Friends of Montfort

1995-2025

30th Annual Fundraising Luncheon May 4, 2025

Keep Hope & Love Alive



MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Montfort, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support Institut Montfort School for the deaf and deaf-blind children in Haiti by providing: encouragement and financial support; scholarships for college-bound deaf high school seniors in New York State; a post graduate grant program to needy Haitian students attending University; and support to Gift of Life to facilitate corrective cardiac interventions for Haitian children.

Founded in 1957 by the Daughters of Wisdom, the institute is comprised of four schools. The largest is located in Santo*, Croix des Bouquets, the second in St. Marc, the third in Lavaud and the fourth in Cap Haitien. In addition, the institute has a farm at Santo. Institut Montfort is the first institution in Haiti specializing in educating children who are deaf and deaf-blind. It cares for over six hundred children from ages 3 to 22, coming from all parts of Haiti. The institute fosters the children's integration into the communities where they will be residing. It also helps them to become responsible citizens and contributing members of society.

The Friends of Montfort, Inc. scholarship program gives two to four scholarships of \$1,000 each to college-bound deaf students living in New York State who meet certain eligibility criteria. Friends of Montfort, Inc. also works with The Gift of Life to facilitate corrective cardiac interventions to Haitian children whose very survival depends upon receiving those procedures. For the past several years, Friends of Montfort has contributed monetarily to the Gift of Life "Save a Child" program. In addition, members of the board have hosted the children and their families in New York. They have also coordinated transportation, care, translation and all services needed by the families.

Your support and contribution make a difference in the lives of the needy, deaf and deaf-blind children by providing them with the means to break through the wall of silence. Your contributions help critically ill children to access open-heart surgery and allow them to lead full and healthy lives. They also make the financial burden of attending college a little easier for our deaf scholarship recipients in New York State.

* Due to insecurity and unrest, the Santo location is not operational.

Your contributions are tax deductible and can be made to:

Friends of Montfort, Inc. P. O. Box 314 Merrick, New York 11566-0314

FRIENDS OF MONTFORT, INC.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Beague
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Caroline Leger Florence Marc-Charles Frantz Moise Paul Nacier Max Ossé May Ossé Serge R. Pinard

A Word of Thanks to Our Friends

The Board of Directors of Friends of Montfort, Inc. and the children of Institut Montfort thank you for supporting the deaf children of Institut Montfort over the past 30 years.



Friends of Montfort, Inc. P. O. Box 314 Merrick, N.Y. 11566-0314

T. Beague Phone: (347)541-4122 E-mail: info@friendsofmontfort.org

Follow us on Facebook



Scan to sponsor a child or donate



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

The organization is celebrating its 30 year anniversary. Our board now has 15 active members. We are all committed to helping such an under-served population of deaf children. I commend our board members and volunteers who have been instrumental in keeping the hope alive.

Whether a child is born deaf or became deaf at a young age, his or her development can be stunted without careful intervention. Giving these kids the tools to function and survive in such a competitive world is a mission we all feel passionate about.

These last few years, The Institut Montfort in Haiti has undergone extreme stress and pressure due the political upheaval in Haiti causing insecurity. On August 3rd, 2024 The school at the Santo campus was over run by theft and vandalism. The students and staff had to immediately evacuate the school. It became evident the security in that location could not guarantee the safety of the students. The Friends of Montfort jumped into emergency mode. We provided financial and spiritual support to Sr. Lamercie and her staff. We tried to motivate them to search for a new temporary location to continue teaching. So far, 150 students have found a new learning environment at the Institution of Sacré Coeur in Turgeau. The Schools in Cap Haitien, St. Marc, and Lavaud are still functioning well.

Our fundraising efforts have not diminished. We are counting on our regular donors to give what they can afford. The School in Santo will eventually be repaired as stability in Haiti draws closer.

Keep Hope & Love Alive

Dr. Thomas Beague President

Revenue & Support Restricted / Dedicated Funds		Financials 2024 Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	
Sponsorship Pledges	\$	41,124.70	
Special Gifts	\$	46,285.00	
Grove Bank & Trust Dividend	\$	4,275.00	
Sign Language Dictionary	\$	33,447.46	
Miscellaneous Donation	\$	300.00	
Restricted / Dedicated Funds		\$	125,432.16
General Donations			
Fund Raising / Special Events / Misc. Income			
Luncheon, Concerts, Walk-a-Thon, Raffle, etc	\$	81,030.67	
Dividends & Interest Income	\$	4,058.51	
Total	·	\$	85,089.18
Total Revenue & Support		\$	210,521.34
Expenses			
Payments to Institut Montfort			
Distribution for tuition, uniforms, boarding, school suppli	es, n	neals	
transportation, library, equipments, rent, repairs, etc.	. \$	63,957.77	
Security	\$	15,795.00	
Grove Bank & Trust Dividend	\$	4,275.23	
Sign Language Dictionary	\$	18,755.20	
Salaries, Bonuses, Xmas Gifts		22,800.00	
Emergency Relief		20,500.00	
Total Payments to Institut Montfort		\$	146,083.20
Fund Raising / Special Events Expenses			
50/50 Raffles Winner Payment	φ.	0.750.00	
Winter & Fall Jazz Concerts	\$	6,750.00	
Luncheon, Journal	\$,	
Total Fund Raising / Special Events Expenses	Ф	17,157.63	20 507 62
		\$	28,507.63
Administrative Expenses		0 000 75	
Bank charges, Postage, Supplies, Web fees	\$	2,338.75	
Professional Fees	\$	•	
Miscellaneous, NYS Tax	\$		_
Total Administrative Expenses		\$	3,806.05
Other - Special Projects			.
Scholarship & Gift of Life	\$	11,800.00	\$ 11,800.00
Total Expenses			\$ 190,196.88
Surplus (Loss)			\$ 20,324.46
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Friends of Montfort Accomplishments

1995 - 2025

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INSTITUT MONTFORT SCHOOL FOR DEAF AND DEAF-BLIND CHILDREN

Founded in 1957 by the Daughters of Wisdom in downtown Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Institut Montfort School for Deaf and Deaf-Blind Children has grown from a humble class of seven students to an institution serving over 500. Today, the school operates across four campuses located in Santo, St. Marc, Lavaud, and Cap Haitien. Many students reside in the school dormitories, as daily travel is often impossible due to distance or limited family resources.



Temporary Location in Turgeau

Institut Marie-Louise in Cap Haitien

The institute offers a structured education from kindergarten through high school, while also fostering creativity and skill development through programs in sports. Haitian Sign Language training for teachers has been introduced at the Cap-Haïtien campus, expanding accessibility and inclusivity in education. Furthermore, several teachers and students in Port-au-Prince are also receiving training in Sign Language, fostering greater communication and support for the deaf community.

Despite Haiti's prolonged state of emergency, Institut Montfort continues its mission under challenging circumstances. Vandalism, theft, and ongoing insecurity have forced the closure of the Santo campus, preventing deaf students from returning there. However, the campuses in Cap Haitien, St. Marc, and Lavaud remain open and fully operational.

In a hopeful turn, many students who had previously dropped out are now returning to their studies thanks to the generosity of the Institution du Sacré Coeur, a Catholic school for girls. 150 deaf students have found a new learning environment at its Turgeau campus, ensuring their education continues in a safe and supportive setting.



Institut Montfort founded in 1957 in Port-au-Prince



After the earthquake of 2010, a new school was built in 2015 in Santo

Trade school built on the Santo campus.



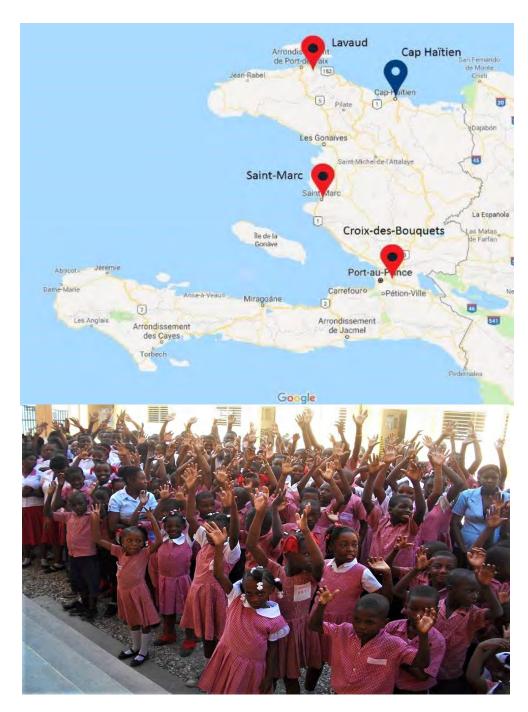


Boys and Girls Dormitory completed in 2021

Threats and vandalism forced the evacuation of students and staff from **Institut Montfort School for the Deaf** at the Santo Campus on August 3rd, 2024



Map of Deaf Schools supported by Institut Montfort



School for the Deaf in Cap Haitien





School for the Deaf in St. Marc



School for the deaf in Lavaud



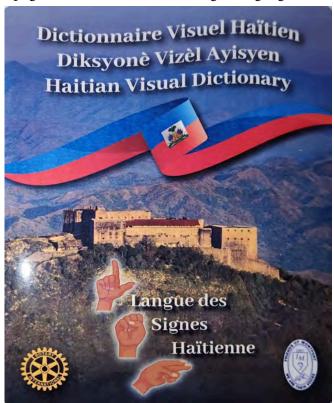
Report on the Haitian Visual Dictionary April, 2025

The Haitian Visual Dictionary was copyrighted on February 14, 2024. The 683 page book is comprised of 26 chapters. All vocabulary words, definitions, and written content were developed and reviewed by over 75 individuals, including artists, linguists, interpreters, assistants, and coordinators.

Five hundred copies of the book were printed and are slated to be shipped to Haiti thanks to a grant by Rotary International. An additional, 100 copies were printed and financed by the Friends of Montfort (FOM) to be sold to interested parties; proceeds will help finance additional work. Friends of Montfort has provided extraordinary support, with members proofreading the work, in particular, the French and Creole translations. Their unwavering support has been instrumental in the completion of this project.

We continue to monitor the situation and are committed to delivering these books to their intended recipients as soon as possible.

Cover page of world 's first Haitian Sign Language Dictionary



Dictionnaire Visuel Haïtien Diksyonè Vizèl Ayisyen Haitian Visual Dictionary

The Friends of Montfort
Board of Directors extend their heartfelt
Congratulations to the entire team
involved in the development of the first
Haitian Sign Language dictionary.

Special recognition goes to Jean Berube,
Sylvie Weir, and Sr. Lamercie for their
dedication and commitment to the
successful completion of this project.
Your efforts are truly commendable.

Haïtienne



Thank you to the Rotary Clubs of Northport,
Freeport Merrick, Ronkonkoma and
Port-au-Prince for their financial
support to this project.

Sign Language Dictionary Team



Sylvie, Hermann and myself, Jean Berube, want to THANK each and all of you for your support. This has been a ten year project. Without your help, we would never have been able to complete this work.

OUR GOALS FOR 2025

- Transition from directly sponsoring particular students to encouraging monetary donations to help the entire student body.
- Maintain regular updates on the Friends of Montfort website and Facebook page to enhance communication and engagement with our international community.
- Provide consistent updates on upcoming events and programs to keep supporter's informed and involved.
- 4. Secure donations to support our graduates though the Post-Graduate Grant Program
- 5. Raise funds to repair and resupply the school in Santo.
- 6. Support teacher training across Haiti in the use of the Haitian Sign Language (LSH) Dictionary through targeted fundraising initiatives.



Relationship between Gift of life Inc and Friends of Montfort Inc



In 1997, Sister Rose Andree Fievre, Director of Institut Montfort, visited New York City, where she connected with members of CASEGHA, a local group of Haitian former scouts. Among them were individuals who were founding members of Friends of Montfort (FOM). Sister Rose Andree made an urgent request for assistance regarding **Vivian**, a young deaf student at Institut Montfort who had been diagnosed with cardiac insufficiency, a condition untreatable in Haiti at the time.

Responding promptly, Friends of Montfort mobilized their network within the Haitian medical community in New York. Dr. Ernst Jean answered their appeal, identifying Gift of Life Inc. (GOL) as a potential resource for Vivian. He reached out to Pat Coulas, then Program Director at GOL, and coordinated the submission of Vivian's medical records for review. After several months, in the spring of 1998, St. Francis Hospital approved Vivian for the essential surgical intervention.

Vivian and her mother, Lillian, traveled to New York, where they stayed at the facilities provided by St. Francis Hospital for surgery and subsequent care. During this critical period, John Capri, a Gift of Life board member, and his wife Sandra regularly visited Vivian and Lillian, providing invaluable emotional and practical support. Their compassionate presence significantly impacted Vivian's family. Additionally, numerous volunteers from the Haitian community stepped forward to assist, demonstrating exceptional kindness and solidarity until the family's return to Haiti.

This collaborative effort between Sister Rose Andree, Friends of Montfort, and Gift of Life Inc. marked the beginning of a longstanding and fruitful partnership. Under the leadership of Gladys Coby, the Friends of Montfort's volunteer program has since facilitated many life-changing interventions for many more Haitian children and their families. The Friends of Montfort board expresses profound gratitude to all the volunteers whose compassion and dedication have made such impactful humanitarian efforts possible over the years.

THANK YOU

to all the volunteers who gave of their time and efforts for the children recipients of the

2025 - Gift of Life



Colette Baron

Tom & Sarah Beague

Gladys Coby

Ducarmel Delorme

Michele Etienne

Karen Jean-Bart

Nicole Joseph

Bepty Laurençon

Eddy Marc-Charles

Florence Marc-Charles

Crystal McDaniel

Cluny Mesidor

Lyvie Elve May Osse

Marie Solange St. Urbain

Mario St. Laurent

Elsie St. Louis

Solange Talleyrand





Pat was a former board member of Friends of Montfort Inc. She dedicated her time, talent and treasure in support of the Friends of Montfort Mission.

May you rest in Peace!



CASEGHA-USA

(Association of Former Boy Scouts and Girl Guides of Haiti)
(1975-20**25**)

is proud to congratulate the Board of Friends of Montfort for their devotion and commitment to the children of Haiti, particularly the deaf and blind during the past Thirty years, and to be part of "Gift of Life" to help in supporting children with heart problems.

Thank you for your generosity and for bringing Life to all the children you meet.

May God bless every one of you!

Pledging our support to Friends of Montfort

Daughters of Wisdom, US Delegation



Thank you for your unwavering dedication to Institut Montfort



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

Congratulations

To The Friends of Montfort on



Of Providing support to

Deaf Education

In Haiti and

in New York





Serge R. Pinard, CFP® LUTCF

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional MILLION DOLLAR ROUND TABLE – Notary Public

Gregory Alerte, CFP®

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional

Equitable Advisors, LLC Premier Heritage

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BEST WISHES AND CONTINUED SUCCESS TO FRIENDS OF MONTFORT!!!

Congratulations to all the wonderful children on their achievements, and to the organizing committee for hosting yet another successful event!

Best wishes to

Friends of Montfort

For their support To the deaf community of Haiti



Family Dental Care of Elmont

Thomas P. Beague, D.M.D. Nick Simon, D.M.D. 476 Elmont Road Elmont, NY 11003 (516) 354-5805

e-mail: <u>MyFamilyDentist@aol.com</u> Website: www.ElmontDental.com



The Gift of Life, Inc.







The Officers and Board of Directors
proudly supports
Friends of Montfort, Inc.
and our very own
Cindy Messineo Kudler
We honor and commend them
for all their hard work
and dedication to the children of Haiti

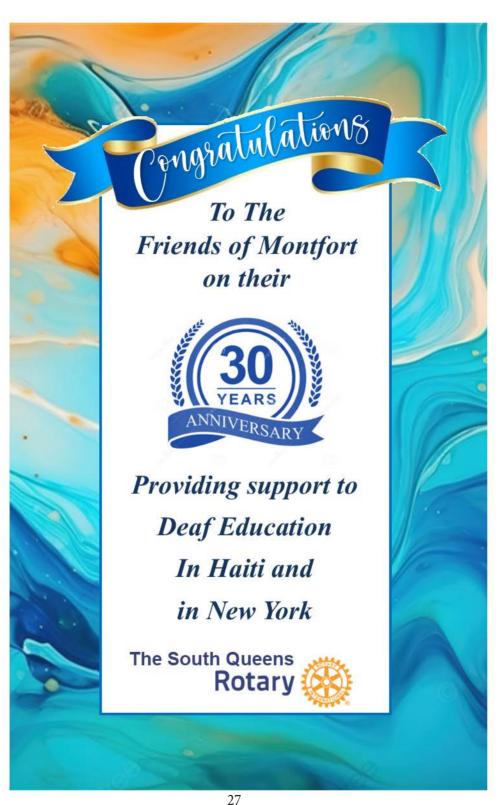
A Project of Rotarians of Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Founded in 1975

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Honoree



CINDY MESSINEO KUDLER

Cindy Messineo Kudler has been involved with the Gift of Life, Inc. for most of her life. In the early days, she participated by helping with various activities and functions. Whether it was picking children up at the airport or visiting them at St. Francis Hospital, she developed a great sense of satisfaction in helping Gift of Life, Inc. achieve its goals.

Cindy became the Executive Program Director for the Gift of Life, Inc. in 2017, after serving on its board of directors. Her work with the organization has become one of her life's greatest passions.

Cindy has lived on Long Island for her entire life. She is currently the president of Stevenson Printing, a 116-year-old family business. Cindy has spent most of her life working side by side with her brother Glenn and her late father Tony Messineo. She is also an active member of the Glen Cove Rotary Club.

Cindy is married to Jordan Kudler; they have five children and four grandsons.

St. Francis Hospital & Heart Center Ambassador Program



Ambassadors serve as trusted guides who honor the cultural identities, lived experiences, and emotional needs of every patient. With empathy and respect, they foster meaningful connections that go beyond clinical care—ensuring each patient feels seen, heard, and valued. Grounded in a patient-centered philosophy, the program prioritizes individual needs, values, and preferences to create a healing environment where dignity and humanity lead the way. The Ambassador Program at St. Francis Hospital & Heart Center works in close partnership with the Pediatric Cardiology Department to support the transformative Gift of Life (GOL) Program—led by Dr. Sean Levchuck, MD

When children and families from Haiti arrive at our hospital, often anxious, overwhelmed, and far from home, they are met with warmth, reassurance, and dignity by our Ambassador Team. Led by Ingrid Collymore, RN, a Haitian American and the hospital's Manager of Quality Improvement, the team includes Kathleen Burke and Jeanick Maximilien-Omar, both of whom are also Haitian. "In Haiti, many children lack access to the cardiac care they desperately need," Ingrid shares. "At St. Francis Hospital, we believe quality healthcare is a fundamental right, and we are committed to ensuring access is equitable—regardless of race, ethnicity, geography, or socioeconomic background. We speak the same language, we understand the culture, and we want our Haitian families to feel seen, safe, and supported from the moment they arrive." This culturally sensitive care model not only eases fear, it builds trust, creates lasting bonds, and reaffirms our mission to serve every patient with compassion, respect, and equity.



Carmen Delgado Flute



Alexandra Castro Bassoon



Pedro Falcón Oboe



Suki Guerrier Piano



Emmett Tross
Tenor

THANK YOU TO THESE AMAZING ARTISTS FOR DONATING THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR FRIENDS OF MONTFORT!



Emma Meskin Piano



Chrystilina Blair Guitar



Brendan Hirshorn Piano



INSTITUT MONTFORT

POUR ENFANTS SOURDS

Reconnu d'Utilité Publique Duval 31, Prolongé, Imp. St-Montfort Croix-des-Bouquets Casier Postal 1037, Haïti Tél.: 4703-1843/ 3683-8938 E-mail: institutmontfort@yahoo.com

March 10, 2025

Dear Benefactors.



On the occasion of Friends of Montfort's 30th anniversary luncheon, in support of the deaf children at the Institut Montfort for Deaf Children, we cannot let this moment pass without expressing our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to you.

We sincerely thank you for the commitment and support you have consistently provided to the underprivileged children in our institutions.

Your dedication, solidarity, and generosity are truly inspiring to all of us. Thanks to your support, many parents have been encouraged to send their children to school, reassured by the belief that they can meaningfully contribute to their children's education—even in the face of extreme poverty, socio-political crises, and armed gang violence. Your invaluable assistance has enabled these families to overcome their doubts and trust in a brighter future for their children.

Your efforts have borne remarkable fruit. The majority of our beneficiaries have successfully achieved their professional goals, becoming teachers, agronomists, IT technicians, tailors, beauticians, hospitality workers, chefs, painters, seamstresses, accountants, mechanics, and bookbinders. These successes stand as a testament to the profound positive impact of your dedication over the past 30 years.

However, we remain acutely aware that the current situation in the country has dispersed many of our students—some have enrolled in other institutions, while others continue to participate in online courses to the best of their ability, supported by dedicated teachers and staff who often go unpaid yet remain committed. Despite these challenges, we remain optimistic and steadfastly committed to supporting those students who continue their education within our institutes, whether located in Cap-Haïtien, Saint-Marc, Lavaud, or online in Port-au-Prince, for as long as we are able.

Dear benefactors, Institut Montfort celebrates these 30 years of partnership with profound gratitude for your invaluable support. Please know that you and your families are always in our prayers. We ask the Lord to guide you and bless your generous actions.

With deepest appreciation,

Sister Lamercie Estinfort Daughter of Wisdom Director of Institut Montfort



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BlessingSister Bernadette Sassone, DW				
President's Welcome and PresentationDr.Thomas Beague				
Sponsor AppreciationDominique Jean-Charles Caroline Leger				
EntertainmentDr. Mario St. Laurent				
Honoree presentersMichèle Etienne Florence Marc-Charles				
HonoreeCindy Messineo Kudler				
St. Francis Hospital Ambassadors Ingrid Collymore Kathleen Burke Jeanick Maximilien-Omar				
Serve Lunch				
Entertainment				
Music & DancingDJ HG				
Auction WinnersMax Osse				
Basket Auction tickets are 5 for \$20				
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(50-50) raffle tickets are \$10 per ticket, 5 for \$40				
Closing RemarksPatricia Brintle				
Music & DancingDJ HG				

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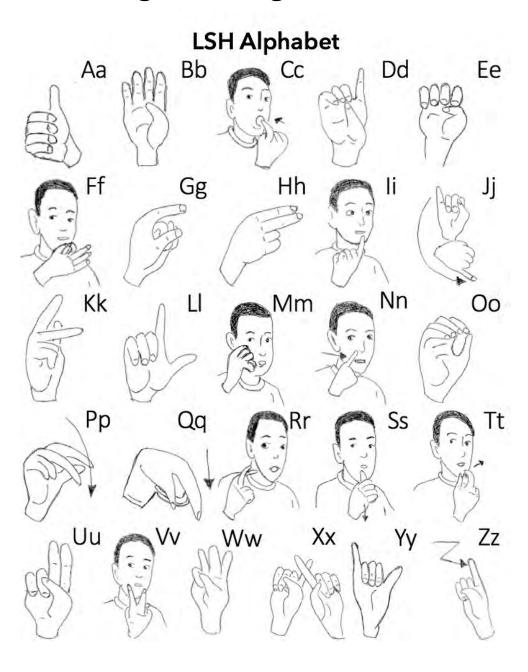
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Michèle Etienne & Family

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Congratulations to the Friends of Montfort in celebration of their 30th anniversary. Sandra Capri and her family members recognize the work of the organization that supports education and health care for the deaf children in Haiti.

The Capri family



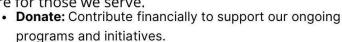


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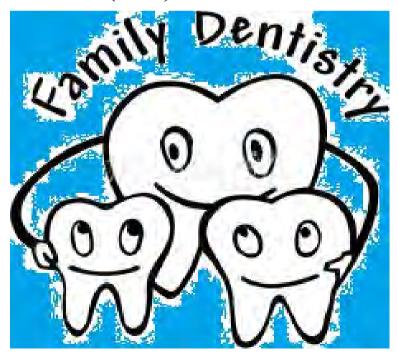
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