

Martha's Vineyard Fish Farm Haiti Project

An Island-wide humanitarian mission organized by

Little Children of Mary

PO Box 1803

Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

www.fishfarmhaiti.org

Praised be Jesus!

April, 2011 Newsletter

LATEST HAPPENINGS



The volunteers of the Fish Farm for Haiti Project have not forgotten that there are still hundreds of thousands of people living in tent cities in debilitating circumstances from the effects of the earthquake that struck just over a year ago. Since our last newsletter our volunteers have been working diligently organizing fund raisers and collecting humanitarian supplies. **Dr. Jason Lew** and the **Martha's Vineyard Hospital** have donated medical supplies and hospital equipment. Clothing, blankets, tents, household articles, and school supplies have been collected. Students of the **Martha's Vineyard Regional High**

School and other community volunteers have contributed their time and skills to convert the bus that the **Vineyard Transit Authority** donated into a container. Seats were removed, a partition built behind the driver's seat, and brackets were added on top of the bus for additional transportation space. The bus will be filled with the donated supplies and equipment, shipped, and later used as a mobile clinic to bring medical relief to those living in remote areas of the country. Thanks to the artwork of the students there will be no difficulty recognizing the bus once it is in Haiti and the large red cross on its roof should help us follow it on Google Earth!

A LOOK BACK OVER THIS PAST YEAR

Construction Campaign

In November of 2009 we brought funding to Haiti to begin the construction of a second story on the living quarters at the Project in order to allow the volunteers of the Fish Farm Project and PeaceQuilts to stay at the site without disrupting the lives of the Sisters who live there. On January 12, 2010, the very same day the earthquake struck, the cement blocks and material for the construction arrived. Needless to say the second story was never built. Instead we had to reconstruct the entire wall surrounding the compound which had collapsed. The possibility of future earthquakes has ruled out a second story. We have begun the construction of a new building for the much needed expansion of the living quarters. The building is estimated to cost \$65,000. Once completed it will not only allow larger groups of volunteers to come to Haiti but will also be used for a meeting place for the community. Please be generous in helping us complete this construction. Every dollar will be gratefully appreciated!

Tennis Tournament Benefit

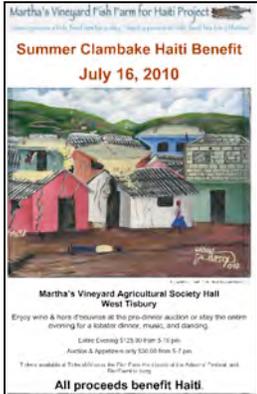
Our 3rd annual tennis tournament concluded on June 27. The event was held for the first time on the **Farm Neck** Tennis courts. **Mas Kimball**, pro at Farm Neck Tennis, was the principal organizer and tournament director. The tournament started Friday afternoon with 59 players participating in 5 different events in Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Several of the top pros on the island participated, making the Men's Doubles Finals a real crowd pleaser. We join Mas in thanking all those who worked hard to make this such a successful tournament, especially the **Farm Neck Golf Club**, **Mike Johns**, Farm Neck Tennis Director, **Jessie Bouchard**, and **Barbara Leonard**.



✓ Mark your calendars now for our 4th annual tennis tournament: **June 24, 25, & 26, 2011.**

Summer Clambake and Auction

On Friday, July 16th the Summer Clambake Haiti Benefit was held at the Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury. Co-sponsored by the **Agricultural Society**, the event had the perfect location and weather for the evening.



Live music by the Jazz Duo **Jeremy Berlin** and **Eric Johnson** floated in the air while attendees bid on items donated by local businesses and individuals. Delicious hors d'oeuvres and wine that were donated by **Tea Lane Caterers**, **Little Rock Farm**, the **Net Result**, **Sweet Life Café**, **Chilmark Chocolates**, **Pam's Pesto**, **Jim's Market**, **Al's**, **Cappy's**, and **Tony's Market**, were circulating in abundance.

Trip Barnes was the auctioneer for the live auction segment of the event and as always Trip lived up to his reputation as an entertainer!

Music during and after the clambake followed by dancing was provided by **Tristan Israel**, **Nancy Jephcote**, **Paul Thurlow**, **Tom Hodgson**, and **Didi Jérémie**, a Haitian singer and songwriter,

This event which was chaired by volunteer **Carolyn Stoeber**, was deemed a huge success and all the proceeds have gone to help our Haitian brothers and sisters.

Artisan's Festival Fund Raiser

All summer long beginning over Memorial Day weekend until Columbus Day weekend we were blessed with the donation of a space at the **Artisans Festival** at the Grange in West Tisbury. Haitian paintings and metal art that we had purchased during our May mission to Haiti were sold and information and pictures of our work in Haiti were displayed. We thank **Andrea Rogers** and the artisans for giving us this wonderful opportunity to promote our work, fundraise, and make many new friends.



PeaceCraft Holiday Benefit Sale

We held our 14th annual holiday PeaceCraft Sale at **Pyewacket's** thanks to owners **Karen Coffey & Dan Koch** who donated two rooms to us in their antique store on Beach Road in Vineyard Haven. Beautiful and unique crafts from self-help projects in the poorest areas all over the world including Haiti were sold benefiting the artisans, the projects they came from, and the Fish Farm for Haiti Project. Thank you and bless you, Karen and Dan for making this year's sale possible.

Since the Earthquake

Board members **Karen Flynn** and **Margaret Pénicaud** have each traveled twice to Haiti since the earthquake. In May Karen traveled with volunteers of **PeaceQuilts** to help oversee the development of two new co-operatives, bring supplies and returned with beautiful new original quilts. You can purchase these works of art and learn more about PeaceQuilts at www.haitipeacequilts.org. Karen has since returned to Haiti with volunteers from **Haitian Outreach** of Leominster, MA to help with the distribution of backpacks to the children who are sponsored to attend schools – including ours - run by the Daughters of Mary Queen Immaculate.





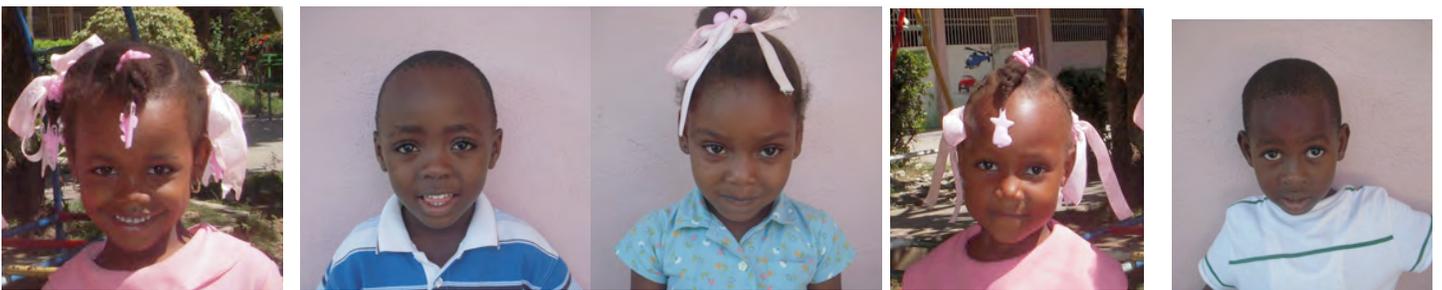
Later in May Margaret traveled with volunteers **Carolyn Stoeber, Dr. Bruce Stelle, and Ed Peitler** to deliver relief supplies and funding, purchase art for fund raising, check on the sponsored children, and to assess and document the needs in Lilavois and at the clinic in Roche-à-Bateau. On this trip we met 57 orphans whose orphanage was destroyed during the earthquake and who were living in tents



At the end of October Margaret returned to Haiti with **Andrew Hogan, Molly Bangs, Joanne Connolly, Elaine Morrison, and Richard Smith**. You can see photos and read accounts of these trips and Molly's journal on our website: www.fishfarmhaiti.org.

Sponsorship Program

Children are the future of Haiti, which is why education is one of the most important keys to helping Haiti. There are very few public schools in Haiti. Since the earthquake even children who were enrolled in school now need sponsors to be able to continue. For just **\$185** a year your child will receive tuition assistance, a uniform, backpack, shoes, socks, underwear, school supplies, and the opportunity to better his/her life. You will receive a picture of your child and information about him or her. The children call their sponsors "Godmother" or "Godfather" and express their appreciation in a thank you letter or, in the case of younger children, in a drawing. Each time we go to Haiti we check in on the children making sure they are in school. We also deliver letters, pictures, and small gifts hoping that your relationship will develop into a lasting and rewarding friendship. Pictured here are just a few of the many children in need of sponsors.



Make your check out to "Fish Farm Haiti" and write "sponsorship" in the memo. Be sure to include your telephone number and email address. Mail it to PO Box 1803, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

Miracles can happen when people work together in solidarity to help others.



A personal Journey of Faith – Margaret Mayhew Pénicaud

How did the Fish Farm Haiti Project get started?

The events in a small village in Bosnia-Herzegovina (in former Yugoslavia) have made a radical impact on my journey of faith.

In June 1981, Mary, Mother of Jesus, began appearing to six children in the village of Medjugorje, bringing messages of peace and hope. To this day, almost 30 years later she continues to appear daily, urging us to spend time every day talking and listening to God, reading the Bible, doing penance and converting our hearts. "Put God in the first place in your lives".

She asks us to fast and pray for peace in the world, and to live and transform her messages into life. "The perfect fast is bread and water." "Through prayer and fasting you can stop wars and suspend natural law." Fasting has enhanced my prayer life. It intensifies the Word of God. It has heightened my awareness of the critical role food plays in our lives, and therefore, the plight of those who are without. Go to www.medjugorje.org for more information.

I met Sr. Monique Saint-Louis the founder of the Daughters of Mary Queen Immaculate when she came to Martha's Vineyard to recuperate from annual eye surgery. These encounters led to my visiting Haiti where I encountered abject poverty first-hand. In prayer I asked God how I could help. "Fish farming" was the unexpected and unusual answer that came to me. Within hours the location, the technical assistance, and the permission to "go-ahead" all came together.

March 25, 2011 - Message of Our Lady Queen of Peace – Medjugorje

"Dear children! In a special way today I desire to call you to conversion. As of today, may new life begin in your heart. Children, I desire to see your `yes', and may your life be a joyful living of God's will at every moment of your life. In a special way today, I bless you with my motherly blessing of peace, love and unity in my heart and in the heart of my Son Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call."



For those of you who live on Martha's Vineyard, you may have seen our ads with Our Lady's messages in the Martha's Vineyard Times. A special fund has been created to underwrite costs for publicizing Our Lady's messages. If you would like to help continue this effort, please make your tax-deductible donation out to "Little Children of Mary" and designate "Messages" in the memo.

Prayer Group

Join us **Mondays, 3:00 pm** at the **Martha's Vineyard Hospital Chapel** as we pray, praise God, learn about, and try to live and transform into life the messages of Our Lady Queen of Peace.

About Us

Little Children of Mary is an all-volunteer, non-profit, charitable organization which is open to all faith traditions in a spirit of solidarity. Tax-exempt donations may be made out to **Little Children of Mary** or **Fish Farm Haiti Project**. To further direct your donations please make a note in the memo and mail it to **PO Box 1803, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568**. Thank you for your generosity.