

The Fond Doux Flyer June 2024

Progress of Fund Drives

School/Center	- rev. goal \$100,000 --	\$45,106
Clinic Toilet	- rev. goal \$ 10,000 --	\$ 7,875
House Fund	- goal \$ 5,000 --	\$ 4,025
Campus well	- goal \$ 8,000 --	\$ 200

Thank You, donors. We are making progress.

Invitation to Dinner September 22

An informational and fundraising dinner has been set for Sunday September 22nd after the 11:00 AM worship service at Epworth United Methodist Church in Durham, NC. The Foundation will report on the progress of several construction projects including the clinic toilet, clinic solar electric, and house for Charlotte Fanfan. The big drive this year is to secure money for building a school/community center on our campus. This should alleviate the overcrowding of the Methodist School as well as secure a meeting place for community events.



Proposed Community Center/School

There are approximately 120 students included in three levels of kindergarten through grade six. All classes are held in the Methodist Church sanctuary except for the 5th and 6th grades which share a teacher and a small class room off the sanctuary. The new building will contain four classrooms and a library. Which grades will be moved to the new building has not been decided. The new building is estimated to cost \$98,420 US dollars. We also need a well, a restroom and classroom furniture to be ready for occupancy. The first step is the well.

A Campus Well -- SOON



This picture was taken at the opening of a well in Raphael, Haiti when it was new, sponsored by a Foundation contributor several years ago. It created quite a crowd. Perhaps, we can see a similar scene on our campus in Fond Doux in a few months. It will be step one in the development of our campus north of the Methodist Church. Drilling wells is both an art and a science. Finding the correct place to drill and the correct depth to drill is not always easy to determine. The Foundation recently had a company visit our campus to help fix a site and give us an estimate for drilling a well. Our preliminary estimate is \$8,000 USD.

Handwashing Stations



Handwashing Made Easy

Thanks to the generosity of Scott Gregg, the Foundation is installing handwashing stations at the clinic and at the Wesleyenne, Methodist, La Bonne Semence, Capois La Mort, Centre D'Amour, Ravine Parc and Platon Schools. This is the second attempt at establishing handwashing stations. Earlier, Scott had helped build some wooden stations, but they were damaged by vandalism and theft. These will be able to be moved into the building when not in use. Handwashing in Haiti is difficult to maintain without handwashing stations because of the lack of available water (no running water) and bleach or soap. The schools are agreeing to provide the bleach or soap. Handwashing is the first line of defense against many diseases, especially typhoid and cholera which periodically sweep the nation. The establishment of the handwashing stations was delayed by the inability to purchase the desired faucets. The stations needed to be redesigned. They were built by Eligene Polistin and are being distributed by our Executive Director, Emile Maceus.

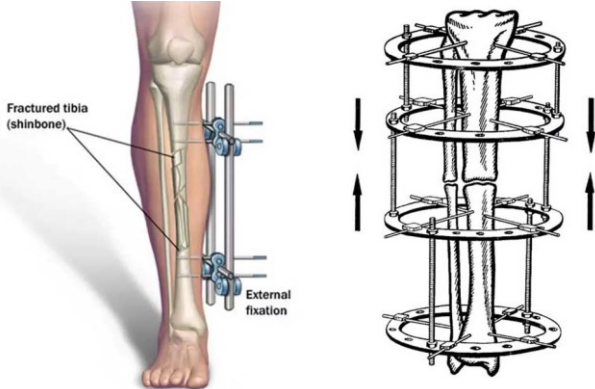
Clinic News



Virgil Merlens

A couple months ago we told you about two children with congenital leg deformities. We have good news for Virgil Merlens. In the picture above, we see the progress in his treatment. The smile on his face is delightful. We thank those that contributed to the surgery fund. The progress is because of you.

Spem-Sheelove Mauril was not quite so fortunate. The orthopedic surgeon after examining her determined that she will need to wait several years and undergo a series of operations to lengthen her femur.



This consists of surgery in which the femur is broken and held apart with an external device. The bones will then fill in the separation and fuse together again. Several years later it will need to be repeated.

Combating Malnutrition

The Foundation has been trying to alleviate the problem of malnutrition in Fond Doux in a variety of ways. First, we have instituted a school snack program, Vita Mamba, which has produced a surprising improvement in school age children. Thank you, donors. Our associated schools have three years of kindergarten. So this program can reach children as young as three years of age. Second, we cooperate with a healthy pregnancy program sponsored by people associated with Chi Alpha Campus Ministries. They meet in the clinic building to try to insure healthy babies. But still there is a gap for children one and two years old. The clinic partially fills this gap. Sometimes children are brought to the clinic by their mothers with rather imprecise but concerning symptoms such as lethargy or lack of growth. The staff finds the children are suffering from malnutrition. The problem is not always insufficient food, but rather the lack of the nutritional value of their normal diet.



Plumpy Doz

The clinic is able to respond by offering plumpy doz, a supplement for children six months to five years. The clinic is presently treating 17 children for malnutrition with plumpy doz or Vita Mamba.

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Agricultural Assistance



Gardens of the Paulo Family

A major goal of the Foundation is to improve nutrition through improving agriculture. Some of the more successful efforts of the Foundation were the agricultural education classes conducted by the veterinarian Dr. Libby Engel. People came from miles on foot just to hear about caring for goats in particular and later also chickens and pigs. She likewise led a team in vaccinating and deworming goats.

With the absence of mission trips caused by the pandemic and then the turmoil caused by gangs and demonstrations, the Foundation still continued the practice of deworming goats in both Fond Doux and Platon and also vaccinated pigs in the Fond Doux area under the leadership of the Executive Director Emile Maceus. Unfortunately, the purchase of supplies in Haiti has become difficult and our assistance in this area has been curtailed. At one time the Foundation previously sponsored a goat farm, and then a chicken farm, but did not operate them. For various reasons both of these experiments ended.

The Foundation later seriously explored operating an egg farm, but did not proceed when the expected landlord requested too much rent money for it to succeed. Erection of our own facilities then likewise proved too expensive. The Foundation further explored a community irrigation system. But this also did not proceed because it cost too much, at least for now. These projects are not necessarily totally forgotten, but are on hold.

Presently, the Foundation is again exploring other ways of improving agriculture -- through gardening. If the people of Fond Doux are to improve their economic viability and nutrition, improving agriculture would appear to be the first step.



Emile Maceus and Hilaire Mackenson

At the April meeting of the Foundation, the FDF board agreed to hire Mr. Hilaire Mackenson for a six month trial period to work with Fond Doux gardeners to improve both their yields and the nutritional value of their gardens. He will also be asked to create some model gardens on our property north of the Methodist Church. The salary and some expenses have been underwritten by a donation earmarked for this program. We may still need to find donations to purchase some supplies and perhaps fencing for the garden. When we interviewed Mackenson, this is what he said:

I am an agricultural technician. An agricultural technician is a person who specializes in technical fields related to agriculture. He may be responsible for implementing agricultural practices, crop management, maintaining agricultural equipment, or even monitoring animals. I can contribute to the smooth running of a farm by applying technical knowledge to optimize yields and monitor agricultural activities. Gardening is my specialty.

I worked as an agricultural technician on a farm in the 7th section of Petit Goave, and on another in Léogâne, and I work in my own garden. At these 2 farms, I was responsible for cultivation. I was responsible for preparing the soil, for planting and preparing seeds, and fertilizers for both farms. I also studied agricultural techniques at the CPCF Center in Petit Goave. These experiences provided very fruitful results. Both of these

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farms on which I was working belonged to one owner. After the last harvest, they closed the farms because people with guns kidnapped the owner; that is the reason why I don't work there anymore.

My dream job is to operate a farm of about 10 hectares with all the production possibilities and also to transform 50% of our products. Transforming our foodstuffs, for example, means turning tomatoes into ketchup, carrots into juice, potatoes into chips and others, etc... All of that is possible. One of the rarest things in Haiti in the field of agriculture is the transformation of agricultural products. Yet, all Haitians consume that of the Dominican Republic.

To improve a subsistence farmer's agriculture, I would first recommend analyzing local needs, provide training in modern agricultural techniques, provide access to quality seeds, and promote sustainable practices such as crop rotation. In my opinion to proceed with such a situation, I would apply the 7 main approaches for any sustainable and profitable agriculture business: 1) needs analysis, 2) training, 3) access to quality seeds, 4) sustainable practices, 5) financial support, 6) networking, and 7) monitoring and evaluation.

Faithful Supporter Dies



Anne Cordts

Anne Cordts, a faithful contributor and supporter of the Fond Doux Foundation, passed away on May 6th. She not only gave four figure donations, but she regularly cut out articles in the Washington, DC newspapers that had news about Haiti, a subject usually not covered by most local newspapers. She shared them with the Foundation. She was a kind soul that will be missed by the FDF community as well as by her other friends. She was 98 years old. She passed peacefully in her sleep without pain, we have been told. "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Gifts in her memory are certainly welcome.

Note from Dr. Istache



Our resident physician at the Fond Doux Clinic, Dr. Dieuseul Istache was raised in Fond Doux and educated on an FDF scholarship. Recently, he shared this note with Brent Engel: "I almost forgot to alert you about this, a week after my return (to Fond Doux) armed bandits took the house where I was renting for many years in Tabarre, and looted everything. Thank you very much for your support. Many times you asked me to move out from Port-au-Prince. It was for a very specific reason, I would be a victim. I will not stop thanking you for all you have been doing for me. You are a good father and a very nice Friend. . ."

"SO LITTLE CAN DO SO MUCH"

To learn about our projects, you can reach the Foundation in a number of ways:

Website: www.fonddouxfoundation.org

Email: John@fonddouxfoundation.org

By US mail at: Fond Doux Foundation, PO Box 51443, Durham, NC 27717.

Donations can also be through:

PayPal: Fond Doux Foundation

Venmo: @FondDouxFoundation

Or through Epworth UMC Church, Durham, NC

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.