

The Fond Doux Flyer March 2024

Lockdown Hits Fond Doux

On February 9th, our Executive Director said this to the board: “The wind of panic, the wind of fear and the wind of despair, unfortunately, has been blowing across the entire Haitian territory for the last two weeks. Believe it or not but people are suffering from the lockdown which has paralyzed daily activities!”



Kids Play on the Highway

People were fearful. So, they stayed home including the school children. So, the schools closed. Even our clinic suffered. First, the patients became afraid to come. Then the staff was unable to get to the clinic as well. What a tragedy! Yet, children took the opportunity to play on the empty road. Roads began opening again on the 14th. Most schools reopened on the 26th.

However, with access to food difficult, many people become hungry. The Executive Director asked the FDF to intervene. He asked the board to provide another emergency food distribution to the neediest and most vulnerable of Fond Doux. So, the board authorized a February distribution.



The FDF distributes Food to the Hungry

2023 Financial Summary

2023 Income

Unrestricted Donations	\$20,227.29
Designated Donations	<u>65,875.62</u>
Total Income	\$86,102.91

2023 Expenditures

Administrative Expenditures	\$ 4,602.00
Programmatic Expenditures	
Community Programing	7,900.03
Educational Events and Scholarships	26,244.00
Platon School	4,900.00
Clinic & Medical Expenditures	13,411.00
Nutrition/Food Distribution	6,465.00
Nutrition/Vita Mamba	6,697.00
Emergency Relief	3,505.00
House Construction	11,143.00
Designated Miscellaneous	3,608.00
Agriculture	250.00
Solar Lamps	300.00
Land Purchase	<u>3,166.00</u>
Total Expenditures	\$92,191.03

We wish to thank all our contributors. Our donors have been very generous. However, our donor base is very small. Help us expand it by talking with your friends. During the past year we had 51 individuals or entities contribute to the Foundation with the average gift being \$1,700. The top six contributors gave an average of \$8,866, over 61% of the total contributions. All contributions are treasured.

Progress on Fund Drives

School/Center	-- goal \$80,000 --	\$40,000
Clinic Latrine	-- goal \$ 8,000 --	\$ 6,492
House Fund	-- goal \$ 5,500 --	\$ 4,035
Solar Power Fund	- goal \$ 8,000 --	\$ 8,000

Thank you, donors. We are making progress.

You may contribute in a variety of ways:

Our website: www.fonddouxfoundation.org

PayPal: Fond Doux Foundation

Venmo: @FondDouxFoundation

By US mail with a check to:

Fond Doux Foundation

PO Box 51443

Durham, NC 27717

Or through Epworth UMC Church, Durham, NC

All contributions are tax deductible. You will receive a remittance statement at the end of the year.

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Construction Projects

Thanks to recent donations, two much needed construction projects are on the immediate horizon of the Foundation. They are the clinic latrine and a house for Charlotte Fanfan. We highlighted both in previous Flyers. We have recently completed repair of two houses, one for our community health worker, Christella Julsaint, and another for Anecheca Jean, a supported student.

The house for our night watchman, David Stevenson Michael, is still in progress. Dave's friends are assisting him with the building. Among these friends are Jean Gardy Charlot, Fidelus Federson, Shelson Mauril, John Pierre and others.



Jean Gardy and John Pierre at Work

The materials for the house were provided by the Foundation in exchange for labor on some future construction projects. We believe this is a win/win solution for both him and the Foundation, reducing the cost for both.



The House Progresses

These projects have been made possible because of gifts designated specifically for their construction. Thank you, donors.

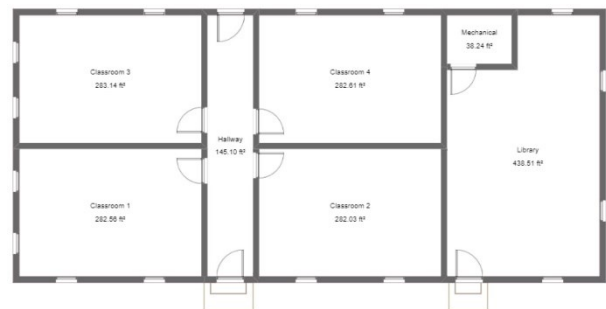
School Construction Plans

Since 2022, the Methodist Church of Fond Doux has been the principal partner of the Fond Doux Foundation. Community events sponsored by the Foundation have been held at the Methodist Church including this past year's Christmas meal. The Foundation needs a building to host community events and the church has a great need for a building to house at least part of its school. We will attack both needs together.



Land across from Methodist Church

With the blessing of the leaders of the Methodist Church of Fond Doux, the Foundation purchased land across the road from the church. It was previously eyed by the church as a location for its school. The Foundation now plans to build a community center that can be used by the school in the mornings to house a significant portion of the Methodist School. In the afternoon and evenings, it can be used for community events. A library section could perhaps also hold some community events even when school is in session, or in emergency a clinic.



Possible Floor Plan

The Foundation is now trying to raise money for its construction. The goal for the first phase of this project is \$80,000. The present vision calls for a building encompassing four classrooms and a library (part of the school will continue to be in the Church

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building). Besides the building itself, we need to include a well, a toilet and desks to be ready to occupy the building. We were hoping the \$80,000 could cover all or most of these costs. However, after consulting with a builder with experience in constructing earthquake proof buildings, we believe that we will actually need more money. We may need to revise our goals and/or plans.



Community Center/School

A preliminary site plan calls for several additional buildings in the future. These would include an office building for the Foundation including housing for American visitors. Other possible structures could be a home for a groundskeeper and/or a night watchman, potentially a trade school, homes for other staff, or even elderly people in need of additional attention. We expect to use part of the property for temporary and perhaps permanent gardens as well. This will be determined by needs and what money becomes available.

Ways to Help

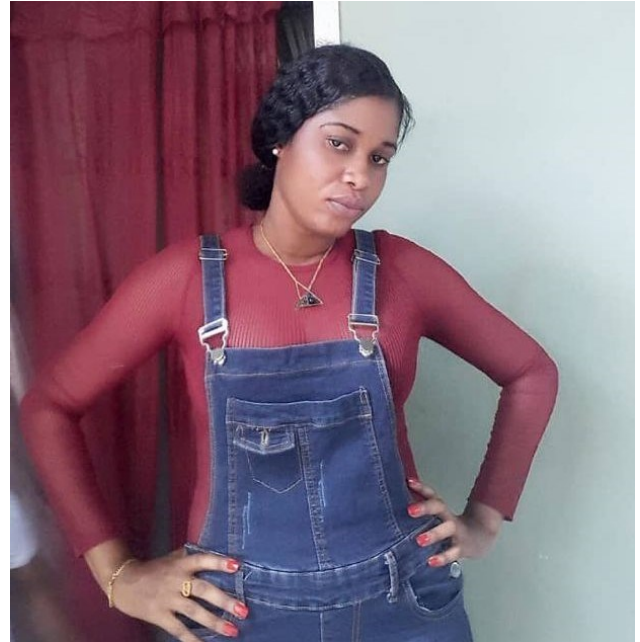
Obviously, the first thing is to pray for the success of our fund drive and to give as generously as possible. We think we need about four really major gifts to reach our \$80,000 goal. We now have two. Gifts of all sizes are welcome and much needed.

However, we also need to find new donors, not only for this one-time fund drive, but for sustaining support. We have ongoing needs in our educational, medical and nutritional programs.

You can help in two ways. One of these is through word of mouth telling of our work in Fond Doux to friends and neighbors and suggest their support. This is in fact how we have received some of our most significant gifts.

Another is to approach a group in which you are involved to sponsor a program on our work and challenges. The Foundation will be glad to bring a program. Yes, we will travel. We have a great story to tell. We operate a clinic, support a school, provide scholarships, assist agriculture, conduct community events, and provide many emergency as well as cultural and religious services.

The Methodist School in Fond Doux



Lovely Felix, Vice Principal

In October 2022, Emile Maceus, our Executive Director, spoke with Lovely Felix, Vice-Principal of the Methodist School. Shortly after the interview, the Foundation gave a \$1,000 USD emergency grant to the school and has given several emergency grants since because the school is underfunded. The Foundation also plans to offer Vita Mamba to the kindergarten. It has not, however, assumed financial responsibility for its operation This is what she said:

“The school was founded in 2012. The main reason for the creation of the school was that there were a lot of young people that did not go to school. When we talked to their parents, they told us they did not have money to put their kids in school. The second reason was the importance to the Church for a school to be affiliated with the Methodist Church. There was a lack of kids in the church. We saw that if we had a school, led and affiliated with the church, those kids would come to the church, learn to serve God and find interest in the activities organized by the church. (This was realized. Hallelujah!)

The person that was at the head of the project was a young man called Mr. Édouard. He died two years after the founding of the school. Since then, the principal of the school has been Mr. Veldor Rosemé.

A year after the founding of the school, teacher Édouard called me and told me that he had in mind to close the school because there was not enough money to finance it. After many conversations, I told him that I had a friend with whom I was going to seek

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assistance for the school. (The friend was a Methodist pastor in New York.) I talked to my friend. He was one of the people that worked on the construction of the church. I explained the situation to him. Before that, my friend was sponsoring nineteen kids with another school. He used to send the money to me to pay for the kids.

When I talked to him about our project, he said that he was happy to hear such a perspective. Then and there, he decided to sponsor the school! They bought materials for the school, decided to pay the teachers, and sent money to buy food. Once they bought clothes, uniforms for the students. I can only say they helped us with the school as much as they could. (Since then a group of black churches in the New York Conferences of the United Methodist Church have been supporting the school.)

The school is free, that is to say we don't really have any tuition income. We rely on sponsorships only. However, the sponsorship is not as regular as it should be. By-the time, we receive money from the supporters, we have already become indebted.

Our dream is to have a great school, responding to all the norms of any other school. We have nine classes at the school. . . .and 15 people working at the school. The school needs materials for the students -- like books, copy books, uniforms, etc. The school needs its own place -- a building of its own. I think we need electricity, public toilets or latrines. The supporters that used to pay for the teachers, they sometimes sent money to buy food to cook for the students. In addition to this, the Methodist mission also used to send food for the school. However, the subsidy given by the missionaries is unable to cover all the needs of the school."

The School has approximately 120 students in three levels of kindergarten and grades one through six. All the classes are held in the sanctuary of the Church except the 5th and 6th grades which share a small room off the sanctuary.

There are 15 employees at the school including support staff and custodian. They have a combined payroll of under \$1000 USD per month (ridiculously low), which they have been unable to regularly meet. The major financial support comes from several black United Methodist Churches in New York. The Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church used to help with some food but is now no longer active in Haiti -- unfortunately.

Vita Mamba Arrives



After eight unsuccessful efforts to pick up our Vita Mamba, a children's nutritional supplement, in Port-au-Prince, the Executive Director, Emile Maceus, found a way to obtain the Vita Mamba and avoid the gangs and demonstrators that have been preventing travel between Port-au-Prince and Fond Doux. For several months, this precious cargo had been sitting in a warehouse in Port-au-Prince, paid for but unavailable; but each time he had tried to pick-it up, he needed to turn back. We are grateful that he navigated this trip safely and successfully!

The Vita Mamba is to be distributed to the children in the Platon school, the Ravine Parc English Club and the Methodist School kindergarten when school is in session.

"SO LITTLE CAN DO SO MUCH"

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

Website: www.fonddouxfoundation.org

Email: John@fonddouxfoundation.org

Address:

Fond Doux Foundation

PO Box 51443

Durham, NC 27717

Website manager: Brent Engel

Newsletter editor: John Clausing

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.