

## Food for Fond Doux

MISSION TO HAITI, the non-profit organization that sponsors children in the school at Fond Doux, spent \$2000 to provide emergency food for the families of 400 school children during the month of June. We were pleased to learn that they chose to provide food for non-sponsored children as well as sponsored children. The already strained economic hardship of the community exacerbated by COVID-19 is not confined to a small portion of the population, but all of Fond Doux. Fond Doux is one of 12 communities where MTH sponsors school children.

The Fond Doux Foundation does not regularly purchase food for the community. Our goal is to create sustainable agriculture, so that the community can feed itself. However, the community is poor and many (most) people eat only one meal a day. On occasion the Foundation has also purchased supplemental feeding.



### Food Purchased for Emergency Feeding in 2019

We did so in October 2019 during the food crisis created by political demonstrations and again at Christmas time as a Christmas gift. We do so regularly when a mission trip arrives, because we cannot eat three meals a day, when our hosts go hungry. It is an issue with which the Foundation constantly wrestles. Even though our goal is

sustainable self-sufficiency, how much help should we provide for those that are struggling now without enough food? But dependency is not the answer.



### Pig Vaccination Project to improve Agriculture

The Foundation would like to provide additional help in providing sustainable agriculture. That is the ultimate solution. The Foundation regularly provides for goat vaccinations and classes in goat and chicken care. Some people walk great distances to attend these classes. If we had someone with expertise in improving farm production, we would like to enlist such a person to help us. Most of the farmers suffer from poor soil and drought, but we believe better gardens are possible. Past efforts for improving nutrition have included a goat farm and a chicken farm. An all Haitian team also vaccinated all the pigs in the community. We are slowly working on a means to reopen the chicken farm under new management. Dave Stevenson Michel is designated as the new manager and has taken some training.

**A person with agricultural expertise to become a mission team member or even a board member is highly desirable. Are you such a person? Do you know such a person? When we resume mission trips, we would love to have someone with this expertise.**



## Meet Danis Jean Joseph



**Danis Jean Joseph with MTH Buckets**

One of the members of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee, which administers our projects in Fond Doux, is Danis Jean Joseph. He is in his late 20's. He is serving as principal of the primary school in Fond Doux. Previously, he served as principal of the school in Gibney, a small remote mountain village northwest of Delatte, which is itself a small village located up the mountain north of the village of Fond Doux. In the first years of the Foundation, mission teams regularly visited Delatte to visit the MTH children sponsored by Epworth UMC members. Foundation teams also visited Gibney, where they first met Danis, when he served as principal there. In recent years our mission teams no longer visit Delatte and Gibney because of the dangerous mountain road conditions.

Danis came to Fond Doux because MISSION TO HAITI sponsored and continues to sponsor children in the school in Fond Doux.

The Foundation and MISSION TO HAITI both serve the village in complimentary ways. MISSION TO HAITI

concentrates on the school; the Foundation exerts leadership in other areas. Danis bridges the divide. He is a very influential part of the community as the school and the church form the center of the village. He is also a very important part of the Haitian Foundation Committee. He was not only active when the MTH decided to provide buckets for handwashing in the village and more recently in its feeding program, but has exerted leadership with respect to food distribution, mosquito nets and now micro loans with the Foundation.

When the Foundation responded to the malaria crisis, Danis went to Port-au-Prince to pick up the mosquito nets which were distributed in the village. He was also one of those involved with the October purchase, transportation and distribution of emergency food in the village.

More recently he has been leading the efforts to establish a micro-loan program in the village and serves as chairperson of the committee that has organized the program. This has been an elaborate process. First, they identified 50 people who were interested in the project. They took formal applications and interviewed these people and narrowed the list to 20 approved applications and in June issued the first 5 loans. Danis has been the leader in this project.

He has also been active in providing competitions for young people in Ti-Goâve. In addition, he is attending English language school on a Foundation scholarship. Unfortunately, the last is on temporary hold due to the COVID-19 crisis. We have heard that universities will reopen August 10<sup>th</sup>. We will keep you informed.

Whether it is still true is uncertain, but at one time he also had the desire to become an attorney. Even if this is in his future, he is playing a very pivotal role in the village of Fond Doux at the present time

## Medical Needs

The June open-air clinic in Fond Doux revealed some unmet medical problems. On June 17<sup>th</sup> the FDFC held its first open-air clinic without American personnel present. Among the patients were 18 people with fever, 19 people with bone pain (arthritis?), 19 people with stomach pain, 19 people with headaches, 10 people with the flu, 19 people with an infection, 4 people with a cough, 11 people with an itching skin, 9 people with skin blemishes (pimples?) on the body, 2 people with other

itching. Two big problems were a 12-year-old girl with a hernia and 17-year-old girl with a mass on her back. These two are in need of surgeries. All surgeries are depended upon our Medical Fund which is funded only by designated gifts. We authorize life-saving and life changing surgeries on a case by case basis as funds become available. These two cases have not yet been priced. Another problem we discovered was an 18-day-



**Abdominal Hernia**

old baby with a skin condition. The child came in late in the day. We had run out of medication at the time, but we were able to get a prescription filled. Despite the nasty look, it appears that we were able to help the child.

On July first, the FDFC took a woman for a doctor visit after our nurse was unable to find a vein for rehydration. The woman was extremely ill and unable to pay for medical care. The bill was paid by funds from our medical fund supported by designated giving. The next clinic is scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup>. Report will be in the next Flyer.

### Computers for Fond Doux

One of our most pressing needs has been computers for our community nurse and our scholarship students. Brent Engel has been refurbishing used computers and now that the airport is open, will be taking these to Haiti late in August. Our thanks to Brent for this special gift.

### Clinic Building

On July 24<sup>th</sup> the Wesleyenne Church released more terms for a contract for use of the clinic building now owned by the Wesleyenne Church. The church requires that we obtain authority from the Haitian government to operate a clinic. The FDFC has contacted Haitian Attorney Alix Mervielle to guide the Foundation in this process.



**Baby with Nasty Rash**

### Shields and Masks for School



Schools are opening in Haiti on August 10<sup>th</sup>. The FDFC, our Haitian partners, have requested 32 shields for the teachers and 320 masks for secondary students. Primary students will not receive a mask. This represents the best-known science at this time. Thanks to all contributors.



## Update on House for Madam Antoinette Innocent



**Madam Antoinette**

Local contractors have been contacted and we have the costs affirmed. Total cost of the home including a modern toilet, but without electricity is \$6,074. Adding a little solar power can be done for an additional \$450. We hope that soon we can show a new picture like the following.



### 2014 Beginning of the Albert Merjule Home

We have made a significant start. We did NOT receive a challenge gift that we hoped might match gifts of \$250 or more, but we have received 8 gifts of \$250 or more.

To date we have a total of \$5075. We ask you to pray that more people will have their hearts moved to assist this family. We are over 84% there. With your help we will make our goal! Our deep appreciation for all who have already contributed.

### Class on Vaginal Infections -- Kits

A Class on vaginal infections was planned for July. Because of COVID-19, we were unable to get the associated feminine hygiene kits to Fond Doux this past month. Instead we are sending them with a shipment of supplies for MISSION TO HAITI. They will then be picked up by our Fond Doux Haitian partners in Port-au-Prince. The kits consist of two shields, ten washable pads, a plastic bag for soiled pads, a bar of soap, 2 pair panties, two wash cloths and a large cloth bag for carrying these items. The shields and pads were made by the Sewing Sisters of Epworth and other associated churches. The panties, soap and wash cloths were all donated. Thanks for all your labors. Many girls will stay in school because of your work. The class to be taught by our community nurse Myrdred Kaminskie Delva will be held sometime in September after the arrival of the kits that are to be distributed. We should have more details in a future edition of the Flyer. We regret the delay.

### Continuing Contributions

We appreciate all those that continue to make contributions. Like all charities, COVID-19 has made fund raising difficult for the Foundation. At the present time our pressing needs are for purchase of supplies for the clinic, money to pay the Platon teachers, money for medical emergencies and funding the house for Madam Antoinette. For more information or to make a contribution, you can contact us below:

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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, USA, whose Christian community outreach began in 2011.