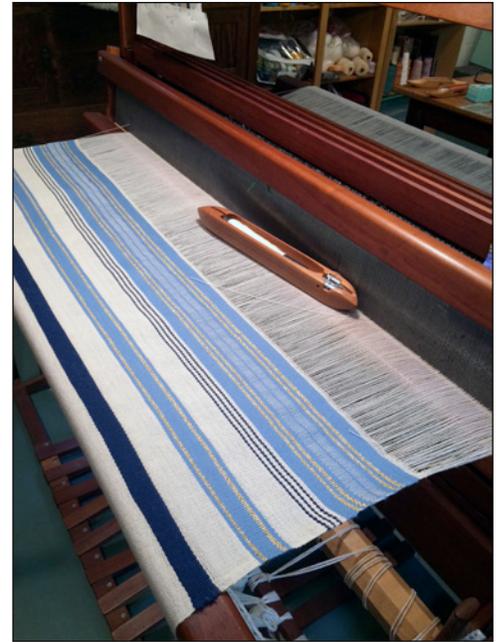
- 1) Father Romel questioned the construction team whether the area behind the school developed and add more classroom space to the school. He also asked the construction team if anything could be done to upgrade the boys / girls latrines.

Submitted by John Messina

A Tale of Two Tallits by Marla Smith

It showed up as a generous donation to HOM from Temple Beth Israel Synagogue in Ann Arbor. Where did that come from?

Flash back two years to a holiday sale of the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. Helen, a member of the synagogue council full of purpose, strides towards a weaver demonstrating the craft and asks her if she could weave a patch to repair the Tallit (prayer shawl) of a beloved Rabbi. It was originally woven for him by a guild member over 28 years ago when he first arrived as a new Rabbi in Ann Arbor. The shawl now is threadbare on both edges from years of wear and he loves it dearly. The woman agrees to take on the project and enlists another weaver and good friend to figure out how to proceed. The two women meet with the Rabbi, analyze the problem, match the yarn and structure to mend the shawl. The Tallit is beautiful and one of the weavers asks if she can take some pictures of the design. Samples were made, patches woven and sewn to shawl. Rabbi very happy.



Fast forward to 2018 where we find the same two (Mary Jane and Marla) women on a HOM mission in Mirebalais, Haiti. One is a first timer and the other, a veteran of many missions. After a long day of fluoride treatments, they are resting and checking emails. Emergency message from Helen. Rabbi's Tallit gone missing! Can they make a new one on commission as a surprise for his retirement (next month!)? The two women look at each other incredulously and then discuss the matter. Well, they already know what yarn and weave structure AND they also have pictures of the original Tallit design taken two years ago. The weavers agree it can be duplicated and set to work upon their return from Haiti.



Mary Jane tells Helen she will take on the project, but the commission should go to HOM. Yarn is ordered and with some difficulty the weave structure of the colorful stripes are deciphered and the gold embellishment thread of the original shawl matched. Mary Jane threads her loom for the shawl and Marla sets hers up to weave a protective bag for the finished Tallit. Design of the stripes, color and weave structure were taken from those precious photos of two years before. After weaving, the ends of the shawl are braided to match the original. With one week to spare the shawl is sent to a sewer from the Temple to apply the four woven corner patches and hand made gromets to hold the tzitzis (specially knotted corner ritual fringes). The protective bag is finished and lined with silk. Both are carefully washed and pressed.



The Retirement celebration is wonderful, with tons of people and a "This is your Life" program culminating with the new Tallit presented. Rabbi Dobrusin is very surprised, delighted and touched. Mary Jane Olsen and Marla Smith are happy and relieved. A few weeks later, a check arrives at the offices of HOM.



Mary Jane Olsen working on the fluoride team



Marla Smith showing Fr Romel Eustache St. Louis grade school student fluoride data

HAITI OUTREACH MISSION FUNDRAISERS AND OTHER EVENTS

Giving out information and answering questions about HOM after Masses at Our Lady Of Victory Church Feb. 10 & 11, 2018

St. Blasé Church and the Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Haiti Mission May 19, 2018

Corpus Christi Church Haiti Fundraising Dinner June 16, 2018



Haiti Reunion Gathering at the Messina's home July 21, 2018



St. Clare Church Wine Auction Sept. 2018

St. David's Church Help for Haiti event at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle Nov. 7, 2018

Haiti Outreach Mission Member Churches

Corpus Christi	Detroit, Michigan
Our Lady of Victory	Northville, Michigan
St. Bernard's	Billings, Montana
St. Blasé	Sterling Heights, Michigan
St. Clare of Assisi	Ann Arbor, Michigan
St. David's	Southfield, Michigan

Since 1998, Haiti Outreach Mission has had many individual donors. But our member churches support through their annual donation of "seed money" and additional fundraising events makes our work in Haiti possible.

Haiti Outreach Mission is a participant in the Amazon Smile program for charities. If shopping with Amazon.com simply switch to Amazon Smile.

Do you use Amazon?

Amazon helps charities out via Amazon ***Smile***.

Here's how it works:

- 1 - go to: <http://smile.amazon.com>
- 2 - log on with your Amazon user id and password
- 3 - go to 'My Account' then 'Change Charity'
- 4 - Search for 'Haiti Outreach Mission' and select the one with the Troy, MI address
- 5 - You are done - buy something - there's no donation surcharge to you and Haiti Outreach Mission benefits, however, you must use Amazon ***Smile*** for us to receive a donation from Amazon - so 'bookmark' Amazon ***Smile*** and use it for your Amazon purchases.

You may donate to Haiti Outreach Mission via sending a check to our business address:

**5700 Crooks Road
Suite 100
Troy, MI 48098-4100**

You may also donate through our website; haitioutreachmission.org via credit or debit cards or with PayPal. Thank You!

July 13, 2018

Local News

Healing Haiti: Detroit-area parishioners aid poor Caribbean nation

Lack of medical, dental supplies spurs local Christians to reach out in love

DAN MELOY
The Michigan Catholic

DETROIT — In 1996, Dr. Dominique Monde-Matthews and her husband, Roger Matthews, visited Haiti so Roger could meet Dominique's family.

While in Haiti, Roger was exposed to the deep-seated poverty in Haiti. When the couple returned to Detroit, they knew they had to do something.

So Roger, a businessman and a parishioner at St. David Episcopalian Church in Southfield, and Dominique, a pediatrician and member of Corpus Christi Parish in Detroit, asked their friends and fellow parishioners for money and supplies to establish a medical clinic.

"We decided we were going to do something for Haiti," Dr. Monde-Matthews told *The Michigan Catholic*. "I figured since I was a physician, I can give back in that way."

Dominique and Roger returned the following year with medical supplies, and a year later brought volunteer physicians to establish a medical clinic.

Fast forward two decades, and the couple's vision has become the Haiti Outreach Mission, an independent nonprofit collaboration of several local — and one out-of-state — Catholic and Episcopal churches.

Dr. Monde-Matthews serves as the president and chair of the 501(c)3, which yearly sends a group of around 25 physicians, dentists and builders to help the people in and around the town of Mirebalais, Haiti, where the Catholic and Episcopalian parishes serve as centers of operation.

In 2018, the medical clinic saw 827 patients and the dental clinic treated 111 people.

Bill McNeece of Corpus Christi Parish is a member of the executive committee that oversees the day-to-day operation of the Haiti Outreach Mission.

"I've been part of the mission from almost the beginning, helping with fundraising and logistics," McNeece said. "There are many, many supporters over the years who have donated thousands upon thousands of dollars. Not everyone can go to Haiti, but anyone who donates provides tremendous support."

With Haiti's hot summers and poor infrastructure, coupled with the long hours volunteers work



Photos courtesy of Valerie McNeece

Dr. Dominique Monde-Matthews, a member of Corpus Christi Parish in Detroit and co-founder of the Haiti Outreach Mission, which provides medical and dental supplies and care to children and adults in the impoverished Caribbean country, laughs with a young patient at the mission's clinic in Mirebalais, Haiti.



Tom Maza and John Messina, of St. Blase Parish in Sterling Heights, assist a wheelchair-bound patient through the Haiti Outreach Mission's mobile medical and dental clinic in Hinche, Haiti.



Bill McNeece, of Corpus Christi Parish in Detroit, holds an infant while the baby's mother is examined at Our Lady of Deliverance Chapel in Noyau Village, Haiti, as part of the mission's mobile medical and dental clinic.

on a given day, McNeece said the physical work isn't for everyone — though the charity has applications for those who are interested in going, with a preference for physicians and hygienists or those with building experience.

Since its first efforts in 1998, the Haiti Outreach Mission has grown from a small clinic in an annex building of the local Episcopal church to a two-story clinic that is open five days a week with an intern physician and full-time dentist.

Today, the mission has begun to focus its efforts on providing

mobile outreach clinics in areas of the country where doctors and dentists aren't as prevalent.

"The places we go to are places where there is no physician in town, so they don't do routine stuff," Dr. Monde-Matthews said. "We travel with construction guys who set up private areas and move benches and roofs so we can give people privacy while they see the physicians."

James Lotito of St. Blase Parish in Sterling Heights — one of three local Catholic parish sponsors of the Haiti Outreach Mission along with Corpus Christi and Our Lady

of Victory in Northville — served on the construction crew of the 2017 and 2018 mission teams, doing what he described as "grunt work" in setting up temporary shelters and doing repairs and maintenance.

"When I first met Dominique and saw what these people were about, I realized that I need to go down to Haiti and see it for myself," said Lotito, a former automotive engineer. "What really surprised me the most was how much we take for granted in the

Please see **Haiti** | 8



Courtesy of Bill McNeece

Jeff Kendall, left, of Corpus Christi Parish in Detroit, gives Haitian children fluoride treatments at St. Louis Church in Mirebalais, Haiti.

Haiti

From Page 3

United States. It's difficult to explain unless you have been there, but things like clean water to wash your hands and brush your teeth, that's so important."

The Haiti Outreach Mission is supported yearly by members of the three parishes and their Episcopal partners, with fundraisers throughout the year to buy medical supplies and building materials for the mission, in addition to volunteers, who fund their own airfare to Haiti.

More Information

To support or learn more about the Haiti Outreach Mission, visit haitioutreachmission.org.

"I think people genuinely are willing to help if they can see that what you are doing is worth it," Dr. Monde-Matthews said. "The people who go with us come back and tell their stories, and their friends feel compelled to see the good we do and are willing to help us achieve our goals."

Please visit our website:

www.haitioutreachmission.org

In addition to information about what we do you will find all of our past Newsletters and a link to our Mission 2018 video.

Or - Here is the URL of our 2018 video:

<https://youtu.be/X038zLPGnGk>

Haitian Network Group of Detroit (HNGD) promotes Haitian culture and diversity and contributes to the welfare of Haitians worldwide. Their Newsletter, *Zanmi Detroit*, included this article about HOM Executive Committee member Valerie McNeece. The article was written by Maggy Corkery.

CONGRATULATIONS VALERIE McNEECE!

Congratulations to Valerie McNeece, the recipient of the **Mercy High School 2018 Distinguished Alumna Award** which was presented to her on April 22. Valerie was recognized for her philanthropy and because she "has made a difference in the lives of countless people, while exemplifying the Mercy values of Human Dignity, Mercy, Justice, Service, and Option for the Poor and abroad with her mission work in Haiti".

Valerie has been very supportive of Haitian Network Group; we are particularly grateful to her because of her selfless dedication and commitment that has showed to the people of Mirebalais over the past 20 years. As she carried on with her work with Haiti Outreach Mission, through the lens of her ever present camera she has introduced us to the city of Mirebalais, and taken us to remote areas that otherwise we would have never heard of.



Valerie was not born in Haiti, but she has shown through her action that she is 100% Haitian. We love her for it!

Bravo Valerie! ■

Valerie sharing her love of photography with the children of Mirebalais (Haiti)

You may view Valerie's speech upon receiving her award at

<https://youtu.be/pNeaQ44-rmU>

Many of her photos are seen and she talks about some of her experiences in Haiti.

Through winning awards and selling her photos taken in Haiti, Valerie has raised thousands of dollars for HOM. All proceeds go to Haiti.

Thank You for Your Support!