

## The Fond Doux Flyer January 2025

### Progress of Fund Drives

**School/Center - goal \$100,000 -- \$72,121**  
**Campus Well - goal \$ 10,000 -- \$ 9,200**

Thank You, donors. Without you nothing can be done. Slowly, ever so slowly, we are gathering the funds to begin to develop our campus.

A recent five-figure donation has enabled us to immediately begin planning for the campus well. The well will provide water for the school/community center and we hope for irrigation of some gardens.

### Ravine Parc School

This donation also earmarked funds for Ravine Parc schoolteachers. Following last month's Flyer, we received two donations which should enable us to keep it open at least through June. We hope that we can get some additional dedicated sponsors (as we have for the Platon school) who will give periodic generous donations sufficient to keep the school open. Can we find at least \$3600 for the rest of the year? \$4200 would be better. The future of 100+ children will be impacted for less than \$7 per child per month. Thank you, donors. You know who you are!

### Laboratory Technician



Sheeder-Fanya ERNEST has been hired on a four month trial basis with the expectation of an indefinite extension. She is 23 years old and was born on March 4, 2001, in Petit -Goave. She is currently residing in nearby Madeleine, Deuxième Plaine, Petit-Goave, just a short distance west of Fond Doux.

Sheeder is a diligent and motivated individual seeking a position as a laboratory technician and/or research

assistant. She aims to apply her technical skills and knowledge in the field while contributing to the health sector.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology from Université Lumière de Petit-Goave. This educational background has provided her with a solid foundation in medical and biological sciences.

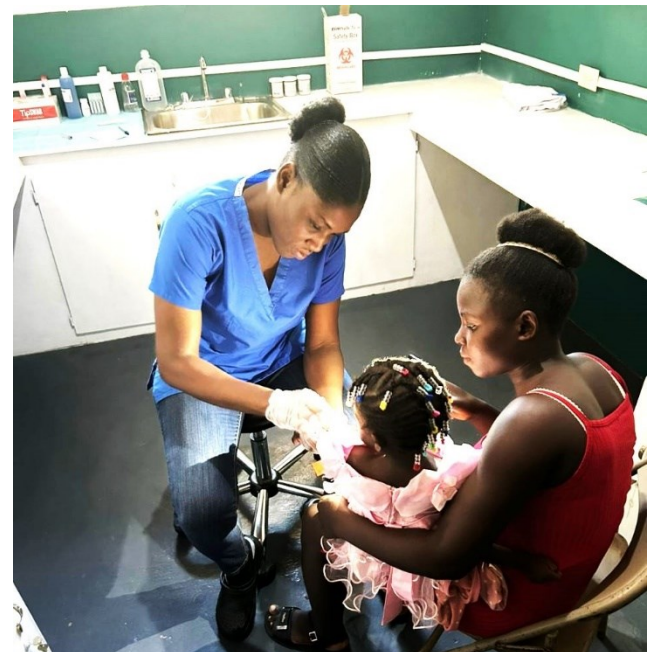
She has held previous positions in the field:

1. Laboratory Technician at OBGYN Clinic (August 2022 – November 2022),
2. Laboratory Technician at Hospital Saint-Croix de Léogâne (August 2023 - December 2023)
3. Laboratory Technician at Sacred Heart Hospital of Petit Goave. (March 2024 - July 2024),
4. Laboratory Technician at Bethel Clinic of the Salvation Army Hospital Fond-des-Nègres (August 2024 - November 2024),

In these positions, Sheeder gained significant experience in laboratory procedures, equipment handling and skills in patient care and clinical practices.

Sheeder is proficient in both French and Creole. She has very good speaking and writing skills in French and is excellent in all aspects of Creole.

We believe Sheeder-Fanya Ernest is well-qualified with a strong educational background and diverse work experience in the medical field. Her language skills and dedication to the health sector should make her a valuable asset to our clinic. We are glad that the laboratory is now functioning. Hallelujah!



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### Vita Mamba Arrives

After considerable delay and some ingenuity, we finally were able to receive a shipment of both Vita Mamba and Medika Mamba. “Food and Meds for Kids”, our source of nutritional supplies, apparently enlisted the aid of one of their other customers, “Food for the Poor”, to help obtain our precious cargo.



### Unloading the Mamba

Trucks representing “Food for the Poor” drove to Petit Goave (empty) and then got on a ship that took them to Port-au-Prince, where they were able to go to a warehouse to pick the shipment along with their own shipment and then return to Petit-Goave on a ship. Then they took another ship to Miragoâne where we were able to pick up our cargo. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, we were able to pick up half of our supply (53 boxes of Vita Mamba, the supplement for school children, and 55 boxes of Plumpy Doz, the supplement for toddlers.) We still are due 47 more boxes of Vita Mamba, 3 more boxes of Plumpy Doz and 50 boxes of Plumpy Nut, the supplement to treat malnourished babies.



### Clinic Mothers and Children

For the month when the clinic had run out of Medika Mamba (Plumpy Doz and Plumpy Nut), we still had children that we needed to treat for malnutrition. The clinic director went to some stores in Petit Goave and Miragoâne to purchase what food supplements could be purchased off the shelves and supplement it with powdered milk.



### Alternate Food Supplements

This was far from ideal as it did not contain all the necessary ingredients of Medika Mamba, but we did manage to keep children from falling further behind. Now that we have the Medika Mamba in stock again, we can resume our regular treatments. Thanks be to God!

### Shoes for School?



During December, some of the Foundation staff and staff from the Methodist school talked to parents about why their children were not attending school.

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The answer may surprise you. As many as 50 children were not attending school because they did not have shoes to wear. A Foundation contributor decided to help. Because of his generosity, more children will be in school. Without shoes, no school; without school no education. For these children, for now, they are getting an education! Thank You.

### Irrigation Program



**Irrigation Pump**

Mackenson Hilaire, our Agricultural Agent, has indicated that the biggest obstacle to improving agricultural production among Fond Doux gardeners is finding water during the dry season. This is so even though the water table in Fond Doux is about 10 feet or less below the surface of the ground in much of the area. Moreover, Lake Miragoâne is also near-by.

Finding a way to irrigate for the farmers near the lake may be no less than pumping water from the lake to higher ground and letting the water run by gravity to the plants. Mackenson has recommended just such a program to the board which we approved as an emergency measure. The Foundation will bear the cost of the program during the first 3 months while we determine the actual cost and the farmers design a system for them to pay for the costs of irrigation

Of course, not all area farmers can benefit from such a program. They must be geographically close to the lake. But this is the first irrigation program that appears to be within the financial reach of the Foundation. So far 30 farmers have shown an interest in the program.

Irrigation for gardens further from the lake has not yet been designed but will probably involve tapping some existing wells or creating new ones. We have not determined what is or is not feasible.

### Water for the Clinic



**Water Tank Goes on the Roof**

During the past year (2024) the Foundation has spent money and energy in upgrading the clinic facilities. We have screened openings and windows, remodeled a room into become a functioning laboratory, erected a restroom for patients and staff, installed solar electric power and most recently installed a water system for the laboratory and rest room. The water for the moment must be trucked in by the truck load because we do not have the money yet for the two more expensive alternatives. This water is quite inexpensive.

The original plan was to hook up to a municipal water system. In fact, we had repaired the system in anticipation of doing just that to the delight of many neighboring residents who were able to cut down significantly the distance they needed to carry water because water stations could reopen.. However, the municipal system broke down again in another location and requires about \$5,600 to repair according to our estimate. The local community does not have the money to fix and maintain the system. And we are somewhat reluctant to repair it again. Will repairs be a constant need? The alternative is to drill a well. The cost is about the same, but this is less useful to the community. The decision has not yet been made and will probably not be until we gather the necessary finances.

## The Fond Doux Flyer January 2025 Christmas Meals

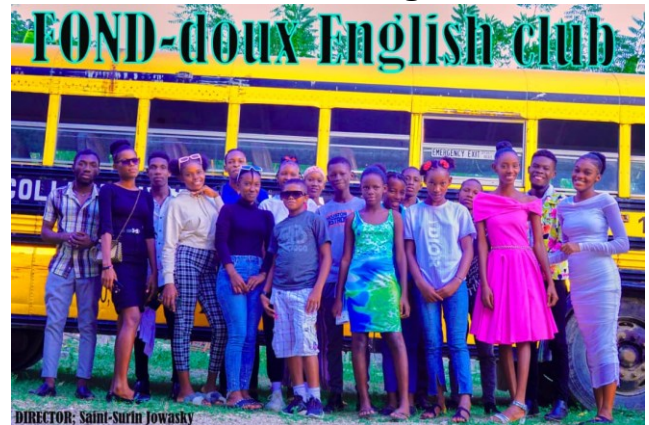


On December 26<sup>th</sup> the Methodist Church served a community Christmas meal for 400 people. Many of the people invited were children and teenagers.



The Fond Doux Foundation has sponsored a Christmas meal every year since the beginning of the pandemic. For several years it was held at the Primitive Church of Fond Doux and for the last three years at the Methodist Church. In addition the Foundation co-sponsored meals at three other places this year: With the English Club in Ravine Parc about 145 people, with the English club in Fond Doux and with the school at Platon, each about 75 additional individuals. While it is only a single meal, it is an effort to bring joy to the community!

## The Fond Doux English Club



Fond Doux Club Members



Part of the One Year Anniversary Celebration

### **“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 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.