

The Fond Doux Flyer September 2024

Informational Dinner – Sept 22nd

Come! See! Hear! Respond!

You are invited to an informational dinner at Epworth United Methodist Church on Sunday September 22nd following the 11:00 AM worship service. We hope to be able to report 1) on two projects that we hope to have completed, 2) on one that we are planning and 3) on several continuing projects. These projects include Water, Food, Shelter, Hygiene, Education, Sanitation, Health Care, Agriculture and Bible Stories!

Please place this date on your calendar; and bring your checkbook to make a generous contribution.

Progress of Fund Drives

School/Center	- rev. goal \$100,000	--	\$56,106
Clinic Toilet	- rev. goal \$ 14,411	--	\$14,411
Next House	- goal \$ 6,000	--	\$ 00
Campus Well	- rev. goal \$ 10,000	--	\$ 1,400

Thank You, donors. Yeah! A Toilet!

Thank You! Thank You!



Clinic Toilet Begins

The Endowment Committee of Epworth UMC. In July, the Endowment Committee of Epworth UMC at the request and recommendation of the Outreach Committee of Epworth authorized a \$5,000 grant to the Fond Doux Foundation (one of the committee’s official projects) toward the construction of a toilet at the Fond Doux Community Clinic. Previously there were no toilet facilities at the clinic. The toilet building is also important because it hosts the solar panels to provide electricity for the clinic and the water tank. Thus, it makes dramatic improvements in three areas: hygiene, electricity and water. The grant marks the culmination of a two year quest by the Foundation for

a grant from Epworth United Methodist Church. Total cost of the facility is \$16,011. This includes \$9,643 for the building, \$4,788 for the solar electric system and \$1600 for the water tank and pipes. Our profound thanks to all contributors toward the toilet project!

An Ohio Farmer. Also in July, a generous Ohio farmer made a \$10,000 grant to be used at the board’s discretion. It came at a time when we were running deficits in several accounts – a truly God-sent gift!

A Former Mission Team Member. We are also extremely grateful to have received in early August a \$9,000 donation from a former mission team member. She has been a long-time supporter of our mission in Fond Doux and a generous contributor. The board is keenly aware of our dependence on such faithful and generous supporters. Her gift assures that the Foundation has enough money to build the clinic toilet and further assist the clinic expand its program. She is a special angel!

A Retired Epworth Woman. Meanwhile, a retired Epworth woman has quietly begun donating a thousand dollars a month to the Foundation to undergird the expanded program of the Foundation. This kind of sacrificial giving keeps the Foundation going. We are dependent upon repeated gifts for our vital continuing expenses such as salaries of our staff. What a blessing!

An Anonymous Couple. We can also announce that in late August an anonymous couple donated \$7,000 toward the planned building of a school/community center on the Foundation’s campus north of the Methodist Church. The builder’s estimate for an earthquake proof building is \$98,480. A well also needs to be drilled (guestimate \$10,000), and a toilet constructed (\$16,000 guestimate). This project is by far the most expensive that we have ever undertaken. It will serve the community for many years when completed. Every gift brings it closer to reality.

Many Smaller Contributions. Many donors with smaller contributions have amassed a sum of \$7,958 to pay for our vital Vita Mamba program. This continuing nutritional program is only possible because of these many smaller and repeated gifts.

A gift for the Teachers. Last month we mentioned that the teachers at the Methodist School were months behind in receiving their monthly pay. Even though the Foundation is not responsible for their pay, a Foundation supporter directed a gift to the

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teachers in an amount equivalent to a month's pay. (\$925). What a morale boost for the dedicated teachers and to the Methodist Church leadership!

Staff at the Methodist School:

Name	Position
Fedline Pierre:	Kindergarten-1
Irlande Pierre :	Kindergarten-2
Mona Felix:	Kindergarten-3
Sonise Colidor:	Grade 1
Mikerlande Sincère:	Grade 2
Adanis Louis:	Grade 3
Johnson Louis:	Grade 4
Mauser Saint Surin:	Grades 5 & 6
Séraphin Jean Ronel:	director and pastor
Lovely Felix:	vice-principal
Peterson Pierre Louis:	housekeeper

For these and other recent donations we express our deepest appreciation. When people see and feel the need, they give. These gifts have enabled us to emerge from significant financial shortcomings caused by our expanded programs. God is good!

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Agricultural Report



Fond Doux Gardeners

Our Agricultural agent, Hilaire Mackenson, recently reported on his work:

“With the help of Mr. Johnson, we managed to mobilize 15 farmers to participate in our program. They will benefit first from the training sessions, which began in July on the techniques of soil preparation and the preparation and use of organic fertilizers and insecticides. Then, I am also in a process to thoroughly evaluate certain problems to propose some solutions; it is the season of tomatoes

that they wish to cultivate and they have requested my active assistance with them.

“I admit it is an exceptional experience, to work with these farmers who have the incomparable will and desire to cultivate the land. . . I talked with the farmers about some possibilities. They are really in need, but they each have soils which can help them. I evaluated their soils. They are rich and capable of giving a lot of yield. Those that I recruited have a lot of space to exploit, but their biggest problem is water for irrigation.”

The list of the participants and their possession in terms of land to cultivate are as follows:

Name	First name	Land
Charles Jean-Claude		10 hundredths
Charles Dieu-Mérite		40 hundredths
Thermidor Ilson		75 hundredths
Pierre Wisvelt		15 hundredths
Revolus Benito		95 hundredths
Louis Kenet		20 hundredths
Raul Holsend		15 hundredths
Saint-Cyrin Jean Kenny Tony		20 hundredths
Mercidieu Thermidor		15 hundredths
Emmanuel Baptiste		10 hundredths
Louis Johnson		05 hundredths
Ferrus Herlandey		10 hundredths
Jean-Louis Jameson		95 hundredths
Inossant Jamson		13 hundredths

(There are approximately 20 hundredths in an acre.)

Agr. Mackenson HILAIRE

The process is many faceted. It not only includes knowledge about using quality seeds and organic fertilizers, but also testing the soils of the gardens to determine what crops will grow best and finding or cultivating affordable sources of good seed and fertilizer, and developing markets for any cash crops. He presently is exploring the ways to create irrigation to overcome the water problems.

As part of this project, Hilaire is also working with the gardens on the Foundation's land that have been planted and/or cared for by Johnson Louis. In the process he tested the soil on the Foundation land and found it to be alkaline. Soil PH is measured on a scale of 0 to 14 with 7 being neutral, below 7 acidic and above 7 alkaline. The Foundation garden soil is measured a little above 10 on this scale. It is clay soil with a fertile layer of about 20 centimeters. He determined that beans, peas, onions, cabbage, corn, beets and squash can all grow well in this soil.

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English Language Report

By Eluard Louis, Director



Fond Doux English Club

Our collective efforts across both clubs have been instrumental in promoting English language learning. Here are the key highlights:

Club Overview: We've been working tirelessly to enhance English proficiency. Our student base spans different age groups and proficiency levels.

Teachers: Across both clubs, we have four dedicated teachers. They skillfully handle both lower-level learners and those at an upper beginner stage. An interesting practice we've adopted is switching teachers between clubs. Venelson Vitelus contributes to the Fond Doux English club, while John Pierre engages with the English club of Ravine Park.

Student Breakdown:

Ravine Parc Club. We're proud to report that 35 teenagers are now proficient readers, confidently using English books. Additionally, we work with 25 younger kids who are still at the lower proficiency level.

Fond Doux English Club: During the period from December 3rd until now, a lot of efforts have been expended. Initially, the club had 25 students, and during the months of March to May, that number increased significantly to around 50. As we wrap up this period (the Summer period), we're currently working with 20 to 35 students. [We think more will be back when school is in full swing.]

Teachers. The Teachers are Ancito Jean, Ravine Parc; Jowasky Saint Surin, Fond Doux; Venelson Vitelus and John Pierre, rotating. They are a dedicated group of teachers.

Our "Educational" Choices



School Children Ravine Parc

The Fond Doux Foundation got into general education reluctantly at the request of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee. The FDFC asked us to intervene to prevent the closing of the Good Samaritan School in Platon. Later our executive director and other Haitian partners asked us to intervene to prevent other children from "falling through the cracks." So eventually, we have 29 high school and primary school students on emergency scholarship. We have had additional requests for double that number which we needed to turn down.

At the same time our partner, the Methodist Church in Fond Doux, is asking us to intervene to just pay some teachers and improve the educational quality there and the Ravine Parc School that hosts our English Club is perhaps in danger of closing or providing abysmal education. They are desperate!

The board is needing to determine where is the best use of our critical scarce resources as the needs far exceed our ability to provide. We have determined that we must meet the commitments that we have already made and then reassess our proper role. Meanwhile the pressure from our Haitian friends to increase educational expenditures is intense.

We must balance this against our efforts in other fields, especially agriculture, nutrition, public health and medical care. Our guiding principle is to give a "hand-up" and not a "hand-out." This is sometimes difficult to distinguish. Turning down a present need to provide for the future is heart breaking. But often, we have no choice. Right now, our next step is in-service teacher training. If we are involved in education, the quality of that education is important.

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University Scholarship News



Schneider Saint Surin Comes to the USA

Schneider Saint Surin has been an FDF university scholar studying in the Dominican Republic, but the lot of Haitians in the DR became untenable. He was unable to continue as a student after the Dominican Republic government revoked all Haitian visas. The university further denied enrollment to all Haitians and police were rounding up Haitian nationals to deport them. He has fortunately been able to enter the United States under the Humanitarian Parole Program granting temporary entrance and visas for Venezuelans, Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans.

Thirty thousand people from these four countries monthly enter into the United States legally that would not otherwise be eligible. Persons that have previously crossed illegally into the US are not eligible for the program. Over one million people have applied for the program. Half of them are permitted entry by order of the date of their application. The other half of the slots are filled by lottery. Schneider entered by lottery.

The Foundation formally agreed to continue to sponsor him as a university student after his arrival in the United States. He has applied for admission to Caldwell Community College in Boone, NC. All credits there are eligible for transfer to Appalachian State. He also has applied for in-state residency to reduce costs. Students sponsored by religious or North Carolina non-profit organizations can be considered in-state.

He is learning to drive an automobile and recently passed his driver's examination for a North Carolina driver's license. He makes his USA home with the Engel twins, Caleb and Benjamin Engel in Boone, North Carolina.



Japhcanie Alexis Carrying Water

Japhcanie Alexis lives with two of her siblings (two others died) and her parents in a home which the Foundation built. She came to the attention of the Foundation as a child. Some mission team members took her to the hospital in Mirebalais for cancer treatment, but discovered that she was afflicted by Vitamin A deficiency instead because of the extreme poverty of the family. Despite being blind in one eye and her vision diminished in the other as a result of the deficiency, she is a good student and has done very well in school. She just finished high school and is waiting word of her state exams in order to enroll in a university. She was chosen as the 2024 university scholarship recipient of the Foundation. She plans to enroll in Lumiere Nursing School in Petit-Goâve.

"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.