



**Donate now to help us continue to support the programs of our mission partners**

**Donations can be made by:**

Check to Friends of SJF at: P.O. Box 317, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Give online at: [www.friendsofsjf.org](http://www.friendsofsjf.org)

Give through Fidelity Charitable at: <https://www.fidelitycharitable.org>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Here is my donation for general operations at SJF**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I want to sponsor a Wings of Hope resident.**

Here is my donation for \$420 for a yearly sponsorship.

I will sign up for recurring donations online (\$35/mo)

I want to sponsor (resident's name) \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a Wings of Hope resident for me

**I want to sponsor a classroom at Lekòl Sen Trinite.**

Here is my donation for \$960 for a yearly sponsorship.

I will sign up for recurring donations online (\$80/mo)

I want to sponsor grade \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a LST classroom for me

*Friends of SJF is a 501(c) organization, established in 2015.  
All donations are fully tax-deductible. EIN: 47-4712188*



# Friends of SJF

*Fall 2023 Newsletter*



Like us on  [www.facebook.com/friendsofsjf](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofsjf)

Follow us on  [@friendsofsjf](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofsjf)

Find us at  <http://friendsofsjf.org>







## Fun-Filled Days at Wings of Hope



# Give a gift with meaning

The needs for Wings of Hope are great and on-going. With the economic and social crises of the past few years the needs have continually increased as prices have gone up and supplies have become less available. Meeting the basic daily needs at Wings of



becoming more and more challenging.

Your donation can help Wings of Hope face these challenges. Below is a list of some of the daily needs at Wings of Hope that your general operations donations will help with.

**This holiday season give the gift of goodwill when you fill the stockings of your friends and family. Your donation in their honor will fill their hearts with joy and will provide for the residents at Wings of Hope.**

### **Cost for 100 meals a day: \$125**

Three nutritious meals are provided every day at Wings of Hope. This means 36,000 meals a year are served to the residents.



**Diaper cost: \$30 per day/\$210 per week**  
Because of their disabilities, many Wings of Hope residents use diapers. Multiple diaper changes a day is a large expense.

### **Medicine cost: \$20 per day/\$140 per week**

Daily medications are a major expense for Wings of Hope due to the complex medical needs of the residents.



### **Cost for 1 tanker of water: \$60**

Non-potable water has to be purchased for bathing and cleaning. Each week Wings uses 4 tankers of water.

### **Weekly cost for drinking water: \$75**

In Haiti, clean and safe drinking water isn't readily available, so each day Wings of Hope must purchase multiple 5-gallon jugs of water.





# Commencement...and A New Year Begins

In July, Lekòl Sen Trinite graduated its first class of ninth graders. This has been an achievement that both the students and the school have been working on for many years. Three years ago, LST started the process of adding seventh, eighth, and ninth grades. The 2022-2023 school year was the first year for the ninth-grade class. Of the eight graduates, six had been attending LST since kindergarten. Two of the graduates started attending LST in the eighth grade.

It was a celebration of achievements, memories, and support. There were speeches both from and about the graduates. Each of the graduates received a medal honoring their academic achievements. The members of the cooking class received certificates and presented a cooking demonstration. The music students presented a special song. There was laughter shared and tears shed.

Select members of the seventh and eighth grades were present and recognized as the future leaders of LST. The graduates passed on the "flame of knowledge" to one of the members of the upcoming ninth grade class.

In attendance were the graduates' families, the LST teachers, select fellow students, and the St. Joseph Family leadership. Following the graduation ceremony, a reception and lunch were held for the graduates and their guests.

A week after graduation, the eight LST graduates had to take a multi-day government exam. The result of this exam determines whether or not they are allowed to continue their education. All eight students from LST passed their exams! The national average for passing these rigorous exams was 80%. The LST students' 100% pass rate is something to celebrate and be proud of. Their accomplishment shows the quality of education at LST and what a first-rate education can do for students.



The students and staff returned to Lekòl Sen Trinite the second week of September. The first grading period came at the end of October. All the students are happy to be back in the classroom and to see their friends again; and the teachers are hard at work educating young minds.

Classes at LST go from multi-year Montessori pre-school/kindergarten classrooms through ninth grade.

LST is a tuition-free school that

serves a wide range of students and gives them opportunities not only to flourish academically, but also to participate in extra-curricular activities that include, dance,

drumming, music, art, cooking classes, and karate. Many of these students would not be able to attend school if it were not for LST. LST also provides all books and supplies needed by the students. Each student also receives a hot meal each day.

## 2023-2024 LEKÒL SEN TRINITE BY THE NUMBERS:

**Students registered: 241**

192 Returning students  
49 New students

134 Girls  
107 Boys

Youngest student: 3 years old  
Oldest student: 20 years old





# Be a Sponsor, Change a Life

The St. Joseph Family impacts hundreds of lives each day. Caring for the disabled residents at Wings of Hope and educating students at Lekòl Sen Trinite are the two programs that have the most impact, and which need the most support. Caring for, educating, and impacting these deserving lives is important, and expensive work.

One way Friends of SJF supports these critical missions is by helping find sponsors for the Wings residents and

the LST students. Being able to count on regular yearly or monthly donations through sponsorships allows Friends of SJF to fulfill its monthly commitment to the SJF and allows the SJF to maintain the programs and meet the needs of so many deserving children and young adults.

**Please consider becoming a Wings of Hope or Lekòl Sen Trinite sponsor to help us continue to provide for these amazing programs.**



**Wings of Hope Resident Sponsorships**

**\$35 a month (or \$420 per year) per resident\***

*\*Because the monthly costs at Wings of Hope exceed the sponsorship level, residents can have multiple sponsors.*

**Lekòl Sen Trinite Classroom Sponsorships**

**\$80 a month (or \$960 per year) per classroom\***

*\*Because the monthly costs at LST exceed the sponsorship level, classrooms can have multiple sponsors.*

## Shop with a purpose this holiday season

The St. Joseph Family has set up a store on Etsy to offer unique hand-made items that celebrate the beauty of Haiti and the talented artists of the SJF.

Shoppers can choose from photographs by the Wings of Hope photo



students, paintings by the young artists from Wings of Hope and Lekòl Sen Trinite, jewelry from Walnes and his artists, books, note cards, Christmas cards, and metal work from Haiti.

There is something for everyone on your Christmas list!

After paying the artists for their work, all proceeds go to help support the mission of the St. Joseph Family.

**Shop our Etsy store:**  
[www.etsy.com/shop/ImajHaiti](http://www.etsy.com/shop/ImajHaiti)

## Giving Tuesday ~ November 28

We are participating in the **GIVING TUESDAY** movement again this year. This worldwide day of giving is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving — November 28.

We will have special posts and information on our Facebook page all day on Giving Tuesday to spark your generous spirit.

All online donors to Friends of SJF on that day will be eligible for a drawing for an original Christmas painting by Megirel Bommier, a student at Lekòl Sen Trinite, which will be used by FoSJF for our Christmas card this year.



## There are a lot of ways to give to the SJF

*Besides the traditional ways of giving through checks and online donations, there are new and alternative ways to direct your support to Friends of SJF.*

● **Fidelity Charitable** — Friends of SJF is certified by Fidelity Charitable, which allows you to donate appreciated assets (stock, life insurance, retirement assets, real estate, etc.) and use their donor-advised giving program. Contact Fidelity Charitable for more details.

● **Cryptocurrency** — Friends of SJF is able to accept cryptocurrency as donations through Fidelity Charitable. Contact Fidelity Charitable for more details.

● **Bequests** — Talk with your legal advisor to add Friends of SJF to your will.

● **Gift cards & stamps** — Send us gift cards to Staples or Amazon so we can purchase items not available in Haiti. Send us USPS Forever postage stamps so we can communicate with our sponsors and benefactors.