



The Haiti Connection

News from the
St. Patrick's – St. Etienne Partnership

The blessings of the routine

This year, it was the hurricanes. As Harvey, Irma and Maria devastated communities both in the Caribbean and the US, many of us sat glued to our televisions and computers watching, hoping, praying, grieving. For Haiti watchers, it was a time of giving thanks. This time, we were spared.

Disasters are a strange thing. For all their destruction, the fury of fire, wind and water eventually abate, and give way to the power of community and human compassion. In the face of grave need, Americans are at our best: sleeves are rolled up, wallets opened, energy levels are high. No matter one's religion, no matter what we call it, we live the gospel message of caring for our neighbors.

Between the disasters lies the everyday. CNN and the Weather Channel aren't there, but each day there are 320 children in the village of St. Etienne being educated thanks to the generosity of donors like you. Each noontime, those children are being fed a nutritious lunch, with a full day's worth of calories. Each week, the sound of music emanates from dozens of donated ukuleles, and from the St. Patrick's-sponsored orchestra. **Ongoing support is not exciting, CNN rarely covers it, but it is life-giving.**

Won't you give now?



Photo by Victoria Gangotena



Even in a quiet year, however, building continues – literally as well as figuratively! While we continue to build relationships, the summer of 2017 saw the construction of three new classroom buildings, and the retrofitting of another. They will house the students of the St. Etienne High School, which, for the first time, includes all grades.

www.stpatrickschurchdc.org/give
(Social Concerns: Haiti)



In June, 2018, 24 students will be eligible to sit for national exams, and will be St. Etienne's first high school graduates. In prior years, students were required to complete their secondary education in cities such as Leogane or Port au Prince. For the first time, children can study PK-Grade 13 in their own village, living at home - something Americans take for granted.



Marcy Ference with St. Etienne Class of 2018

Photo by Davina Chu

This project, the capstone to a school which started as just a dream, was made possible through extraordinary gifts in honor of an extraordinary person. These classrooms are dedicated to Marcella Ference, without whom they never would have been possible. To St. Patrick's students, she is best known as Mrs. Ference, Physical Education teacher of 37 years. To generations of Haitian schoolchildren, she is Madame Marcy, godmother not only to families, but an entire village. For both, she has been the face of the St. Patrick's-St. Etienne Partnership for almost four decades.

Throughout, Marcy has acted as a force of nature to rival any hurricane – tirelessly advocating for the education, welfare and dignity of Haitian children; while also adamantly driving awareness, interest and empathy for Haiti in the US. She taught us to look beyond the poverty and see into the hearts of friends; beyond the need and into the beauty of Haitian culture. Though she retired from full-time teaching in June, 2017, Marcy has promised that she will continue in her work with Haiti. She will always be a welcome addition to any St. Patrick's trip, event or program.

No one knows what the future holds – but we can be sure wind, rain, and retirements will happen. Won't you help us be equally sure that the children of St. Etienne will continue to thrive and flourish?



**PLEASE,
give now to show your support
for the power of education
and for the
power of hope.**

www.stpatrickschurchdc.org/give
(Social Concerns: Haiti)



Yes, I want to help!



Wind, fire or rain – one thing stays the same:
100 percent of your gift to the St. Patrick's Haiti Partnership
goes directly to helping the children and families
of St. Etienne.

Teacher salaries range \$175-\$200/month
School tuition is \$150-\$200/child/year
Books cost \$50/child/year
Lunch costs \$1/day or \$192/year/child

\$1000	
\$500	
\$250	
\$100	
\$50	
Other	

Please visit St. Patrick's secure website: www.stpatrickschurchdc.org/give and select Haiti
OR Mail your gift to:
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 4700 Whitehaven Parkway NW, Washington, DC 20007
(Haiti in the memo line)

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

(Your e-mail address is safe with us! We will never sell it, give it away, or spam you.)

☐

My/Our employer will match this pledge. An appropriate form will be sent.

*Your contribution may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.
Please consult with your tax professional.*



By the numbers:

Seven fun facts about St. Patrick's and the Haiti Partnership



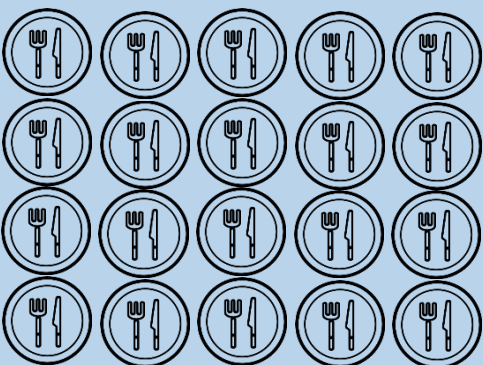
320

Students enrolled in St. Etienne School this year



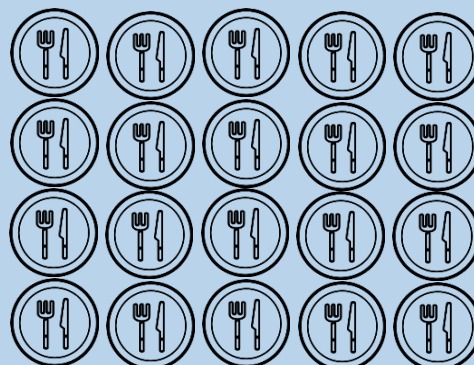
Classrooms built in 2017

4



44,800

School lunches served 2016-17



Donors like YOU who support St. Patrick's work in Haiti

698

41

Teachers employed by St. Etienne School

\$183

Average monthly teacher salary in St. Etienne

37

Years Marcy Ference has worked in Haiti

