



**Spring 2016**

*“Anything that you will ask in my name I shall do for you...” John 14:13*



As we are approaching summer and the end of the school year, École Saint Barthélémy continues to grow in quality and quantity. The presence of our students at local and regional events exemplifies the quality education being provided at the school.

On February 28, in the City of Cap-Haitian, the Capital of the North, our children made a big impression at the Northern District Lego tournament that was comprised of 17 of the best teams in the North and Northeast. Although it was their first experience at this level, they came out greatly successful. Those future engineers and artists gave a demonstration that left everybody surprised. The participation of our school band, which accompanied the Lego team, brought a special touch to the event, so much so that the organizers already added them to their program for next year's tournament.



Thanks to a dynamic Sports Committee, a soccer tournament comprised of our high school players from all grades has maintained an atmosphere of joy, solidarity, and fair play in the School each week. From those players the best will be chosen to represent our school in tournaments in Terrier Rouge and beyond.

Last week, over the course of two days, we received applications from 110 new 3-year-old children for our preschool. As we cannot take all of them due to limited space, we made our selection after a small test. Our student population for the next school year will go over 1,000.

The student-teacher Cultural Committee is working hard on the first graduation of our high school students and the blessing of the third story of the second building on June 18th. The marching band, whose performance is getting better and better, is a part of all of these events happening in the life of our school and community. Beginning on June 19th, they will be part of an international music camp, which will be held at the School until July 11th.

Our regular visitors have not failed us this Spring. Our hostel facilities have received many groups who have enjoyed our hospitality. For the first time we hosted a youth group from the Church of St. Clement in Toronto. Taking advantage of their Spring break, they came here to discover the beauty of Haiti. Their comments about their stay were very positive.

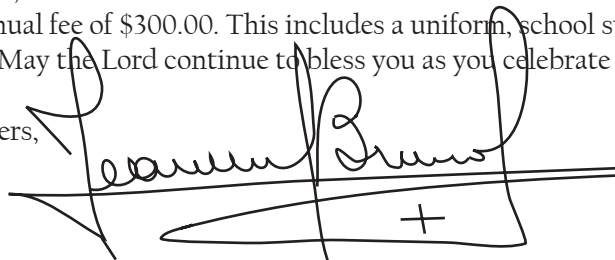
The Lord has poured His blessings on us, and we praise His name every day. But, please remember that He provides the means for the work through your support and generosity. Our children pray every single school day for you, their



sponsors and benefactors. As partners in this noble mission, we are all blessed.

Please join the others by sponsoring a child for annual fee of \$300.00. This includes a uniform, school supplies, tuition fees, medical care, and a good hot lunch every school day. May the Lord continue to bless you as you celebrate Pentecost.

This comes with the assurance of my prayers,





# Clinique Espérance et Vie



The Clinic's impact on this region in Haiti is growing. Patients continue to come for medication, medical attention, ophthalmology, and dental care. No one is ever turned away for their inability to pay. Every patient is cared for in a loving and respectful way. The kind, warm staff makes a strong team. They could not continue this important role without the support and generosity of your gifts!

The Clinic is working closely with local resources to address the issues of malnutrition. As I grow in community with some of the families close by, I can't help but see their extensive needs. The past few months have been heartbreaking and painful. The reality of the fight against malnutrition hits me like a sucker punch to the belly. Loving someone who is dying unnecessarily is beyond my understanding. The Clinic has just begun to work actively with the Ministry of Health in Haiti and Plumpy Nut (peanut based nutritional supplement) to combat the challenges we are facing.

During the past few months I have had the honor to watch big love, wild compassion, and phenomenal acts of service bring light across language barriers and cultural differences. By the end of March, over 50 visitors from the US and Canada felt called to make a difference in our little clinic in northeast Haiti.

What amazing acts of service we witnessed! With no reason, no external forces, these generous souls gave beyond their gifts. And, call it what you will, I have watched amazing acts of God's love. We are often called to be the physical manifestation of love in the world. I witnessed this work happening in this small clinic in Northeast Haiti. I saw lives dramatically changed. These groups gave their time and energy to better the lives of complete strangers.

A team from the Athens Orthopedic Clinic performed 30 surgeries that impacted the quality of life for many families.



Multiple college groups came and assisted the Clinic's forces to expand their outreach program. These students worked closely with a 6th grade after-school program, members of the deaf community, as well as a local special needs school.

Realities shift when we work together to impact the lives of others. Language barriers are set aside; hearts connect beyond all cultural differences. In this land of vulnerability, we all have felt the magic of what happens when we just show up for one another. The people that visit here will never see the world in the same way. Their experiences will sit in a very special place in their heart. The smiles, hugs, and stories will be a continual reminder of the grace that is in the world. We thank them for their own personal involvement in creating and providing a piece of that grace.

*Melissa Hamlin, Executive Director*

## Jatrofa Projenou NEWS



**Learning trades and growing jobs.** Our apprenticeship program is up and running and giving the chance of a lifetime to young people. Young Haitians who face the bleak future of more of the same poverty into which they were born now have an alternative. The program gives them the opportunity to learn a trade from a master and get on track for a vocation that can deliver dignity and economic security. We now have apprenticeships in engine mechanics, tailoring, soap-making, beekeeping, and more on the way with a cabinetmaker, an electrician, and a welder. The beauty of the program is that it not only transfers skill knowledge from master to apprentice,

but it also enables the master's business to grow to create jobs in the local community. During the apprenticeship period (usually one year), we monitor the apprentices' performance and help the masters with their business. What does it take? \$185 for a one-year apprenticeship will launch a life and build a community economy. That's an amazing value for a life-changer!

*Rob Fisher*

*JP Jatrofa Projenou*

*Sustainable economic development in rural Haiti*



*Guess who's happy about getting a JP apprenticeship to learn a trade? Yes, all of them.*

*Making a Difference in Haiti*