

## The Fond Doux Flyer July 2024

### Progress of Fund Drives

School/Center	- rev. goal \$100,000 --	\$46,106
Clinic Toilet	- rev. goal \$ 10,000 --	\$ 8,175
House Fund	- goal \$ 5,000 --	\$ 4,025
Campus well	- goal \$ 8,000 --	\$ 400

Thank you, donors.

**The Mission:** Embracing the call of Jesus,

The mission of the Fond Doux Foundation is to enhance the lives and empower those who live in and around Fond Doux, Haiti, helping to provide:

- Vacation Bible School and Christian cultural activities.
- Sustainable agriculture with the goal of improving nutrition.
- Education in animal husbandry, public health, and English as a second language
- Community support for the health and well-being of the villagers

All to the Glory of God.

### Changes in the Last Five Years for The Fond Doux Foundation



#### Demonstrators Block Local Highway -- 2023

As a result of the pandemic, gang activities and demonstrators, visits to Fond Doux by Foundation mission teams have been suspended for almost five years. The result, however is that the work has expanded, not shrunk. Haitians are doing much more than we ever could with mission teams alone. The depth and breadth of these activities may surprise you. We list some of these activities:

**Christian Cultural Activities.** Presently, instead of VBS we have a Saturday club for children and youth held at the Methodist Church of Fond Doux featuring Bible stories taught by Johnson Louis. He is both a teacher in the Methodist School and a university scholar of the Foundation. Music had been a part of this activity, but is presently suspended. Around Christmas and New Year, the Foundation has assisted the communities of Fond

Doux, Platon and Ravine Parc celebrate the holidays with a community meal.

**Agriculture.** The Fond Doux Foundation has sponsored goat dewormings and a pig vaccination project in Fond Doux under the leadership of our Executive Director Emile Maceus. A new goat deworming session is planned soon for the village of Platon. Meanwhile, the Foundation recently hired Hilaire Mackenson to lead a trial program to improve gardens in Fond Doux. The program will include demonstration gardens on Foundation land north of the Methodist Church. He began in June. The goal is to increase the yields and nutritional value of Fond Doux gardens.

**Other Nutritional Projects.** The biggest of these is the Vita Mamba project. We supply this childhood nutritional supplement every school day for approximately 58 children in the Good Samaritan School of Platon and for 40 kindergarten students (three levels of pre-school beginning at age three) at the Methodist School of Fond Doux. In addition, we also provide it for 60 English Club students in Ravine Parc and for 20 students at the English Club in Fond Doux. Recently, we greatly expanded the treatment of malnutrition at the Fond Doux Community Clinic for children six months to 3 years. We had 17 children enrolled for both Plumby Doz (the pre-school supplement) and powdered milk. The number is increasing. A recent educational event on malnutrition brought 45 children and their mothers to the clinic. The results of these activities have been phenomenal!

**Emergency Food Distribution.** The Foundation would prefer not to be engaged in direct handouts of food, but does so periodically because there are vulnerable and hungry people unable to provide for themselves. The Foundation also provides a very small number of these people regular distributions. The request for these far outstrip our ability to provide.

**Public Health.** Disease prevention is actually more important than treatment of the sick. The Foundation has been involved in a variety of ways. In addition to the community educational activities led by our community nurse, we went door to door to provide information on cholera prevention during the recent Haitian cholera epidemic. We have conducted surveys on typhoid and cholera, provided mosquito netting to many households, tested drinking water for bacteria, repaired a pump and a water station, delivered soap and chlorine to schools and households, created hand-washing stations at seven schools, erected a latrine and lights in

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Platon and are building a toilet at the clinic in Fond Doux. We have a community health worker that is available 24 hours a day who visits people in their homes in emergency and provides hygiene kits for teenage girls.

**English Clubs.** The Foundation sponsors two English Clubs, one in Ravine Parc (up the mountain north of Fond Doux). We employ three teachers there and it has 60 members. The Fond Doux Club has about 20 members with one teacher. The curriculum is designed by the program director Eluard Louis, Assistant Director of the Foundation.

**Health Care.** The Foundation operates a clinic in cooperation with the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux four days a week and employs a doctor, a nurse, a custodian, a night watchman and a community health worker. The clinic is presently looking for a lab technician to operate the laboratory. The clinic charges for its services, but no one is turned away. In fact, most of its clients receive free or subsidized care. The clinic provides free check-ups for school children. Additional continuing support for the clinic is a great need. The Foundation also has a fund to provide for emergency care and for life saving and life altering surgeries for people that cannot afford them. This year the Foundation worked with two children with congenital leg deformities, a woman that fell from a tree, a cancer patient and a child with phimosis – just so far in 2024.



### Inadequate Housing

**Shelter.** Many people live in shacks, shanties and tents that do not keep out the rain. The Foundation has given out many tarps to attempt to keep families dry when it rains. The Foundation built three houses in the last five years, repaired two others with new roofs and is in the process of completing another house this month. The Foundation uses only money specifically donated for these houses because the need is overwhelming.

**General Education.** Originally, the Foundation did not involve itself with primary and secondary education. Mission to Haiti was already involved with the Capois la Mort School in Fond Doux. We had and continue to have no intention of competing with Mission to Haiti in their educational efforts in the community. However the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee requested us to sponsor the school in the coastal village of Platon over the mountain north of Fond Doux. It could not remain open without outside assistance. Mission to Haiti was not involved in Platon and confirmed to us that they did not wish to become involved there. The Foundation became partners with the Good Samaritan School of Platon and became the sponsor of the school. Jonas Pierre is the administrator. The school has grown from 40 to 58 students, kindergarten (three levels) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The Fond Doux Foundation Committee also requested us to help individual students in various different schools. Presently, we are helping 10 primary students and 10 high school students, many of them from the Ravine Parc area up the mountain north of Fond Doux where we hold an English Club. We have been requested to help several times that number but have declined because of lack of resources.

**Partnership with the Methodist Church of Fond Doux.** The Methodist Church helped the Foundation when we were desperately seeking a place to hold community events. Because they have willingly hosted a variety of community events with the Foundation including the community Christmas celebrations, educational events, and the Saturday Club, we have become very familiar with their people. Not surprisingly, they asked us for emergency support for their underfunded school. In consideration of their hospitality, we have sometimes supplied emergency grants without becoming an official sponsor. Because we still need to have a dependable meeting place for our community events, we are engaged in a campaign to erect a community center. It will also be used by the Methodist School to alleviate their overcrowding.

**University Scholars.** The Foundation has two university students presently attending classes. Two additional university scholars have needed to suspend classes because of the travel danger and/or the chaotic situation of the country. They hope at some point to continue their education when conditions permit. Four students with previous university scholarships have completed their university education including a medical doctor. Three are employed by the Foundation. The other is employed in a nearby village as a teacher.

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**Foundation Campus.** The Foundation has purchased land north of the Methodist Church. As already mentioned, it plans to erect a building there for joint use of the Foundation and the Methodist School. At least temporarily, it will host model gardens. The first step is the drilling of a well to be used both for agriculture and the school/community center. We are now accepting gifts for this purpose. Dreams include a library (planned), an office building, a visitor center, and perhaps a trade school and/or homes for the aged.

### **The Haitian Staff:**

**Foundation Staff:** Emile Maceus, Executive Director; Eluard Louis, Assistant Director, Director of the Clinic and English Studies; and Hillaire Mackenson, Agriculture Agent.

**Clinic Staff:** Dr. Dieuseul Istache, Physician; Myrdred Kaminski Delva, Nurse Practitioner & Health Teacher; Christella Sylvestre Julsaint, Community Health Worker; Rosemène Merjuste, Custodian; Dave S. Michel, Night Watchmen; and Jean Guitho Pierre, Volunteer.

**English Club Teachers:** Ancito Gene, Venelson Vitelus, John Pierre, and Jowasky Saint Surin.

**Platon School Teachers:** Orlmy Dorce, Eugene Belizaire, Avena Belabe; Lisamène Dorce; Sarra Lissa Rubin; and Pastor Jonas Pierre, Unpaid Administrator.

Five years ago we had just one staff person – the community health worker.

### **Bat Problem Fixed**



#### **Installing Screens on Clinic Windows**

The clinic had a serious problem this Spring when some bats decided to take up residence in the clinic building. This caused our custodian considerable work to keep the place clean. Fortunately, we are now able to keep the bats (and insects) out. We placed screens over the windows and roof access spaces. The screens needed to be custom made, delaying their installation.

### **Solar Lights in Platon**



#### **Community Solar Light at Platon**

At the request of the Haitian Executive Director and the residents of Platon, the Foundation purchased two solar lights for the village of Platon. The men of the village obtained the poles and installed the lights. They are used by the fisherman, who fish at night. They are even used by students to study at night. Few Platon homes have any lights.

### **Construction Begins**



#### **Charlotte Fanfan House**

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After many delays the house for Charlotte Fanfan is finally started. After her husband was killed, with only the clothes on their backs, Charlotte and her four children fled Port-au-Prince with its very dangerous conditions. She and her family landed in Fond Doux almost three years ago. The community welcomed them with the aid of the Foundation, but it has not been easy. They have lived in a number of places in Fond Doux since. For months now she and her children have lived in a tent. We believe better days for her and her family are ahead. Her family is the latest family to benefit from our efforts to improve shelter. Her new home is a short way up the mountain north of Fond Doux. We would also like to find employment for her, if possible; but that is difficult as a single mother with four children and no child care or relatives.

### Our Nutrition Program



#### Nurse Myrdred Teaches about Nutrition

Recent efforts to teach good nutrition to mothers of young children have been very well received and exploded the number of children being treated at the clinic for malnutrition.

#### As Told by Eluard Louis, Clinic Director

"I'd like to provide you with an overview of our nutrition program. We cater to 60 children, and here's how our program is structured:

**Weekly Schedule:** Every Friday, we carry out a thorough health evaluation for each child.

**Nutritional Assessment:** Each Friday, we conduct a detailed health assessment for the children. This includes measuring their weight to track growth, taking their temperature to check for signs of illness, and recording vital signs like heart rate and breathing rate. These assessments help us monitor the children's health progress and identify any immediate concerns.

**Educational Component:** Before the health assessments, we have an educational session with the mothers. This is a crucial part of our program where we share knowledge about proper nutrition, hygiene, and home care practices. It's an interactive class where mothers can ask questions and learn how to better support their children's health at home.

**Nutritional Support:** Each child receives 7 "mamba" snacks per week to aid their diet. [Recently, we added powdered milk to the program. A generous donor has pledged \$100 a month. Thank You.]

**Tailored Assistance:** The duration of each child's participation in the program is determined by their level of nutritional vulnerability. Children who are more at risk may stay in the program for up to 12 weeks, while others might graduate sooner, at 8 weeks. This flexibility allows us to provide personalized care and support where it's needed most.

**Our goal:** To ensure that every child receives the necessary nutritional assistance and that their families are equipped with the knowledge to sustain their health."

### Clinic Contract Renewed

Recently, a new contract was signed with the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux to continue our partnership to jointly operate a clinic through May of 2029. Financial decisions belong to the Foundation; property decisions remain with the church and policies of the clinic are delegated to a five member committee. Two of these are appointed by each partner and the fifth by the other four members. The fifth member of the committee is Wilnor Charlemagne.

#### "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](http://www.fonddouxfoundation.org)

Email: [John@fonddouxfoundation.org](mailto: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.