

The Fond Doux Flyer January 2024

Invitation to Make a Difference

Would you like to profoundly affect a community for the better? I know that your answer is “yes!” The Fond Doux Foundation offers you, our friends and supporters, ordinary people with ordinary incomes, just such an opportunity -- the opportunity to make the kind of profound difference that is usually reserved for people of immense wealth! We operate in the country of Haiti, a country where school teachers make less than \$1200 a year, a place where \$100 seems like \$2,000 to those of us in the US. What would \$2,000 do for a poor person in Durham? It would not cure poverty, but would seem like a Godsend for most. What would it be like to give them \$20,000? You know the answer!

Well, if you chose to give \$1,000 to the Fond Doux Foundation, it is like giving \$20,000 to your favorite US charity or family. It goes that far in making a difference! You can act like a billionaire! Yes, you actually can and we invite you to do so.

The Methodist School Need

The Foundation is embarking on the most ambitious financial campaign in its nearly 12-year history. We are going to build a school. This building will enable a portion of the Methodist School of Fond Doux for the first time in its history to use a building designed for education with chalk boards and desks and other amenities that we associate with a school.

For the ten years since its inception, the Methodist School has occupied the sanctuary of the Methodist Church. Everything is crowded and most importantly everything is noisy! Distractions are everywhere you look! What a blessing to be able to listen to a teacher without listening to other teachers speaking simultaneously. Or, having the distractions associated with 100 other children!

Our immediate goal is to raise \$80,000. For us, the Foundation and the people of Haiti, that is a very big goal. But we have \$20,000 raised so far. We need just \$60,000 more. It is a reachable goal, but we need new people to see the vision, and our present donors to dig really deep!

The truth is there are only a few donors to the Foundation each year. The vast bulk of our support comes from a handful of families with quite modest means that contribute on average \$10,000 per year. But that is like contributing \$200,000 to a US charity. Wow! Can you imagine that? Can you imagine having the impact of a \$200,000 contribution? What

about \$100,000? Or \$40,000? Yes, you can have that kind of an impact! You can do it with a \$10,000, \$5,000, or \$2,000 gift. Yes, that is digging really deep, but look at the difference it makes -- a brand-new school, four classrooms and a library! In the USA that is several million dollars. You can act like a billionaire. We need just \$60,000 more. Pray with us. We need a few more people to have their hearts deeply touched and it will be a reality. What a difference it will be! Can we get it done this year? It is our prayer!



Possible Floor Plan

2024 Foundation Budget

Haitian Operational Expenses	\$6,600
Platon School Operational Expenses	5,000
Platon School Vita Mamba	3,000
Teacher Training	1,000
Clinic Operational Expenses	8,000
Food Distribution and Holiday Meals	5,000
English Language Program	1,800
English Club Vita Mamba	1,200
Methodist Kindergarten Vita Mamba	2,000
Student Support (25 students)	6,000
University Scholarships (4 students)	10,000
Emergency Surgeries	4,000
Vaccinations and Deworming (animals)	1,000
Housing	5,000
Unanticipated Emergency Needs	3,000
Annual Total	\$62,600
Capital Fund Drive (School)	\$60,000
Grand Total	\$122,600

This is a very ambitious goal. To reach it, we will certainly need new donors beyond our usual few and it will require extraordinary dedication of those already donating to the Foundation. But if we reach this goal, it will be the estimated equivalent of over two million dollars of aid in the USA. What a difference! What a blessing! We invite you to act like a billionaire! It is possible! But we really need your help!

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Our Ongoing Programs

The Foundation is committed to continuing several major projects in 2024:

The Fond Doux Community Clinic. The clinic is a joint project with the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux. The Church owns the building in which the clinic is located and desires to be included in some of the decisions of running the clinic. As such we have a clinic committee consisting of two voting members appointed by the Church, two appointed by the Foundation and a fifth member appointed by the other four members. The fifth member of the committee is Wilnor Charlemagne.



Nurse Myrdred with a Patient

Although the clinic charges for its care, it waves the fees for children and for people living in Fond Doux that cannot pay the fees (the majority of patients).

The administrator of the Clinic is Eluard Louis, the Assistant Director of the Foundation. The clinic has four employees: Myrdred Kaminski Delva, nurse practitioner and medical director; Christella Sylvester Julsaint, community health worker; Rosemène Eustache Merjuste, janitor; and Dave Stevenson Michael, night watchman. A fifth employee is being sought, a lab technician to run the diagnostic laboratory.

During 2023 the clinic saw 803 patients through December 15th. The clinic also hosts a pregnancy program run by Michaëlle Sainatus for about 12 to 14 pregnant women each month funded by Angela Lewis of Edmund, Oklahoma as well as hosting an eye clinic, some of whose patients had their fees paid by the Foundation. Clinic staff also conducted door to door cholera education during 2023.

English Language Program. The Foundation operates an English Club in Ravine Parc at the School for Tomorrow. The club has approximately 60 members that are studying English that meet every Friday and Saturday. The teachers are Ancito Gene and Venelson Vitelus. The administrator is Eluard Louis. Jowasky Saint Surin has been also associated with the Club. He wishes to start one in Fond Doux.



Part of Ravine Parc English Club

Because of the extreme poverty of the Ravine Parc community, many of the students come to the club hungry. Therefore, the Foundation has been providing snacks. Beginning late in the year that snack is Vita Mamba, a nutritional snack designed to prevent malnutrition.

Several students are also provided scholarships to study English at other places including teacher Ancito Gene, who is studying at the Simple English School in Miragoâne. The Foundation also hosted a training session for teachers of English in the local schools.

The Platon School. For the last four years the Foundation has subsidized the Good Samaritan School of Platon. It did so at the strong urging of the Haitian advisory committee to the Foundation to prevent the school's closure. The school is K thru 6. During this time, it has increased from 40 students in 2020 to 58 students during 2023. Yearly tuition is approximately \$6.00 USD per year. No child is now denied admission because of the inability of the parents to pay. Tuition covers at most the cost of chalk and a few classroom supplies, but cannot begin to cover the cost of teacher salaries or books. The parents are expected to pay for a school uniform. Platon is very remote and can be reached only by boat or over a mountain by foot.

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Teacher Orlymy Dorce with Class

The Administrator of the school is Jonas Pierre. He is a resident of Platon and serves as the pastor of a non-denominational church that has no building. There are five teachers at the school: Sara Lissa Rubin, kindergarten; Lisamène Dorce, kindergarten; Eugene Belizaire, grades 1 & 2; Alvena Belabe, grades 3 & 4; and Orlymy Dorce, grades 5 & 6.

A survey of the eating habits of the students discovered that many students eat once a day, are not eating breakfast and come to school hungry. The Foundation began to supply the students with a nutritional snack Vita Mamba. Unfortunately, the shipment was delayed this past Fall and the supplement was temporarily unavailable when school began.

University Scholarships. Presently we have 4 students. Two are seeking teaching certificates (Johnson Louis and Ancito Gene); one is in business administration and accounting (Dawine Delmas); and the other is in computer engineering (Schneider Saint Surin). Ancito Gene has completed a three-year normal school program but will go an additional year to obtain his teaching certificate. On average, it costs about \$2500-\$3000 per year to support a university student each year. We thank the donors.

Nutritional Program. We have already mentioned the Vita Mamba program with the Platon School and the English Club, but we are committed to providing the supplement to the kindergarten students at the Methodist School of Fond Doux as well. Malnutrition below age 5 stunts development. We have needed to use undesignated donations to

do so. We therefore cannot provide it for the whole school. Perhaps in the future we will be able.



Food at Ravine Parc Nov. 25th, 2023

Our nutritional program has included regular food subsidies for several families and an occasional general food distributions specifically for children and the aged. For the last few years we have also provided a community holiday meal in Fond Doux (last year 600 people) and also in Platon and Ravine Parc.

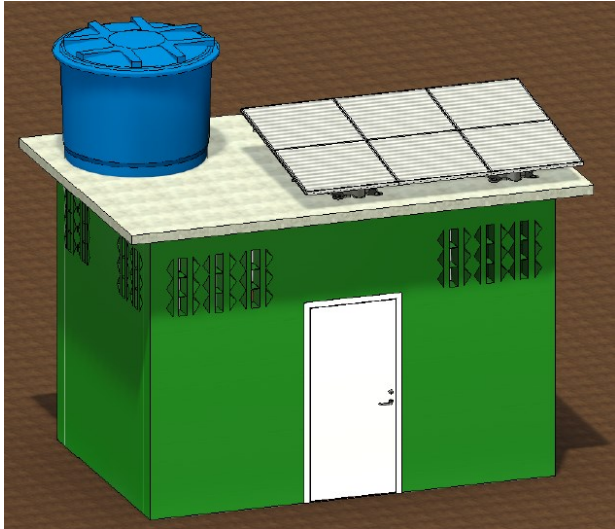


Goat Vaccination

Yet, food distribution is not our preference. We desire the village to be able to provide food for itself. This year, we only plan a minor expenditure in that direction -- in vaccinations and deworming of goats and a beginning of community gardens. Longer term, we have other things in mind, but certainly not this year. Our budget is too tight. In the past we have studied some irrigation proposals. The design proposed was prohibitively expensive, but we believe that we can find other less expensive means for irrigation during the dry season.

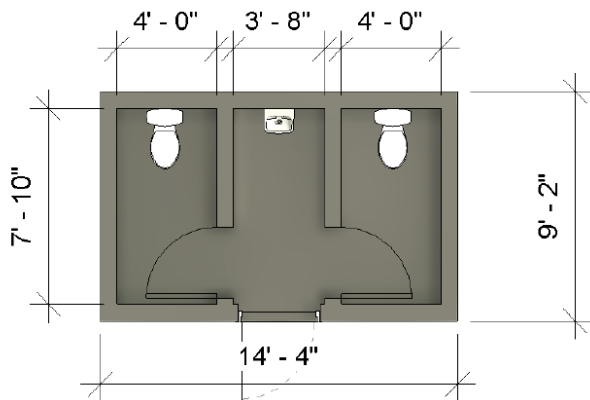
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A Proposed Restroom at the Clinic



Exterior View of Restroom

Construction of the much-needed restroom at the Fond Doux Community Clinic has been delayed by slow negotiations with the Wesleyenne Church on the contract for the use of the clinic building. We have been seeking assurances of long-term use of the building before we invest in significant expenditures for upgrading the facility. We were not prepared to invest significantly if in a couple of years, we would need to build a new building or find another location.



Proposed Restroom Floor plan

A new five-year contract is expected to be signed soon. As a result, we expect to erect the restroom this year (2024) with funds raised last calendar year. Thank you, donors! The roof will hold the solar panels for the clinic electricity as well as a water tank. Currently, we are using a generator as a temporary measure for electricity. Water is now carried by hand. Thus, the completion of this project will create an enormous improvement for the staff.

Unmet Need -- Pray with Us



Hope for Tomorrow School, Ravine Parc

Although we have received many urgent requests to help the Ravine Parc School (literally begging us) to prevent its closure, we have not included the basic minimum of \$6,000 in our annual budget because we already need additional resources to meet our present commitments! Several times the Foundation has given the school an emergency grant from a gift designated by a donor for the school. However, to begin subsidizing this school requires raising an additional \$6,000 to \$12,000 **annually** that we have no idea from where it might come. Although we are acquainted well with people (Our English Club is hosted by the school), we simply could not make a commitment, only issue a plea. The school has grades K thru 6th and fortunately a substantial building. How long the school can survive with teachers that are virtually without pay is unknown. It is on our prayer list. Please add it to yours.

"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.