

What a wonderful time we had on Friday evening, May 19, 2018! It was the first of many planned events celebrating our Commandery's special project: The Child Development Center in Belle Glade, an outreach of the First Haitian Baptist Church. Thanks to all SOSJ Members who attended – and especially those who brought guests!

Many thanks to our hosts, Dame Thais & Chev. Matt Piotrowski – and of course our future Demoiselle Isabella who stole everyone's heart! The venue was beautiful, and Luigi Maresca of Vinaiocaprese Fine Wines served an amazing array of fine Italian wines to accompany the delicious hors d'oeuvres!

Our Fund Raising and Hospitality Committees coordinated the event. Special guests Pastor Morales St. Hillaire and his daughter Mona St. Hillaire from the First Haitian Baptist Church presented information about the after-school program and the current need for a new building. The first run of Chev. Heath Black's video was running so that all could see the dire need. Our new brochure detailing the initiative was presented along with pledge cards.

We offer our sincere gratitude to Chev. Tim Henry and Chev. John Thomas representing The Kirkwood Fund at the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties for the matching grant of \$25,000. At the coaxing of our MC for the evening, Chev. Walter Jones Jr., we received pledges of more than half of the amount of the matching grant within five minutes!

Our Commandery has undertaken this large project knowing that with the help of many (members of our Commandery and the greater community), we will raise the funds necessary to build the new facility for the Child Development Center. It is a large commitment – \$500,000 over a three year period – but we know God's hand is on this effort and on the Center that is helping so many children.

