

The Fond Doux Flyer April 2025

From the Editor – A Challenge!

The board of the Fond Doux Foundation is deeply appreciative of the response of its supporters to the plight of the people of Fond Doux, Haiti and vicinity. Without you, we cannot respond. Each time that we have expanded our ministry to answer the cry of our Haitian friends, our supporters have come through. When we answered the plea of the Haitian Committee to sponsor the Platon School (or the doors would close), we were unsure of the support that we needed. But a couple from Lititz, Pennsylvania responded and later some women from Swansboro UMC also responded and they have continued to respond. The school is better than ever. We did not know where the money would come from but it has! Thank You. Praise the Lord!

When a community meeting of the village of Fond Doux spoke of a need for a clinic, the board was able to respond because we received some one time gifts to repair a building and later equip a laboratory. A Durham woman that had visited the village on a mission trip became the mainstay with very generous annual donations. Others joined her. When we discovered malnutrition in children, other people stepped forward to respond and now we help 200 kids with Vita Mamba and have treated 70 toddlers and babies with severe malnutrition. Thank You.

Now, the board is faced with the biggest challenge yet. The Methodist School of Fond Doux and the School for Tomorrow of Ravine Parc will close if we cannot find money to pay the teachers. We need not hundreds of dollars monthly, but several thousand of new dollars monthly to meet the challenge. We need our supporters to think bigger and to think longer. The need for support is probably going to be for at least a generation. That means that we need to find groups that have staying power to pledge continuing support until the economics of the community are able to support their own schools, their own clinic and the diet of the children has sufficient nutrition. Can we do it?

We have guaranteed the schools for a year, but we actually need excellence for a generation. Our clinic will need the same. Will our supporters think big enough? Long enough? Not \$10 a month each, but \$100 a month each or even \$1000 per month! Not for a year, but for a generation? Will you pray about it? I hope that we are up to the challenge. Thank You!

Progress of Fund Drives

School/Center	- goal \$100,000	-- \$75,450
Campus Well	- rev goal \$ 11,850	-- \$ 9,850
School Pledges	- monthly \$1200	-- \$ 220

Thank You, donors. 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.

Construction Begins with a Well

The first step in the development of our campus is finally a reality! A team from the Akwan well drilling company of Haiti came to our campus north of the Methodist Church and drilled a hundred foot well to provide good, safe drinking water. A large donation from a Durham couple along with some smaller ones made the well a reality. In addition to the well, we decided to build a well house to store the generator and garden tools and to serve as a water tower.



Platform for Well Drilling



Well Drilling

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Harvest Time



Harvesting Tomatoes

Agricultural agent Mackenson Hilaire was hired by the Foundation in an experimental program to increase the yield and nutritional value of Fond Doux area crops. He has been helping the farmers south of the Methodist Church. He is pleased with the progress.

Fifteen farmers were given some seeds for tomatoes and cabbage last year in December. Then in January they worked together to plan and provide irrigation. In February came problems with insects which necessitated spraying to protect their crops. However, in March the farmers were able to harvest their tomato and cabbage crops. One small step!



The Tomato Harvest

The farmers are not farmers in the typical sense of an American farmer, but are more like family gardeners. They do their work with hand tools and cultivate small tracts of land. Many have never cultivated crops to sell before, but only to supply their own families.



Cabbage Harvest

Fond Doux Housing



Rene Joraldine with her Children

Rene Joraldine and her husband Saintiline Ovide are building a typical Fond Doux Home for their family with a little help from the FDF. Constructed of rough wooden stakes and palm leaves woven into the walls, it will be covered with a metal roof. Such a house needs to be well placed so that surface water does not enter on to the dirt floor. The home will provide shelter in mild weather, but not so well during storms when neither the walls nor the roof may be adequate.

Saintiline (not pictured) is a sand miner. That is a difficult occupation which is both dangerous and physically demanding as well low-paying. However, it is one of the occupations open to residents of Fond Doux. There are several sand mines in the area. Saintiline feels grateful to have a job.

Finding food, shelter, water, education, medical care and proper sanitation are all major concerns for many Fond Doux residents. We wish this family well!

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Emergency Help



Guerrier Children with Food

Sometimes tragedy strikes a family swiftly and unexpectedly. This was the plight of the Guerrier children. Several months ago their father died of a heart attack. Then this past month, their mother died also. The children, Jolanda (age 20), Lorisienne (age 14) and Junior (age 12) suddenly found themselves as orphans with little warning. The Foundation helped them with some emergency food and wishes to work with their uncle to help them plant a garden to begin to provide for themselves. The Foundation hopes that the relatives can help the children set up some gardening with the guidance of our agricultural director. Nothing has been worked out yet, but their uncle has land for a garden and the Foundation has a man that helps people with their gardens.

Emergency aid was also offered to Junior Merjuste. He is the son of Rosemene Eustache Merjuste, our cleaning lady at the Fond Doux Community Clinic. He says that he is a child of the FDF. As a child he was the beneficiary of help from the Foundation both for shelter and for education. It helped shape his life to a life of service. He further says that his goal in life is to sponsor an orphanage.

The opportunity to begin to fulfill that dream came suddenly to him and without planning when unexpectedly two children were placed into his care on consecutive days in February. Here is how he described the situation:

“Today, I find myself facing an unexpected situation—one that I was not fully prepared for, yet I believe it is part of the mission God has entrusted to me. I trust that God will make a way where things seem impossible.

On February 23, a group of people brought a little boy to my home. He is only 1 year and 3 months old. His mother suffers from mental illness, and his father is unstable. Sometimes he is aware, other times not. A concerned individual brought the child to me, and I could not turn him away because my mission is to help however I can.

Then, on February 24, another child was brought to me. His mother placed him with a family that could not care for him properly. Seeing his situation, they brought him to me for help. Now, I am caring for both of these children, ensuring they have food, shelter, and love. . .”

This is when the Foundation came to his aid with emergency help in three ways. First the children were brought to the clinic for a medical check up and then the Foundation provided help in the form of groceries and clothing.



Food and Clothing

Junior Merjuste and his friend Dr. Dieuseul Istache, a physician employed by the Foundation, are founders of a Haitian program called the “Union of Young Progressives” focused on children and widows. They dream of sponsoring an orphanage. We wish them well..

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Enthusiasm to Learn English



Fond Doux English Club

The Foundation operates two English Clubs, one at the School for Tomorrow in Ravine Parc and a second at Capois la Mort School in Fond Doux. Jowasky Saint Surin is the lead teacher at the club in Fond Doux. He sent us this picture of students in March. He added nearly 60 beginning students in January. There is an eagerness to learn English. It opens up a whole new world of learning opportunities because the world's language is English. But it is a challenge.

Obtaining an education in Haiti is difficult. Not only are public schools rare (There are none in Fond Doux); but the everyday language in the home is Creole while the language of instruction and books are in French. In essence, the first thing that you do when you go to school is learn a foreign language! Then if you want to be able to be open to the whole world, you also need to learn a second foreign language, English. Yet, many are eager to do so. Unfortunately, the level of English instruction in the schools is often limited by English teachers that have a substandard grasp of the language. The English Clubs serve a great purpose.

Through the modern technology of electronics, the English clubs try to expose members to recorded messages of native English speakers, specifically Americans. As a result, most of the students pick up the ability to understand spoken English quite rapidly. Learning to speak is a little more difficult as students need to practice speaking to become fluent. The English Clubs are a way to practice spoken English as well as to listen to native speakers. "In addition, we want it also to be fun," said Eluard Louis, the director of the program. He is planning some field trips this year. The locations have not yet been disclosed. Describing experiences one has had is a good way to learn to speak a foreign language.

Painting the Clinic Roof



The clinic roof has been badly rusting. The clinic was built by Samaritan Purse after the 2010 earthquake but the roof had never been painted. So, it first need to be scraped and then painted.



After Two Coats -- What a Difference!

"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.

Or through Epworth UMC Church, Durham, NC

Website manager: Brent Engel

Newsletter editor: Rev. John Clousing

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.