



The Haiti Connection

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

Dearest friend of St. Etienne –

December is a month of contrasts. The nights feel very long, yet holiday light displays brighten both the night and the heart. The days are cold, but we are warmed by the anticipation of Christmas. We bemoan the commercialization of Christmas, yet at its heart is the act of giving to those we love.

*You have shown your love for the people of St. Etienne with your generosity in the past.
Please give today.*

2018 was also a year of contrasts for the Haiti Partnership at St. Patrick's. Without question, the high point of the year was the return of youth trips to the village. Because of issues in Haiti ranging from political unrest to the earthquake, no youth group has traveled with St. Patrick's since 2003. Last February, three Day School students traveled. In June, eight high school students from the Church hosted our first Summer Camp for Haitian youth. In October, seven more Day School students traveled, hosting an after school fair full of activities and friendship. For travelers of any age, these trips broaden the mind and the heart, but youth participants bring a special sort of enthusiasm. Even for the sophisticated and well-traveled children of Washington, DC, the sense of wonder and openness remains palpable. They quickly discover that the things seen as separating "us" from "them" - geography, socio-economics, and language – are quickly left behind during a heated soccer game, while coloring rainbows, or laughing at a movie and eating popcorn. They return to the US with a fresh perspective. In the words of one Day School student, "I feel like I have focused too much on the problems of my own life." Another, a high school traveler, said, "What amazed me was that people with so little were so willing to share what they had with us, people they had never met. How many Americans can say the same?"

*Will you share what you have, with people you have never met, but have always known?
Please give today.*

Another highlight of 2018 was the celebration of our first graduating class of seniors from high school. Prior to this, children in St. Etienne were faced with a crushing choice once they reached eighth grade – leave school; travel an hour or more each way on unsafe and expensive public transportation to school; or go to live with relatives, often just scraping by themselves, to attend school in another city. By adding upper grades in St. Etienne, 21 students were able to graduate high school in the village, and several attended university this fall. St. Etienne School started in the 1980s as a dream. It was nurtured and supported through adolescence; then launched in adulthood, achieving far more than its early supporters ever could have imagined. All of this is a product of the strength and sacrifice of the St. Etienne parents, and through the gifts of the Partnership donors at St. Patrick's and beyond.

Give today to help a child achieve the dream of high school graduation, and perhaps university.



The contrast to the high of youth travel is the low of financial reality. Even with the generosity of our many donors and friends, 2018 marked the first time since 2006 that St. Patrick's had to scale back our programs at St. Etienne School. Before the earthquake in 2010, St. Patrick's had facilitated the enrollment of St. Etienne in a USAID program which supplied lunch to all students. After the earthquake, this program was discontinued as USAID funds were redirected. In 2013, under the leadership of Mary Beth James, the lunch program was relaunched, initially funded by a few large gifts. In the ensuing years, the popularity of the program spread, as did the donor base, and we were able to expand to five lunches per week. However, since then, the costs of food have increased, and the student body at St. Etienne has grown. As a result, in the 2018-19 school year, we were forced to cut back to four lunches per week. While proven by scientific studies, one does not need to be a scientist to know that a hungry child does not learn. The lunch program feeds not only the bodies of its recipients. By extension, it feeds their minds.

Won't you give today to feed the minds, bodies and spirit of the students of St. Etienne?

The work of the Haiti Partnership goes beyond travel and fundraising. Day School students participate in service learning, which blends experience, learning and action. Our high school travelers have taken their experience beyond St. Patrick's, engaging their classmates and friends, and building the extended St. Patrick's family. Our introduction this year of "The Shoe That Grows," funded by several exceptionally generous benefactors, allowed us to gift footwear to 100 village children. Our partnership with other churches in the US gives them an outlet to magnify their smaller gifts into larger programs. Won't you help us extend this work in Haiti and the US? Can you multiply your gift via a corporate matching gift, by sharing this appeal with friends, or by recruiting larger sponsors on our behalf? Please help us break down the walls of "us" and "them." Know that 100 percent of your gift goes to the work in Haiti. We have no paid staff, and the only expense related to this appeal is for the postage to mail this letter.

The gift YOU give, no matter how large or small, is the most important one we will receive this year.

No Haiti appeal would be complete without a hearty and heartfelt THANK YOU to our donors, and for all those who pray for St. Etienne. Without you, there is no partnership, there is no program, there is no hope. Those of us who work in support of the program understand we are but stewards of your gifts, and keep you in our prayers always. May you and your loved ones have the most holy of Christmas seasons, may your 2019 be prosperous and healthy, and may God bless you and keep you in all your work and play.

Marilyn Nowalk
Co-Chair
St. Patrick's Haiti Partnership

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

December, 2018



St. Patrick's
in Haiti
2018



Yes, I want to help!



Tuition, books, lunch, shoes – what will be your gift?
100 percent of your donation 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 \$200-\$350/child/year
Books cost \$50/child/year
Lunch costs \$1.25/day or \$225/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.*