

# Bethlehem Ministry

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

*Matching Gift  
Announced*

**DOUBLE YOUR  
IMPACT**  
*with a  
Donation Before  
December 31st!*

FALL 2023





## RESTORING SIGHT IN HAITI – A DAY AT THE EYE CLINIC

Clinique Espérance et Vie has had an eye clinic for many years, currently led by ophthalmologist Dr. Carmel. Vision care is incredibly scarce in Haiti. There are fewer than 100 (not a typo!) ophthalmologists in the ENTIRE country of over 11 million people. Not surprisingly, few Haitians ever receive a basic eye exam, let alone treatment for problems, and the rate of blindness is very high. You can imagine then, how life-changing the work of the eye clinic of Clinique Espérance et Vie is!

	United States	Haiti
Ophthalmologists per 1000 people	1.1	0.009
Percentage of population legally blind	0.3%	4.27%



The gates of the clinic open first thing in the morning and the lines begin to form. Many have traveled a long distance, on foot, to be here.



The eye clinic is currently housed in one large room, which is cramped for all the tasks that need to be done there.



Dr. Carmel performs a careful exam. If a patient needs glasses, prescription lenses will be prepared in Cap Haitian and the finished glasses will be ready at the clinic in about a week!



A satisfied patient! Think of the difference having glasses will make in her life!

## UPDATE ON ST. BARTHÉLÉMY ALUMNI

Donors often ask what awaits a graduate of St. Barthélémy after graduation. Are they able to go on to college/university? **The answer is yes!** In its Fall 2022 newsletter, Bethlehem Ministry spotlighted three St. Bart's graduates who have gone on to university with the continuing help of their sponsors. We are happy to report that Djerry Jean-Louis continues in his premed studies at University Chretienne Caiman Pignon. Nathanaelle Alouidor is also continuing her premed studies at University Roi Henry Christophe, Cap Haitien Sciences Medicales Laboratoire. The third student spotlighted in 2022, DJefferly Felix, is studying computer science at University Henri Christophe in Limonade. **If you are interested in helping a St. Bart's graduate attend university, please contact us!**



Left to Right: Djerry Jean-Louis, Nathanaelle Alouidor, DJefferly Felix

*Making a Difference in Haiti*

## ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Our annual campaign is almost complete! Don't miss the chance to DOUBLE your impact with a matching gift through December 31st. Our vibrant motif celebrates more than one meaning. The first relates to Colossians 2:2 "May your hearts be encouraged as you are knit together by strong ties of love." Your prayers and support for the people of Haiti knit you together with ties of love to them. Your care encourages them, and we hope you are encouraged by the difference being made in their lives. Another meaning of the motif is the way in which the programs are stronger together by meeting different, but essential, needs with the purple strands of "Where Needed Most" donations weaving throughout, holding the entirety together.



Education



Healthcare



Humanitarian  
Aid



Sustainability



Where Needed  
Most



### YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK: DEVELOPING STUDENTS WHO WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HAITI

When I visited Terrier Rouge in May 2023, I encountered many friendly and engaging students, one of whom was Weedley Baptiste, Class of 2026. I was impressed with Weedley's poise, aspirations and ability to express himself so articulately. His favorite subject is math and he wants to become an engineer, but he also enjoys teaching English to other students and he plays the saxophone in the band. Weedley is a testament to St. Barthélémy and what has been made possible with donor support. He recently recorded a special message and in it, one of the things he says is that he wants to "give back" what he has "taken in" at St. Barthélémy. This is what Haiti desperately needs: capable, educated Haitians that want to give back and make a difference. To hear Weedley's full message, scan the QR code. *Thank you donors for making the education of Weedley, and promising other students like him, possible!*

—Renna Henry

## STAFFING NEWS

Bethlehem Ministry is pleased to introduce Courtney Di Stefano as its new Director of Donor Engagement and Communications. Courtney is passionate about our mission, has a skillset that we are excited to draw on, and a "can do" attitude, as well as significant nonprofit experience. Please feel free to contact her at [courtney@bethlehemministry.org](mailto:courtney@bethlehemministry.org) or at (844) 424-8410.



*"My deep dedication and extensive experience are in helping provide opportunities for those who need them most, including food aid, education, and sustainable economic and environmental solutions. I also have a versatile background and a profound passion for building relationships and producing communications – with documentary-style editing among them. My BA in Film Studies and Production illustrates my love for telling people's stories, while my MA in Social Justice and Global Development confirms my devotion to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive world. It truly warms my heart to see Bethlehem Ministry has made possible the prosperity of the St. Barthélémy school, healthcare Clinique Espérance et Vie, and sustainable solutions through Jatrofa Projenou for the wonderful people of Terrier Rouge! I am thrilled about joining Bethlehem Ministry to ensure the success of this organization's fundamental mission!"* —Courtney Di Stefano



# CHARITABLE GIVING FOCUS

## DONATING APPRECIATED SECURITIES

**Last newsletter** we highlighted making qualified charitable distributions from IRAs. This newsletter we look at another potential way to gain tax benefits from your charitable giving: by donating appreciated securities like stocks, bonds or mutual funds. **Bethlehem Ministry welcomes donations of marketable securities and would be happy to work with you on facilitating such a donation.**

By donating long-term appreciated securities (i.e. securities you've held for longer than 12 months), you can avoid paying capital gains taxes and maximize the value of your gift since qualifying nonprofits are exempt from capital gains taxes.

The benefits of donating appreciated securities are compounding:

- ▶ You're able to deduct the full fair market value of the investment as a charitable deduction (up to 30% of your AGI)
- ▶ You (and the charity) permanently avoid paying capital gains taxes on the donated securities
- ▶ The charity receives the full value of the securities (vs. after-tax value)
- ▶ You'll have more cash available to either reinvest or direct toward other personal financial goals and priorities
- ▶ It may help you stay in line with your portfolio diversification strategy without forcing you to sell off holdings and pay capital gains taxes

Similar to a QCD, **this strategy only works if you donate the assets *directly* to the operating charitable organization.** That is, you cannot maximize the tax benefits if you sell the securities and donate the proceeds. At that point, the proceeds would be subject to capital gains taxes, ultimately lowering the total amount available to donate. *Because donating stock directly to a charity can be a complex transaction with many considerations, we recommend consulting your tax or financial advisor to evaluate the best stocks to donate and the overall tax implications for your personal financial plan.* Once the securities are transferred to the charitable organization, they can choose to either sell the appreciated assets or hold onto the investments and let them grow.

**For more information, scan the QR code** or go to [elwoodgoetz.com/blog/qualified-charitable-distributions](http://elwoodgoetz.com/blog/qualified-charitable-distributions). If you would like to talk more about how you may be able to use this or other charitable giving strategies, please contact Board member Melissa Barron at Elwood & Goetz: [melissa@elwoodgoetz.com](mailto:melissa@elwoodgoetz.com) or 706.548.1025.

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**Cover:** Our cover features students of St. Barthélemy during the annual Agriculture Day parade. The day celebrates the bounty of the land and the hard work of farmers. This is especially important in Haiti because it suffers from widespread food insecurity. Jatrofa Projenou and Espérance et Vie are both working on agriculture projects to insure more people in Haiti have food security.



▶ **To Donate to the Annual Campaign, Designate Your Donation for “Where Needed Most”**

CONTACT US

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