

## THE HAITIAN TIMES

A publication of the  
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For your convenience and to help us all "go green," we would like to send you our mailings through e-mail. But we need your e-mail address.

Simply send that address (accompanied by your name) to: [info@haitianministries.org](mailto:info@haitianministries.org).

Along with newsletters, you will receive other occasional e-mailings—through our list serve. We determine the short content of these list serve e-mailings, which usually go out once every week or two. They contain news or announcements about Haitian Ministries and its partners or national/international news and features related to Haiti.

We are the only manager of our list serve, and we do not share e-mail addresses with anyone or any other organization. We welcome an easier, greener way of staying in touch.



*Anthony Collins, the gala emcee, holds a photo of one of the girls at Paula Thybulle's orphanage while telling the story of how her life was saved.*



*Guests view Haitian art for sale at the gala.*



*Ann Nyberg, news anchor for Channel 8-New Haven, speaks to the guests as gala Honorary Chairperson.*

*Photos by Marc-Yves Regis*

*During the cocktail hour, Amber Walsh (left) talks with Emily Smack (center), the executive director of Haitian Ministries, and Elizabeth Sipple, the new director of Norwich Mission House. Amber worked for Haitian Ministries for four years as both mission house director and development director.*

## 'For the Love of a Child' Brings Reward

Our 3rd Annual 'For the Love of a Child' gala in New London last April was a walloping success. We thank all 235 guests and many others who donated to the cause. The gala netted almost \$80,000.

We are particularly grateful to the 70 guests who sponsored children in Haiti for a year, and to the people who donated wonderful items and opportunities for our live auction.

We have special appreciation for gala Honorary Chairperson Ann Nyberg.

This year's gala marked the third time we have held 'For the Love of a Child' at the Crocker House Ballroom in New London. It has been a fantastic venue, always attracting a full house. We thank Anthony Collins and Alva Greenberg, originators of the gala, for all they have done to make the events outstanding.

Much of the success of this gala can be attributed to the hard work and creativity of many talented people, particularly those on the Gala Committee, including Rosemary Strekel and Catherine and Peter Hughes. *Mesi ampil.*

## Join Us TO CELEBRATE WITH PENGUINS!

*Saturday, April 17, 2010. Save that date!  
Mystic Aquarium. Be there!*

We invite you to join us and "special guest" penguins at the 4th Annual 'For the Love of a Child' gala.

To create a distinctive occasion during Haitian Ministries' 25th anniversary year, our gala moves to one of Connecticut's top destinations. The aquarium's penguins—closely monitored by trained staff—will join guests in the main indoor gallery during the evening's welcome hour. Guests will later be served a Caribbean-flavored three-course meal.

The gala will feature a live auction and fine Haitian art for sale.

For more information, or to make your reservations, contact us at: [info@haitianministries.org](mailto:info@haitianministries.org), or call: 860.848.2237 ext. 206.

### Twin Churches Welcome

## 'Ride to Help Haiti's Kids'

Parishioners from churches in Coventry, Tolland and Hebron greeted motorcycle riders in a September fund-raiser with refreshments and displays and information about their twin parishes in Haiti.

Bikers in the 'Ride to Help Haiti's Kids' on Sept. 20, travelled a 107-mile route that took them from Norwich—where they departed after a special Blessing of the Bikes by Norwich Diocese Monsignor Robert L. Brown—to St. Mary in Coventry, St. Matthew in Tolland, and The Church of the Holy Family in Hebron. After their third stop, they went to their destination: St. Mary in Norwich, where

Haitians in the congregation had prepared a feast.

Ken Soudan, an Old Saybrook resident and Haitian Ministries board member, organized the first-time fundraiser to benefit needy children in Haitian Ministry's programs that provide food, shelter, medical care, and education.

At day's end, he said, "Everyone who was in the ride had a good time. The twins did a great job with welcoming the riders and educating them about Haiti. And Fr. Gerry (Kirby) and the Haitian community at St. Mary, who decorated the room in red and blue—the Haitian colors—did such a fantastic job. We are very grateful to the Haitians for this."

## New Leadership

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the United States to visit their twins.

Until January 2009, Elizabeth worked in Haiti for three years with AMURT as director of tropical agriculture. The program in the northwest region of the country has 12 employees, and her duties included managing fruit and forestry tree nurseries and a demonstration farm and training center.

Elizabeth first went to Haiti in the summer of 2002, when she volunteered at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Deschapelles.

She is enthusiastic about taking on new challenges in Haiti, a country she has loved for years.

"What appeals to me most about working for

Haitian Ministries is the mission: helping Haitians with their own initiatives. And most of the funding is from private individuals, so you're not going in with a big development agenda" to foist on others.

"Another part of the job that really intrigues me," she said, "is doing advocacy work with visitors coming from the

United States and interesting them in Haiti and the cause. I'm very excited about that."

### Jillian Thorp

Jillian is a 23-year-old graduate of George Mason University, where she majored in global affairs.

Until this summer, she was with the international humanitarian organization CARE for six months as an associate in organizing its annual conference in Washington, DC. From January 2008 to early 2009, she was a development associate for Global Action for Children, a non-profit advocating for orphans and other children at risk.



*Dominique Georges*

Jillian will work closely with travelers staying at the mission house, escorting them on their daily outings to projects throughout Port-au-Prince. Also, she will have a hand in managing the Tierney-Tobin Memorial Scholarship Program, which has 150 students. These children, teenagers and young adults—ranging from first-graders to univer-

sity students—are able to attend school because of the generosity of donor-sponsors who pay their tuitions. (There are few public schools in Haiti.)

In her new job, Jillian anticipates developing the immersion trips, especially for repeat-visitors. "It's a very good experience now," she said. "But we want to take it to a higher level."

Jillian first went to Haiti as a teenager with her father, and they stayed at Norwich Mission House. She spent much of her childhood in Old Saybrook, where her parents still live. Her husband, Frank, will join her in Haiti in February.

### Dominique Georges

Dominique, 35, joined the mission house staff in the fall of 2000 as a driver/interpreter. He has had many duties over the years. In his new position, he will take part in all facets of work, including Tierney-Tobin, the immersion trips, the twinning program, and finances.

Dom has a degree in business management.

"It's great being able to serve the needy of my country through Norwich Mission House," he said. He hopes to strengthen and expand the education program and help to find jobs for the university graduates in Tierney-Tobin. "Education," he said, "is the key to success."

A native of Port-au-Prince, he is married and has an 8-year-old daughter.

## There Are Many Ways To Make a Difference

There are many ways to help. Here are a few:

### ■ Donate Frequent Flyer Miles

Staff in Connecticut and in Haiti must often fly on business to and from Haiti. They lead immersion trips, accompany Haitian priests on their visits to American parishes, and buy crafts from Haitian artisans to sell at the non-profit shop Haiti's Back Porch and online.

### ■ Use GoodSearch

Just through Internet searches, you can help. It is easy. Get started at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). Then, below the gray box asking, "Who do you GoodSearch for," type: Haitian Ministries.

Now you are ready for your search, and you've registered Haitian Ministries to receive money. You will also see how easy it is to make GoodSearch your permanent search engine. And when you shop through GoodSearch, a portion of the proceeds comes to us.

### ■ Learn about Matching Gifts

Find out if your employer matches gifts you make to charity. If so, notify us and we will take care of needed paperwork.

## Delegate Appointed

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are in immersion trips from Connecticut and elsewhere in the United States and travel to Haiti to learn about the country, its people and culture and to see the programs and projects supported by Haitian Ministries.

Other lodgers at the house include medical mission teams, which go to Port-au-Prince at least twice a year. The house also serves as a small conference center for other non-profits in Haiti, and it is a fellowship center for the Haitian priests whose parishes within the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince are twinned with parishes in the United States.

Hospice St. Joseph is a guest house for medical groups traveling to Haiti and for patients from the provinces seeking care in the capital. Like Haitian Ministries, it provides scholarships for students who otherwise could not enroll in school.

"I'm excited about this new job," said Sr. Yannick. "I feel it's God asking me to do this, and I've always wanted to work with the poor, particularly Haitians."

Sr. Yannick will also work with the Haitian priests whose parishes are in twinning relationships. "I will accompany them when they travel to the United States" to assist in their travel and provide English-Creole translations. Several of the Haitian priests make annual visits here to the twins, which include The Church of the Holy Family in Hebron; St. Mary in Coventry; St. Mark of Westbrook; St. John of Montville; St. Matthew in Tolland; Sacred Heart in Groton. (Mercy High School in Middletown also is in a twinning relationship. The Catholic girls' high school is partnered with a girls' orphanage run by Paula Thybulle, Le Foyer des Filles de Dieu.)



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OUR MISSION: Helping Haitians Help Haitians



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Three friends at Foyer des Filles de Dieu. The girls' orphanage, run by Paula Thybulle, has been a long-time partner of Haitian Ministries.



## The Silver Year Is Coming!

Haitian Ministries will celebrate its 25th anniversary in year 2010. The year will mark a milestone for the ministry and for all our partners in Haiti and the United States. It will be a time to thank our donors once again and remind them how their generosity has lifted up so many. It will also be a time to seek new Partners for Haiti. We hope you will join in the festivities — large and small — throughout the year, which we will begin to announce as the new year nears.

## Emergency Aid Delivered

After four hurricanes devastated much of Haiti last fall, donors in Connecticut and across the country responded to a call for help with \$48,000 in relief funds. Here is a sampling of the aid that resulted:

- The parish of St. Jude opened a special food canteen for thousands in the community and supplied extra prepared meals for its schoolchildren and their families. (The canteen is an on-going project.) The church served as temporary shelter for some individuals and families. Dozens of homes needed roof and wall repairs, some needed rebuilding, and the rectory needed repairs.
- The parish of Notre Dame de la Presentation des Palmes bought food for the many workers needed to dig out miles of the long and winding dirt

road that leads to the mountainous region. People received 400 bags of cement for house repairs and 86 goats and 44 pigs to replace some of the livestock killed.

- The parish of St. Genevieve distributed the equivalent of \$100 to 50 people who suffered loss of property, livestock and plants.
- The parish of St. Anne gave food to 170 families who lost everything but their lives in the flooding.
- Tuitions to a new school were paid for 40 students in Port-au-Prince after their former school collapsed only weeks into the academic year. (Their tuition payments to that destroyed school were not refunded.)



Yolanda Jacques, a Haitian now living in Norwich, joins in a September celebration of Haitian Ministries' work during the 'Ride to Help Haiti's Kids.' See story on Page 3.

## BISHOP COTE APPOINTS DELEGATE TO HAITI MISSIONS

A new Bishop's Representative to Haiti began work in September with Norwich Mission House and Hospice St. Joseph, both arms of the Diocese of Norwich and its work for Haitians in need. Sister Marie Yannick Saieh is a native of Haiti but has lived most of her 57 years in the United States. She now resides in Port-au-Prince with a community of her sisters, not far from the hospice center. Appointed by Bishop Michael R. Cote last summer, Sr. Yannick works with the staff and visitors at both Haitian Ministries' mission house and the hospice, helping to enrich the spiritual life.



Sister Marie Yannick Saieh

She is a pharmacist who earned her degree at the University of Illinois in Chicago, where she went after completing high school in Haiti. She worked as a pharmacist prior to entering the convent at age 29. As a member of her community (Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny), she continued to work as a pharmacist until recent years. She left Middletown, RI, for her appointment to Haiti. Norwich Mission House is owned and operated by the Haitian Ministries for the Diocese of Norwich and has been in the impoverished Caribbean nation for almost 25 years. The mission house is the ministry's realization of a goal to maintain a permanent presence in Haiti while fulfilling the mission of "Helping Haitians help Haitians."

The house welcomes travelers throughout the year. Many

## New Leadership At Mission House

New faces will greet visitors to the Norwich Mission House. Elizabeth G. Sipple has been appointed the director. Jillian P. Thorp is one of two new assistant directors.



Elizabeth G. Sipple

The women replace Nick Kocmich and Colleen Larkin, both of whom returned to the United States to pursue advanced degrees. Dominique Georges, who has worked at the mission house for almost 10 years, was recently made assistant director. Elizabeth, 27, is a Vermont native and a graduate of the University of Vermont with a degree in environmental studies. She is fluent in Creole. Along with other duties, she will work closely with the Haitian Ministries' twinning program, which partners 11 Haitian parishes and two orphanages with 12 American parishes and Mercy High School in Middletown, CT. On occasion, Elizabeth will accompany Haitian priests when they travel to

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PARTNERS FOR HAITI

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