

Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



Monthly Newsletter

December 2017

Welcome Home!

Our 8th annual medical mission team made a very successful trip to Chauffard, Haiti from November 8-14, 2017. They saw over 1050 patients, completed a community health survey and attended the dedication of the new clinic. All this was possible with the help of your donations! Here's a photo of the team in front of the new clinic. Read all about it on the next page.



Upcoming Events:

Monday December 18, 6:30 pm,
Rectory Meeting Room - **Planning Meeting** for carnival

Saturday January 13, 6-8 pm,
Church Hall - **Pasta Party**

Saturday January 27th, 11 am - 3 pm
- **Kids' Carnival for Haiti**, Parish Center. For more information, call Kate McMahon (315-492-2378).

Help Needed:

Carnival volunteers: We need people to: promote the carnival, set up, work during the event, bake & clean up afterwards. Please attend the planning meeting or call Kate McMahon (315-492-2378).

Pasta Party Coordinator: One person is needed to follow up with other groups, week before dinner.

Grant writing: We need someone to research suitable grants, fill out the applications, submit them, and follow up with the organizations.

**Supporting the Church of the Immaculate Conception,
Chauffard, Haiti, Father Raymond, Parish Priest**

Medical Mission Report

The November 2017 Medical Mission was the 8th time we funded volunteer medical staff from Central New York, Canada, and the UK to work with a Haitian doctor, nurses and translators in the newly rebuilt Chauffard clinic. As mentioned on the previous page, they saw over 1050 patients, some of whom walked many hours to Chauffard. This year we had our youngest-ever team member: Matthew Regan was still 17 during the trip. We again had team members from the same family: Nurse Pat Sovocool and her daughter, Meghan were on this year's trip. They also spoke at masses in December about the trip. Thanks to Pat and Meghan - and to the many, many other volunteers who contributed their time - here in preparation for the journey, and in Haiti.

Our mission trip is the only time of the year that doctors work in the clinic. There was a grand clinic dedication ceremony for the community the Sunday our team was there. The new building features exam rooms, a pharmacy, and bathrooms with gravity-fed, running cold water. Two team members asked questions on a Community Health Survey to gather food insecurity data, which will help us with grant proposals. Our volunteers have told me how much it means to the patients to receive their bag of vitamins and soap. The reading glasses and eyeglasses are life-changing for the patients that can use them. Your donations made this mission possible!

School Lunch Program

Despite our many efforts to secure outside funding, we continue to be the sole provider of money for the school lunch program for the five schools in the parish. Our twin parish educates over 1,100 students in five villages. We send them \$5,000 a month for the school lunches (rice and beans or fish, or pasta and sauce) and \$1,000 a month to supplement teachers' salaries and pay the school cooks. We continue to seek other sources of funding in the form of grants: for the school lunch program, to improve local residents' health and to start small businesses.



The new health clinic in the village of Chauffard was built with the help of your support! The previous clinic building was 60 years old and damaged in the 2010 earthquake.