

The Fond Doux Flyer August 2023

Clinic News

The Fond Doux Community Clinic sponsored by the Fond Doux Foundation serves a variety of functions.



Nurse Vava Delva Going Door to Door

After the outbreak of cholera in the community, the clinic staff (Nurse Vava Delva, Dave Stevenson Michael, Clinic Director Eluard Louis) and Jean-Guitho Pierre, our community health worker's son went door to door to explain the causes of cholera and its prevention (using only clean water and good sanitation). They also handed out Aquatablets to purify water and rehydration serum packets, an essential first step in its treatment. They were well received.



Nurse Vava Delva Explains Cholera

Eluard Louis, our clinic director discovered another result as well, he said:

“Among these people visited, some of them had been hospitalized by this disease. We visited them. They were comforted to see people visiting them because after leaving the hospital, many people (people who don't have cholera) were afraid to come into contact with them. Some of them thought that because they were infected, they would infect others either by talking to them, touching them or just visiting them. We were happy to visit them and show them that they

are not alone. Despite the prejudices that some people may have towards them, we are here to help and support them.”



Lourdemia Jean with Baby Jocenaïca Pierre

Lourdemia Jean brought her four-day-old baby Jocenaïca Pierre to the clinic for a checkup to check all her vital signs. But not only did she receive the physical care, she also received a mosquito net to keep away the mosquitos. Mosquitoes are very bad in Fond Doux during the rainy season and malaria is a constant threat. If at all possible, we prefer to prevent disease than to treat it.

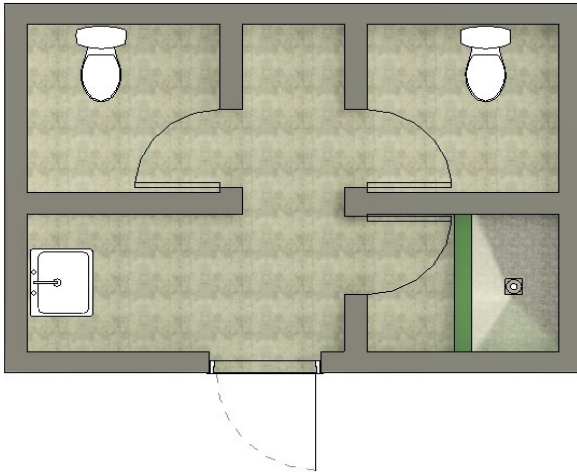


Mosquito Net

A Clinic Rest Room

Erecting a restroom for the Fond Doux Community Clinic is the number one capital funding goal of the Foundation. The importance of sanitary toilets was demonstrated with the outbreak of cholera this year in the community. It has been eliminated in the USA by the universal availability of clean water and proper rest room facilities. Cholera thrives where it is difficult to maintain sanitary conditions. Over 50% of the Fond Doux residents relieve themselves on the ground and no one has guaranteed access to clean water although the Foundation has tested the water sources.

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Drawing of Proposed Toilet Facility

The proposed rest room calls for two toilet stalls, one sink and a shower, and for a septic system as recommended by a Haitian engineer. The water tank is to be mounted on the roof along with solar panels. The solar panels will serve the entire clinic and are to be placed here to enable proper orientation towards the sun and to avoid shade. The estimated cost is \$13,000 not counting the solar system. Epworth Outreach Committee will be asking the Endowment Committee for money for this project. The Foundation has already received about \$3,700 in gifts designated for a restroom (toilets) and has also received sufficient funds to place the solar panels on the roof. We are grateful to these donors. Our Haitian Executive Director has recommended establishing several other public toilets as a possible long-term goal for the Foundation.

Congratulations Ancito

Ancito Gene graduates from Ecole Normale de Petit Goave (Petit Goave Normal School) on August 6th. He was on a Foundation scholarship. He will be receiving a certificate to become a fully qualified teacher. He is a member of the Fond Doux Foundation Committee, the leader of the English Club in Ravine Parc, and also a student at the Simple English School in Miragoâne. He is a member of the Primitive Church of Fond Doux and a graduate of College Mixte Capois la Mort, a high school in Fond Doux. He previously taught at the School for Tomorrow in Ravine Parc, where he received a salary of \$45 per month. On this small salary, he was able to put himself through two years of normal school before receiving a scholarship to complete his education to become a certified teacher. When asked to tell about himself, this is what he said:

"I am 25 years old and I am living with my mother. My mother's name is Simone Philidor. She is 50 years old and grew up here in Ravine Parc and is one of seven children of her parents. All of them are still living; but her mother, my grandmother, is deceased. The land that she owns was purchased by my grandfather, Monetoile Philidor. He is now living in Ravine Parc. My father is deceased. He died in an accident.



Ancito Gene

I have three siblings who are also living with my mother. Their names are Diones Gene (30 years old), Venise Gene (She is 28 years old) and Almando Gene, who is 20 years old. Diones is in his last year of high school. [Editor's Note: *One must remember that to attend school students must pay tuition. The poor in Haiti frequently do not attend school every year, but save money in order to go to school when they have accumulated enough money to pay the tuition. Thus, graduating from high school well into their twenties is not unusual although to be thirty is.*] Venise is in the 9th grade. Almando is in the 8th grade, but he doesn't go to school anymore. Those are my biological siblings.

I also have 2 sisters that don't live with my mother. They are children of my mother, but are not the children of my father. They are Natalie Mesidore (35 years old) and Jina Mesidore (32 years old). They do not have jobs. They live nearby with my aunt.

About myself, I do not have a job either, but would like to get a job to help my mother and my siblings. I am interested in teaching because I like education. When someone is teaching, there is an increase in knowledge. That is the reason I teach. I am interested in the English

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language. It is a beautiful language; and I know that with it I can get a job in a mission to help my mother and my siblings.

Every summer, I work in the soccer program in Ravine Parc which is a program we do each vacation. I like to help. However, the greatest Joys for me come when I see the old folks come to relax with us. It's a real pleasure for me.

I became a part of the Fond Doux Foundation Committee when I was in high school and was among the members of the church. I saw that our families are very poor. The church members saw that I could work as a secretary. They chose me to become a part of the Fond Doux Foundation Committee.

About working after my graduation at the Ravine Parc School, it's true that the Ravine Parc School doesn't have money to pay me to help my family; but I like it. If the school has sufficient help to pay their teachers, I will return. But if they do not have enough money to pay their teachers, I will try to get a different job and if I do find a job to help my mother and my siblings, I will still work in it."

Graduating High School Scholars

Several Students who received scholarships for their final year of high school from the Foundation will be graduating. Congratulations. They are Venelson Vitelus who is graduating from College Mixte Capois La Mort, Jowasky Saint Surin, also from College Mixte Capois La Mort. Both serve as teachers at the Ravine Parc English Club. The third graduate is Jazarove Louis, who is graduating from the Wesleyenne School of Fond Doux.



Velson Vitelus – Capois La Mort



Jowasky Saint Surin – Capois La Mort



Jazarove Louis – Wesleyenne School

Sympathy to Christella Sylvestre

Colbert Sylvestre, Christella Sylvestre's father (Christella is our community Health Worker) passed away on Thursday June 22, 2023 following a sudden illness. On the night of Wednesday June 21, 2023, he was not feeling too well. Following this, the family of the deceased took him to Fond Des Nègre Hospital (Salvation Army) due to stomach cramps and pain in the waist. Unfortunately, the late Colbert Sylvestre succumbed to his illness on Thursday June 22, 2023.

Last month we reported the tragic death of Bergeline Merjuste, the 20-year-old daughter of our janitor at the clinic, who died swiftly after contracting cholera. We have had two deaths in our immediate clinic staff families. We extend our condolences and sympathy. May they find Peace!

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Ravine Parc English Club



In Front of the Ravine Parc School

The Ravine Parc English Club has grown to nearly 50 students including both Elementary and High School Students. They have various levels of English proficiency. On July 15th each of the club members received a T-shirt to show that they are members of the Club.

The Club is led by Ancito Gene of Ravine Parc. Venelson Vitelus, Jowasky Saint Surin and Assistant Director Eluard Louis teach in the program.



Club Members in Class

Because the the club members are very poor and often come to the club hungry, the club leaders requested that the Foundation provide more refreshments at the meetings: juice, Vita Mamba or sometimes cookies. They meet twice a week on Friday and Saturday at the Ravine Parc School. Eluard Louis said, "empty stomachs have no ears."

Anecheca Jean Graduates



Anecheca and her Mother

Anecheca Jean (pronounced uh-NESH-ka), one of three children of her single mother, is 16 years old, a graduate of the School for Tomorrow in Ravine Parc and Midler (11th grade) at the Wesleyenne High School in Fond Doux on a Foundation scholarship. She lives in the village of Delatte, up the mountain from Fond Doux. She is a member of the English Club in Ravine Parc and took a class in computing to become more employable. She graduated from the computer class in July. All she needs now is a computer. We congratulate her on her achievement and her optimism in the face of strong obstacles. She is a joy to behold.

"SO LITTLE CAN DO SO MUCH"

To learn about our projects or to donate, you may contact the Foundation in a number of ways:

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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.