

La Promisse

16 Children Head to School

Thanks to Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Park Ridge, New Jersey



HSC Scholarship Recipients and their Parents

The Haiti Health Promise Scholarship Program was created to support the educational needs of children connected with Hôpital Sacré Coeur and to strengthen Haiti's healthcare workforce for the future. These scholarships represent a shared goal: to lift families out of poverty through education and to prepare the country with skilled professionals in medicine, nursing, and trades.

This year, Father Vincent D'Agostino and Our Lady of Mercy Church in Park Ridge, New Jersey, offered generous support, allowing us to create opportunities across multiple educational levels — from elementary school to advanced nursing training — and ensure that these opportunities benefit as many deserving students as possible.

A transparent and fair selection process is essential for the scholarship program. During the August 2025 managers' meeting at Hôpital Sacré Coeur, all department heads were briefed on the scholarship protocols and eligibility criteria. Notices were sent out to all staff, and an independent five-member employee committee was established to oversee applications and selections.

Employees with at least six months of service were invited to apply within a 15-day period. All applications were reviewed and verified before the drawing on August 20, 2025.

Scholarships Awarded

Ten scholarships were awarded to the children of staff members for elementary and middle school. These scholarships help ease the financial strain on families and guarantee children access to a dependable, high-quality education. On October 10, two one-year university scholarships, three one-year trade school scholarships, and a four-year nursing scholarship were awarded.

The program also supported a competitive award for a first-year nurse to enter Hôpital Sacré Coeur's new Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Training Program.

During the daily Head Nurses meeting on August 20, Director of Nursing Nathalie Dorcin announced the call for applications for a \$6,000 salary and placement in the CRNA program. Five nurses were selected to present their qualifications in an oral presentation session on August 25, 2025, evaluated by a panel of clinical observers on presentation quality, oral delivery, and mastery of the subject matter. After careful review, Ms. Médacier Katiana Clarinette, a first-year nurse in the Emergency Department, was chosen and has already begun her advanced CRNA training.

This three-year program — launched in 2025 through a partnership with the Institute of Sciences and Technologies (ISTEAH) and the University of Montreal (Canada) — addresses a critical national shortage of nurse anesthetists. Currently, 18 students are enrolled, and the program is expected to benefit patients well beyond the walls of Hôpital Sacré Coeur.

A Message of Gratitude from Hôpital Sacré Coeur to Our Lady of Mercy Church

On behalf of the leadership, staff, and families of Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Milot, Haiti, we sincerely thank the parish community of Our Lady of Mercy Church and Father D'Agostino. Your generous support for scholarships is transforming lives — not only for our employees' children but also for the entire communities they will serve as educated, empowered citizens. Through this partnership, we are helping to close deep socio-economic divides and providing a pathway to a brighter future for Haiti's next generation. ■

A Tiny Miracle: Survival and Gratitude

I am Judson, a little boy born via spontaneous delivery at 37 weeks of gestation.

I was immediately transferred from Justinien University Hospital to Hôpital Sacré Coeur for better care. Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Milot is the best-equipped hospital for premature infants.

I arrived at the Neonatology Unit in my grandmother's arms just a few hours after birth, on February 10th, 2025. My father was by my side. I was admitted to the Neonatal Unit because I had dyspnea, or shortness of breath, and was diagnosed with intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR), a medical term meaning I was not growing properly and was much smaller than I should be. This was yet another challenge, given my premature birth, that required very close monitoring. **With all these conditions, any number of life-threatening issues could develop. Unfortunately, one did.**

During my hospital stay, I developed severe neonatal sepsis, a life-threatening blood infection. I was started on antibiotics. Despite the treatment, my infection persisted. I received blood transfusions twice on March 1st, then another transfusion on March 18th, and again on March 29th.

The entire team worked hard and stayed close to me, even though my low birth weight and severe infection made them doubt I would survive. They were determined to care for me. I also experienced repeated episodes of hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar levels, caused by the sepsis.

Despite the odds, I recovered from the infection and was prescribed vitamins and erythropoietin. Miraculously, I was discharged on March 20th, 2025, weighing 3.7 pounds and fully independent in feeding.

Now I attend my follow-up appointments regularly. In June, I weighed 9.7 pounds. I'm doing well, and I smile. I want to thank the entire Neonatology team—nurses, doctors, and support staff. They took such good care of me. I'm here today thanks to them and my parents. ■



A STORY OF HOPE: Meet Rodlensca, Our Newest Fighter in the Pediatric Diabetes Program

By Michele Paul-Hanna, MD, Hôpital Sacré Coeur Chief Medical Officer

On May 27th, 2025, during morning rounds in the Emergency Department, a 13-year-old girl named Rodlensca was admitted with severe abdominal pain, vomiting, and shortness of breath. Initially, her physical appearance made us think she was older, but a quick look at her gentle, childlike face reminded us that she was still very much a child in need of pediatric care.



Rodlensca arrived in diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), a life-threatening complication of diabetes.

She was a known diabetic but had not been monitored regularly. Her mother also has diabetes, but due to limited resources and access, Rodlensca had not been part of a structured care program until this emergency brought her to us.

Her case was complex. Weighing 242 lbs. upon admission, she displayed features that blurred the lines between type I, type II, or a mixed form of diabetes. Nonetheless, what stood out was the urgency of her condition and the team's quick response.

Although we do not yet have a dedicated Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Hôpital Sacré Coeur, Rodlensca was swiftly stabilized and admitted to the ICU. **With the help of a dedicated team and the timely support of visiting pediatric specialists Dr. Michael Canarie and internist Dr. Chris Powers, Rodlensca received immediate, coordinated care. Her condition improved rapidly.**

After her discharge from the pediatric ward, she was warmly welcomed into our Pediatric Diabetes Program. Our diabetes nurse coordinator began structured education sessions with her, teaching her how to use insulin and helping her understand the nutritional changes needed to support her health before her discharge on June 6th, 2025.

Rodlensca's story is one of resilience, teamwork, and hope. Thanks to the collaboration between our ICU and pediatric units, she was successfully brought out of her diabetic coma and is now taking her first steps toward long-term diabetes management.

We don't have a photo to share just yet, but her smile, strength, and spirit have made a lasting impression on everyone she has met. In the coming months, we look forward to sharing a group photo of Rodlensca alongside other children in our diabetes program.

Thank you for continuing to support pediatric care at Hôpital Sacré Coeur. Together, we make stories like Rodlensca's possible. ■

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Wyckoff, New Jersey, hosts their third consecutive successful Packathon.



Father Joseph Pavone joins a table of packers.



Alumni Families.

In recognition of the Feast Day of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the parish hosted a Feed Milot, Haiti Packathon on November 14 and November 15. A remarkable 69,120 nutritious meals were packed by 491 very enthusiastic volunteers. The meals will be shipped to Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Milot, Haiti, to provide desperately needed food for children, pregnant mothers, and the elderly.

The effort was led by parishioner Ray Corbett and strongly supported by their pastor, Father Stephen Fichter. St. Elizabeth of Hungary herself was dedicated to helping the sick and hungry. What a wonderful way to honor the parish's patron saint and to engage children and adults in a meaningful, impactful service project.

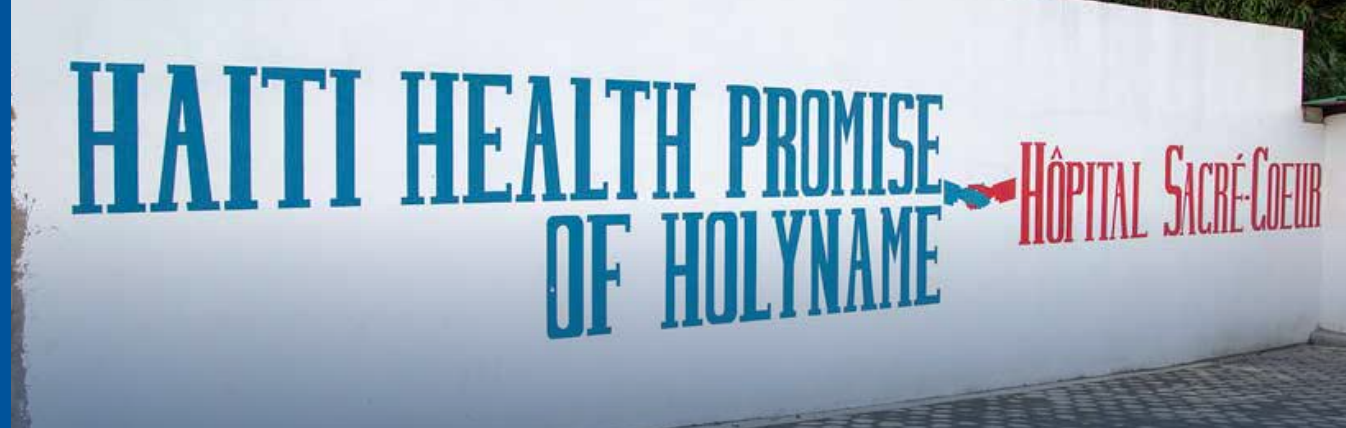
Thank you, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish. ■



Scan the QR Code to donate to the Feed Milot, Haiti Packathon program.

Visit the App Store on your phone for a free QR Code reader. Or [CLICK HERE](#) ►

To learn more about sponsoring a packathon, email HHP Executive Director, Dr. Joni Paterson at paterson@crudem.org



100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO PATIENT CARE AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

