

## The Fond Doux Flyer December 2024

### Progress of Fund Drives

School/Center - goal \$100,000 -- \$66,121  
 Campus Well - goal \$ 10,000 -- \$ 1,400

Thank You, donors. Without you little can be done. Slowly, ever so slowly we are gathering the funds to begin developing our campus.

The teachers and administrators at the Methodist School are extremely eager to see the fund drives succeed because of the anticipated improvement in learning environment when the building and well are a reality.

### The Fond Doux Community Clinic



#### Recent Children’s Nutrition Day

The Fond Doux Community Clinic opened its doors on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. It was the number one goal and dream of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee since its inception in 2019. The clinic has been a joint project of the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux and the Fond Doux Foundation. The Wesleyenne contribution has been the use of the clinic building first erected by Samaritan Purse. They also supply two representatives to the five member clinic committee which oversees clinic policies. A contract of cooperation between the Foundation and the Church was first signed in July of 2021 and a renewal contract was signed on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May of this year.

Since the renewal which guarantees use of the present building for an additional five years, the Foundation has engaged in improving the facilities. This year we have erected a toilet, transformed one room into a usable laboratory and bat-proofed the building with screens over all access points.

The foundation has also increased the reach of the clinic. In April of this year we doubled the number of days the clinic is open to four days a week when we added a physician to the staff in addition to our nurse practitioner. In 2023, the first full year of operation we had 812 patient visits. So far through November of this year we have had 2345 patient visits including 1187 visits of children for malnutrition.

### Clinic Laboratory



#### Ready for Business

With the painting of the floor, placing of electrical outlets around the walls, varnishing of the ceiling, and the purchase of the refrigerator, the laboratory is now ready for business. The creation and furnishing of the laboratory was made possible by a generous gift for this purpose last year. For the past year, the clinic lab used only prepared diagnostic kits as we have not yet added a lab technician to our clinic staff. As a final touch, we may yet need to put glass in the windows to prevent dust from the exterior getting into the lab. We have already added screens to the windows (and other spaces) throughout the clinic to keep out insects and bats. The latter had been a problem earlier in the year.

The hiring of the technician is in its final phase and will be complete in early December.

### Thank You

**Beds.** Last month, we asked for people to consider paying for some beds for Charlotte Fanfan. A Nebraska woman responded and we are in the process of acquiring beds for the Fanfan family. Since the new house is only one room, ideally we would like to get two bunk beds, one of them with three levels, so that we can accommodate 5 people.

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**Emergency Food.** One of the needs that we face every month is the need for emergency food. Recently the editor of this Flyer was talking over the telephone to a young man, an enthusiastic Foundation worker. The editor asked him why he had not attended the funeral of a friend. The young man said that he had been suffering a headache. The editor then asked, "What was the cause of the headache?" The young man replied with one word, "Hunger." The family had run out of food. What a shock! We know they are poor, but we do not expect our workers to be hungry. This month another Nebraska family gave us a \$1500 donation designated for Emergency Food to help people like this family. Later in the month another of our workers also ran out of food. They had a family emergency and no further reserves. The gift for emergency food was sorely needed.

**Community Center/school.** Last month we also asked for some large donations for our Community Center/School. This building is the largest financial project that the Foundation has ever undertaken. The response has been slow. But this month a Texas family responded with a \$3,000 donation. Slowly, we are making headway. The need for the building is overwhelming. One of the teachers at the school reached out to the editor to ask how soon can we begin to build? He could not say. We wish it were now, but now we are one step closer!

**Monthly Contributors.** A small handful of individuals (about 9 or 10) give monthly to the Foundation. They vary in size from \$20 a month to \$1000 a month. The beneficiaries are the clinic, food distribution, Vita Mamba, education and "as needed."

**Thank You.** Thank you to these individuals and to everyone who contributes whether monthly, yearly, or occasionally, large or small. Without you we could do nothing. With you we are bringing hope to people whose poverty most US citizens can scarcely imagine.

**Thank you all. May Thanksgiving remain with you.**

### Gangs Still a Problem

The arrival of Kenyan police in Port-au-Prince has not stopped the violence in Haiti. In some ways it is even worse. Despite their supposed opening of the airport, gangs shot at a plane this past month, grazed a flight attended, diverted planes from landing and caused cancellation of US airline flights to Haiti. It has caused our own board member Brent Engle to change flight

plans from Port-au-Prince to Cap Haitien and added two days to his itinerary (one going and one coming back) in order to bypass the gangs -- if he can actually go. All flights from the US to Haiti have presently been cancelled for 30 days delaying the trip.



### Road Blockade

Meanwhile the gangs have a chokehold on the Haitian economy even in Fond Doux. For a long time, the Foundation has been planning an open air clinic in the village of Platon. It continues to be postponed because the Foundation has not been able to purchase the supplies necessary for the event. The supplies were ordered at a store in Petit Goave, but the supplies cannot get through the roadblocks erected by gangs on the road from Port-au-Prince to Petit Goave. Recently the problem has even gotten worse. Supplies had been arriving by boat from Port-au-Prince, but now the gangs have been shooting at the boats also preventing supplies from getting through by water.

The Foundation's supply of Vita Mamba has also been affected. Our supplier kept saying that our order could be picked up in Port-au-Prince. We asked them to ship them to a different location. They were exceedingly slow to do so. In fact, the problem was not resolved until we wrote directly to the CEO of the company to intervene. Therefore we were out of both Vita Mamba, the supplement for school children, and Medika Mamba, the treatment for malnourished treatment in the clinic. We needed to improvise. It appears now that we will be able to pick them up in Miragoâne this week. "Food and Meds for Kids" has finally acknowledged the reality that we cannot pick up the supplies in Port-au-Prince as we did previously. Despite all this, life in Fond Doux is peaceful even though the gang threat always lies in the background with its unsettling fear and anxiety.

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### Agricultural Project



#### October Meeting of Farmers

The following message is from Makenson Hilaire, our agricultural agent, hired on a trial basis:

“Thank you for your trust, I like the experience I've had so far with the Foundation . . .

As to what did not work, I can tell you now it is because I did not find the opportunity to make a sample garden. As I told you agriculture cannot happen if there is no water available. I did not try to put anything in the FDF garden space because in the absence of water all plants undergo a phenomenon called water stress. When the plant reaches the stage of water stress, it will neither grow nor yield. [Editor's note. The Foundation delayed drilling a well on our campus. So, he had no water for irrigation and he did not plant a garden there as we had originally planned.]

For this reason I focused more on the farmers in accompanying them and giving them advice about techniques concerning what they had already started to do. Now I am starting to help them in the way they are preparing the soil for a new season. I sent a request to Émile for funds so that we could distribute seeds for them to plant. The seeds are in packages, I separated them and gave a measure to each farmer according to the amount of garden space they have. Before I did the distribution, I conducted a training session on nursery techniques and reminders on how to succeed in a garden. Now I plan to be present with them from the nursery to the harvest time.

Since the day we distributed the seeds, we have 9 farmers who have already made a nursery for the seeds and are preparing the soil for transplanting.”



#### Planting of Tomatoes

In this the first effort in improving yield and nutrition, our agricultural agent specialized in improving the tomato and cabbage crops.



#### Temporary Well

Since water for irrigation is the most pressing matter for the farmers, our agricultural agent said in a recent communication:

“This is a well that our farmers dug to have water to irrigate their fields. But it is very difficult to have enough water to irrigate all the fields around the well. I spoke to them and they told me that they could organize to dig a well, but they will need a pump and a generator to enable them to have enough water to irrigate their fields. I want to ask you if it is possible for the Foundation to act on this point for the farmers. They will really need it and it will be a sustainable support for these farmers because they have goodwill and determination to cultivate the land. They just need support.”

The purchase of a generator and pump will be a subject at the December board meeting of the

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Foundation. A drilled well is planned for our campus north of the Methodist Church. We will discuss whether to complete this hand dug well also or whether to plan the future only with the planned well on the campus. In any event our agriculturalist says that irrigation is essential for improvement in yields.

### Crisis at the Ravine Parc School



**Ravine Parc School Class**

Ravine Parc is located approximately 2 miles up the mountain north of Fond Doux proper. It is a very poor community with no industry. The population exists on subsistence gardening. Most families have almost no money crops. The school has been a partner to the Foundation as it has allowed our Ravine Parc English Club to meet in their building without charge. Late in November (Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>), the Foundation received this message from a Haitian Foundation committee member, Ancito Gene:

"One thing that I'd like to tell you. Today I went to the (Ravine Parc) school.. When I arrived none of the teachers had come to work. When I started to talk with the director Noël Joseph, he said it's because he hasn't yet given them any pay. After we ended the talk, I tried to contact some of the teachers to talk to them, as some are my friends. They understood me. They said that this week they will come. But if the principal doesn't give them anything, they will not come back to work again. For that reason, as you previously said that you will give him \$600, if you can arrange that, it will be great because things are very hard."

The Foundation received a onetime donation for the school amounting to \$600 USD. This will meet their payroll for one month, but we have no further

resources for them. Earlier in the year, Noël Joseph, the principal, told the Foundation that he had run out of money. He had been supporting the school by selling logs. But he had no more logs to sell. The school is not related to any mission group and has no other source of support. Unless he or we receive some further contributions designated for the school, the school will almost certainly be forced to close for lack of money to pay the teachers. The closing of this school would mean that approximately 100 children ages pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will no longer be able to attend school. This is devastating news.

This news comes to the Foundation at a very difficult time as the Methodist School in Fond Doux has also come upon hard times. They have not received support from their founding Methodists in New York for approximately one year. The Foundation has made several emergency grants to the Methodist School to keep them open as we try to raise money to house part of the school. These school crises had not been anticipated. The Foundation has not been responsible for them and we have not built a funding base to take on these unexpected emergencies.

Our existing and successful other projects (especially the clinic, Vita Mamba and agricultural programs) have been expanding and stretching our resources. Without additional funding, these educational programs are in significant jeopardy. We face crucial and painful choices.

### **"SO LITTLE CAN DO SO MUCH"**

To learn about our projects or to donate, 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 Clausung

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.