

The Fond Doux Flyer March 2025

Swansboro Informational Meeting

On Sunday morning, February 16th, the Swansboro United Methodist Church, Swansboro, NC hosted an informational meeting on the work of the Fond Doux Foundation during the Sunday School hour. The Rev. John Clausing introduced a PowerPoint on the background of the Foundation and its Haitian Partners. The partners include the Good Samaritan School of Platon, which educates 60 children K thru 6th grade; the School of Tomorrow, which hosts one of our English Clubs in Ravine Parc; the Capois la Mort School of Fond Doux, which hosts another of our English Clubs; the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux, which co-sponsors the Fond Doux Community Clinic; and the Methodist Church of Fond Doux, who serve as the hosts of many Foundation events. In addition our partners include a Haitian advisory committee (the FDFC) and, of course, our 18 paid Haitian staff members. He also spoke of our scholarship program for high school and university students. This program has graduated a doctor who works for the Foundation, two teachers that have completed their schooling and are actively serving the community, and the Haitian Executive Director of the Foundation. We currently have 2 more university scholars.



Dr. Dieuseul Istache, Graduate of our Program

Ruth Clausing discussed the Sewing Sisters project of providing hygiene kits to keep teen age girls in school. Without proper hygiene kits and their washable sanitary pads, teen age girls remain home up to one

week every month and have a difficult time continuing their education. Educating young women is a major change agent in any community. Because of gang violence the board is searching for a new way to ship the kits. Swansboro women participate in making these hygiene kits as well.



High School Girls with Hygiene Kits

Libby Engel spoke about the work of the clinic and especially about the nutrition program of treating malnourished children 5 years and younger. Scientists tell us that the first five years are critical to prevent stunting and improve mental as well as physical development. This past year the clinic treated over 70 such children and added a diagnostic laboratory, a laboratory technician and our graduated doctor to our staff. We are also reaching 200 children with our Vita Mamba supplement to school children's diet.

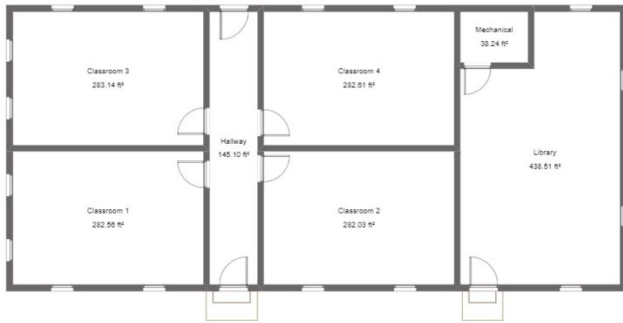


Mothers and Children at the Clinic

Linda Mitchell spoke about our work in public health including our door to door work in education against cholera. The Foundation also provided education about typhoid and birth control, distributed many mosquito nets in the community, conducted surveys on food, sanitation and water sources, tested water for safety and set up several handwashing stations.

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Jim Johnson spoke about our construction program. In 2024 we built two houses, repaired two homes and provided tarps for dozens of others. He spoke of our plans for our campus north of the Methodist Church including the building of a school/community center as the central piece. We drilled a well as the first component in the development of the campus during February.



**Possible Floor Plan of School/
Community Center**

He also spoke of our agricultural program that has recently been working on increasing the food supply and nutritional value of the community gardens. Thirty-one farmers are participating in an irrigation project between Lake Miragoine and the Methodist Church. A board of nine farmers has been elected by them to oversee the project.



Irrigation Project

Schneider Saint Surin, a scholarship student at Caldwell Community College and a native of Fond Doux, spoke of the changes brought about by the Foundation in the community and the impact on his personal and family life. This was profoundly moving. Rev. Clausing concluded the presentation by asking for the support of the Swansboro Church and her members for the work of the Foundation.

Fighting Insects

Our agricultural agent Mackenson Hilaire told us that there are two main problems in increasing agricultural production in Haiti. The first is the need for water especially during the dry season and the second is fighting insects. Last month we attacked the first problem with an experimental program of irrigation for 31 farmers located between Lake Miragoâne and the Methodist Church. This month the Foundation took some emergency action to combat the second.



Insect Damaged Tomato



Damaged Cabbage

Mackenson Hilaire, our agriculture agent, reported. "Insects have always been a problem for farmers. When I arrived they told me about two big problems that they faced: the water problem and the damage caused by insects. I organized a training session to which I gave them methods for preparing organic insecticide and they used it. It helps them to repel caterpillars, aphids, etc.; but the locusts and white

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flies, they continue to cause problems which forces the farmers to remove the attacked plants and to transplant several times.”

As a result based on his request, the board authorized, on an emergency basis, the purchase of two sprayers and insecticide to save the tomato and cabbage crops. We are reluctant to use commercial insecticide both because of its toxic effects on foods and the increase in cost for the farmers.

Our agricultural program is an experimental program attempting to find an economical and efficient way to increase food volume and nutritional value for the farmers in Fond Doux. It started with an evaluation of the soil to determine which crops could be grown. Then we purchased tomato and cabbage seed to begin the process. We are also using organic fertilizer and especially wish to explore the use of chicken manure.

Tragedy Strikes



Home of Jesula L'amour

On Thursday morning February 27th, tragedy struck the home of Jesula L'amour. Fire completely leveled her home. It left her and two of her children homeless. One child is 5 years old and the other about 17. The house is located next door to Dave Stevenson Michael, an older child. He is the night watchman at the Fond Doux Community Clinic which is sponsored by the Fond Doux Foundation and the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux. Fortunately, no one was injured in the fire. Its origin has not been identified! Suspicion is on someone playing with matches, but that has not been confirmed.

Commitment to Education

To Avoid competition with other NGOs, the board of the Fond Doux Foundation originally avoided involvement in primary and secondary school education altogether. That would be left for others. When the first mission teams from Epworth UMC, Durham came to Fond Doux, they came as part of a mission team of Mission to Haiti which sponsors the Capois la Mort School in Fond Doux (K thru 13). The team wished to complement and not compete with Mission to Haiti. That is still true today for the FDF.

Our complete avoidance of primary education changed five years ago when the Haitian advisory committee to the Foundation urged the Foundation to sponsor the Good Samaritan School in Platon, located on the ocean shore (over the mountain north of Fond Doux). Without a new financial source the only education for the villagers of Platon would close its doors. After checking whether Mission to Haiti was able and willing to sponsor the school and finding they were not, the board entered into an agreement with the school to provide teacher pay in exchange for complete transparency of financial affairs and commitment to excellence in education. Thus began the Foundation's first endeavors in the field.



Teacher Training at the Methodist Church

The commitment to excellence meant that the teachers needed in-service training. Soon it was a community event with teachers from other schools attending as well. The 2024 teacher training included not only our teachers from Platon, but substantial registrations from other area schools including 6 from Ravine Parc, 7 from the Methodist School of Fond Doux, 10 from Capois la Mort and 6 from the Jeanne

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Dicette Bernard School. Including registrants from other schools we had a total registration of 37 teachers.

Because Ravine Parc hosts one of our English Clubs and the Methodist Church has become our principal partner in community activities, the financial pressures on those two associated schools has become well known to the Foundation. This caused a further extension of our educational endeavors. The Foundation made several emergency grants to each and the Foundation began planning for dual use of our proposed community center to serve also as a school building for part of the Methodist School.

However, the financial pressures on the Methodist School and Ravine Parc School have continued and have become very intense. Because of loss of funding and inadequate resources, the schools have been unable to pay their teachers. Teacher morale sank to miserable lows. Both schools approached the Foundation for assistance. But coming to their assistance has not easy. The Foundation has significant other ministries and financial obligations, namely: The Fond Doux Community Clinic; our English clubs; Vita Mamba, a food supplement to prevent malnutrition in school children; emergency food relief; an increased agricultural program; university and high school scholarships; and a shelter program. These financial obligations do not go away.

Is it possible for us to respond? We have given the two schools the same conditions as we did to Platon, complete transparency and commitment to excellence. We have pledged to sustain the schools through June 2026. We will continue beyond if we find \$1200 per month as a minimum in new pledges to sustain our commitment. But we want to go further. We desire not continuance, but excellence! Several committed individuals or groups could do it. Will you think about it? We pray that you do. We dream of a wonderful future. It is possible!

Progress of Fund Drives

School/Center - goal \$100,000 -- \$74,450
Campus Well - rev goal \$ 11,850 -- \$ 9,850
School Pledges - monthly \$1200 -- \$ 100

Thank You, donors. Slowly, ever so slowly, we are gathering the funds to begin to develop our campus and maybe to sustain the schools. Pray for our ministry and the people of Fond Doux. Thank you.

Repair of Ravine Parc Pump



The repair of the community pump in Ravine Parc drew the curiosity of the kids of the village as they crowded around to watch the repairman fix the pump. The cost of the repair was 10,000 Haitian dollars. The community gathered donations of 1500 Haitian dollars to fix the problem but was far short of the needed amount and asked the Foundation for some help. At the January meeting the Foundation board decided to complete the fund drive immediately by paying the remaining 8500 Haitian dollars. This amounts to \$327 US. What for us was a relatively small contribution made a big difference. Over 200 residents of Ravine Parc depend on this pump for their water. The failure of the pump and any delay in fixing would have had major consequences for the villagers. Its repair was greatly appreciated. The repair took place on February 3rd.

“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

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.