

## **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration September 18th**

The Fond Doux Foundation will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner following worship at Epworth United Methodist Church on Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>. A fundraising offering will be taken at the dinner. While no specific goal has been set for this offering, we hope that people will be exceedingly generous. It is the first fundraiser in almost 3 years and the Foundation has greatly increased the scope of our ministry during these last three years.

First, the Foundation recently opened the Fond Doux Community Clinic in co-operation with the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux. We anticipate the need for approximately \$1000 per month to provide medicine and medical care for those unable to pay for their own care. This is a new monthly expenditure. We are looking for sponsors to make recurring gifts for this cause as well as one-time gifts to expand the capabilities by adding a lab, solar power and a rest room. Estimated cost of these is about \$15,000. We are also hoping for donations of used lab equipment.



**Baby Receives Check-up**

Second, three years ago the Foundation began to subsidize the Good Samaritan School of Platon, a school that would have closed except for our intervention. This year it has 58 students (up from 40) ranging from kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Pledges or recurring gifts cover the salaries of the five teachers, although we rely far too heavily on a single donor.

This year we began a program of providing a specialized snack for the children of the school. The snack called Vita Mamba provides the nutritional supplements missing from the usual Haitian diet. We need about

\$3000 per year to maintain this program. We would like to expand this program to the Methodist School of Fond Doux which would require an additional \$5000 per year. If we were so fortunate as to find a still additional \$5000 per year, we could also add the Ravine Parc School. Every month we hear from our Haitian partners about the needs of the hungry children at these schools. The new obligations can only be undertaken with new commitments.



**Platon School Children with Vita Mamba**

Third, we have greatly increased our relationship with the Methodist Church of Fond Doux, which has become the primary partner of the Foundation during this past year. Most of our activities are held at the Methodist Church. The building is overcrowded to say the least. Plans are underway to create a Community Center/School when funds can be obtained for this purpose. It has long been the goal of the Foundation and its Haitian partners to establish a library. It would be part of this expansion. The Foundation has been in discussion with the Caribbean Mission Partnership of the New York Conferences in pursuing this project. They are the original sponsors of the school, who helped establish it together with the Methodist Church of Haiti. While actual plans have not yet been fully developed, first phase is estimated to be around \$40,000 USD.

These goals may seem very ambitious, but in comparison to our relative wealth are very modest. If fully met, it would involve increasing our yearly income by about \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year and a capital outlay to improve facilities of about twice that. We are looking for new sources of income. This will not come overnight, but your help in locating them is very much appreciated. We are grateful for the donors that make this ministry possible.

## Fond Doux Flayer September 2022

### Schneider on Path to UTESA -- Part I



#### At Santiago University of Technology (UTESA)

My name is Schneider, I feel on top of the world to share with this magical audience 1 year and 8 months of living here in the Dominican Republic for school. I am the third child in my family and I have a golden opportunity. My two older siblings completed their classical school but did not have the chance to complete their college education.

Meanwhile, little Schneider was on the way coming. From the very beginning, going to a university has always been a big dream for the family, especially for my father. But, we couldn't see any possible way for this dream to come true because my family's financial situation was not improving. So obviously, it seemed as though I would end up like my older siblings. And I started worrying so much about my future, wondering what I'm going to do! I have big dreams, but how am I going to achieve them? Really, I didn't know what to expect. And I remember one day, very late at night, when everyone was sleeping, I got down on my knees and quieted for quite a while. And I said three (3) sentences. The first was a Bible verse, and the other two (2) were straight out of my comfort zone:

1. You say in words: "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
2. Here I am God, you see everything I'm going through.
3. Please provide!

About 3 years ago during a summer trip made by the FDF, Mr. Brent Engel and I often stayed up late at night talking about a lot of things. And in a conversation that we had he said, "Schneider, you're about to be done with your high school, aren't you?" And I was like, "Of

course," and he said, "So what are you doing with college? What career are you going to choose?"

This question destroyed me in a second! Why? Think of the desire, dreams and the absence of possibilities! This subject was for me like a weapon of mass destruction. All of these things were going through my head; so quickly and without hesitation my response was "Well I'm into it. So, I'd love to take it" and Mr. Engel was like "Oh yah! That's a good thing. You can do it."

After this conversation, I felt less worried and even a little happy about this. I started to feel something so strange, a little beyond my skills. However, Mr. Engel hadn't said anything to me as to whether he would help me. But assuredly, in a way, God was on the move.

And the next day, before I joined the team (we were going to Platon), my father interrupted me for a moment in a little conversation. The conversation went like, "Oscar," he most likely called me that name. Oscar is a given nickname. Note: Not the Oscar garbage man, I repeat not garbage collector Oscar, ha ha 😊😊😊!

So, he said, "Oscar, why don't you talk with your friend (Mr. Engel) about your university? You never know, he could help. This guy has such a big heart and he likes you. He has a lot of consideration for you." And I was like, "Hm, I don't know, but I'll see what we can do, Commander." Commander is a nickname given to dad by us, his children. So, since that morning after the talk with my Dad, I started thinking about the conversation so deeply. We had breakfast; we were in the car to drive to the coast to board the boat; we got there. I was still thinking so deeply; I was super overwhelmed with deep thinking until I spoke to Mr. Engel. After lunch, I said. I want to talk to you tonight about my schooling." And he was like, "Oh, okay, of course we will." And I said, "Thank you".

Night came and we had the talk. That's something I really appreciate from Mr. Engel. He's always all ears. For real, it'd been such a long day! But, we talked. I started telling him about my family's financial situation and the dreams I have, what I want to accomplish and asked him of if he could financially support me for my schooling. The only promise he made was that he will think about it and see how he can intervene. Honestly, I wasn't expecting anything else other than this answer, because it's him!

We also discussed an important point which was the current political crisis in my country where I mentioned

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that PAP would not be a safe place to study. And I also offered the alternative which was going to the DR.

Eventually, I passed the government test and graduated. And at that time, FDF had just worked out a new project to offer a scholarship every year. I remember that one Sunday before the end of the church service, Emile Maceus (the executive director of the foundation in the village) announced that the members of the FDFC were to meet after the church service. And while we were discussing a new scholarship that FDF was about to offer, I was chosen as a benefactor.

"Anxieties relieved! To God be all the glory," I said in my heart, and when I looked at my father's face I could see joy, hope and satisfaction. This was one of the biggest news ever for my whole family.

Shortly after, I was in contact with the secretary (Reverend John Clousing) where I would elaborate my opinion on my study. Reverend John is such a big supporter! I had the chance to tell him more about my point of view about studying outside of the country. In fact, it was not an easy process; it was going slowly, bit by bit. It took days before we fell on the same wavelength. I was nothing but living those moments with inexplicable pride. Then brother Engel helped me, and also the FDFC (especially Emile Maceus who was responsible for preparing my accommodations in the DR). -- To be continued.

### Thank You Letter

Sunday July 24, 2022

A.J.D.R.P.

Object: Thank You

We, the Young People's Association for the Development of Ravine Parc, greet you the members of the Mission Committee for Haiti (The Fond Doux Foundation) in a very dignified way. We want to tell you that we have received a sum of \$250 USD from Mr. Ancito Gene to be used for the purpose of buying uniforms and shoes. However, it was not sufficient money to buy uniforms and shoes. For this reason, we decided to distribute the money as prize money to the two teams that play as finalists in the championship organized by the A.J.D.R.P. We express our sincere thanks for this gift from the Mission Committee for Haiti (The Fond Doux Foundation). God bless you. Thank you very much.

A.J.D.R.P.



**Ravine Parc Soccer Match**

Mr. Ancitho Gene told the Foundation that there were actually 9 teams in the competition in Ravine Parc. No wonder there was insufficient money for uniforms for all! He also said that 3500 Haitian dollars (Each US dollar is 22 Haitian dollars) are to be given to the winning team and 2000 Haitian dollars to the runner-up. Perhaps this can purchase uniforms for them next year. An anonymous donor gave the 5500 Haitian dollars (\$250 US) for the A.J.D.R.P.

The soccer field is actually the school playground at the Hope for Tomorrow School in Ravine Parc. Ravine Parc is part of the larger Fond Dux area lying just north of Fond Doux, part way up the mountain on the road to Delatte and Gibney, where mission teams used to visit.

### Midwife Training Class



**Myrdred, Eight Midwives, and Eluard**

The class took place at the clinic building on Thursday August 11<sup>th</sup>. The eight active midwives in the Fond Doux Community were invited. This class was part of the community health education program of the Foundation. Most of these classes are conducted by Myrdred Kaminski Delva, our community nurse. Eluard Louis, our management assistant, also participated.

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### Emergency Response



**Dina Esprit Saint**

In an unfortunate accident, Dina Esprit Saint broke her arm. It required not just resetting the bone, but surgery to gain proper healing. Fortunately, the Foundation was able to respond. The Foundation on a very limited basis provides surgeries for people of Fond Doux for life saving or life changing special medical needs from a special surgery fund. Unfortunately, with the surgery for Dina, the fund is now empty. We will not be able to respond to future needs until we receive new contributions. Thank you, special donors! Without your continuing support, we could not have responded.

### 46 Hygiene Kits Sent



**Several Sewing Sisters Making Hygiene Kits**

The Sewing sisters of Epworth United Methodist recently sent 46 hygiene kits to Fond. The kits contain washable sanitary napkins, panties, wash cloths and soap to keep teen-age girls in school. Since most girls cannot afford sanitary napkins, they usually lose about a week every month of schooling without them. This

project is a great benefit for the education of teenage girls and has kept hundreds of girls in school. They are distributed by our Community Health Worker, Madam Christella Julsaint and our Nurse Myrdred Delva.



**Madam Christella with Kits for Distribution**

### Late Breaking News

Demonstrations against poverty hit Fond Doux late this month closing the clinic for two days in August. The demonstrations were peaceful.



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The Fond Doux Foundation engages friend-to-friend with people in and around the village of Fond Doux, Haiti, helping to provide better access to medical care and health education, improved nutrition through agriculture and animal husbandry, educational scholarships, and intercultural faith-based activities. FDF is a 501(c)3 organization based in Durham, North Carolina.