

Four Community Emphases

A. Christian Community Building through mission trips including Vacation Bible School. Mission trips are on hold because of COVID-19 restrictions, but developing a Christian middle class is still a necessity. The Foundation has also engaged in music development and helped with recreational opportunities especially soccer.

B. Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition. Solving food insecurity requires increasing both the quantity of food and its nutritional qualities including protein.

C. Education. Progress requires developing leadership and leadership requires education.

D. Health and Medical Care. Improving health includes not only medical care, but community health education and a healthy environment.



Our Guiding Principles

Premise #1 Commitment

Both the Fond Doux Foundation and the people of Fond Doux wish to enhance the lives of the people of the village of Fond Doux and surrounding areas. Both have the commitment to see that this will come to pass.

Premise #2 Willingness to Change

Someone has said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting a different result." We must constantly learn from our failures and adapt and do things differently.

Premise #3 Move toward Self-sufficiency

The FDF seeks to give a "hand-up" and not a "hand-out". The Haitians are responsible for their own future. Everyone needs help, but they must not become dependent on that help.

Premise #4 Accountability and Responsibility

The FDF must try to ensure the probable success of an agreed upon program before help is extended, but the ultimate success or failure always rests mostly on the Haitian side. As long as help is extended, adequate reports are expected.

A. Christian Community Building

Because of the pandemic all mission trips have been temporarily suspended. Music classes are being held.

B. Sustainable Agriculture

One of the realities of Haiti is that many people are struggling for food. Many people eat only one meal a day, if they eat at all. One of the major goals of the Foundation is to improve nutrition through sustainable agriculture. The very first attempt was a "kids for Kids" program, giving families with school aged children a young goat in the hope of improving protein nutrition for the children. A major problem developed when the goats distributed were dying. The response, our second try, was threefold -- an educational program on animal husbandry, active help with vaccinations and the establishment of a goat farm. However, the goat farm also failed because of dry weather (insufficient food for the goats).



Chicken Farm

The third try was a chicken farm. Although the attempt at running a chicken farm was also ultimately halted, it showed sufficient promise that we believe that another effort under different management might succeed.

David Stevenson Michael has been chosen by the Haitian FDFC to be the new manager. He was sent to study under Professor and Agronomist Franso Noel at the University UNISMOH. He runs a program not only with caged chickens, but also a program such as planned in Fond Doux where the chickens are uncaged, but still in a

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chicken coop. The training consisted of three days of training in theory and then practical hands on training in the chicken coop. David has been tasked with developing a business plan that can succeed not only in producing eggs, but developing a sustainable market for eggs. The plan is under development.

Irrigation Proposal

Another recent proposal to create sustainable agriculture is through irrigation. The Haitian FDFC is discussing what might become a demonstration project. The months of November, December and January are very difficult months for food production because of dry weather. If irrigation could be arranged, this would increase the food supply at a very critical time. The FDFC is exploring whether to try to pursue such a project. No concrete plans have yet been made.

To increase expertise in this field, the Foundation Board of Directors discussed the possibility of enlisting an agronomist either Haitian or American -- perhaps affiliated with a university, church or NGO. However, they decided that at least for the present time help with irrigation proposals might be more effective and a more immediate way to improve sustainable agriculture. Irrigation has become one of our dreams.



A Fond Doux Garden

C. Educational Initiatives

The Foundation strongly believes that if the Haitians are to overcome the many difficulties in Haiti, it will need to be done by the Haitians themselves. To do this, they need to develop both a Christian Haitian middle class and well-educated leaders. An educated leadership provides needed knowledge, insight and wisdom and a Christian middle class would have the motivation and financial capacity to sustain the long struggle ahead.

The earliest educational effort was to develop some educated leaders through university scholarships. The board now has four university students: Emile Maceus (education), Dieuseul Istache (medicine), Faédra Olivier (education) and Schneider Saint Surin (computers). These four students represent an investment of around \$10,000 per year. With the fall in the value of the dollar, it might even be higher. A fifth student received a scholarship in nursing, but decided not to remain in school but to emigrate. We find this very regrettable.



Faédra Olivier with New Computer

A second educational initiative has been conducted under the leadership of Brent Engel to provide computers to some up-and-coming young leaders of the community. Over the last 8 years approximately 40 computers have been refurbished and given to Fond Doux youth – eight this year. Computers open up a whole new level of possible learning.

A third effort has been an attempt to increase the number of English speakers in the community. English is the international language and the overwhelming majority of business associations in the country are with the United States. The Foundation has 7 students that are attending Simple English School in Miragoâne,

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several days a week on scholarship for an annual investment of between \$3,000 and \$3,500 per year. This includes our community nurse, who became the most recent English language scholarship recipient. An eighth student, a teacher in Platon, attends Morning Star School once a week. He will become the only English speaker in the village to our knowledge. He can potentially be a very important link to the greater world.

The English language students are expected to resurrect an English Club for children to introduce English to younger students. The club was disbanded when its leader emigrated to Chile. The brain drain of educated leaders is a problem for many developing countries including Haiti, stemming from the lack of opportunities in underdeveloped economies.



Ancitho Gene -- English Language Student

Another major educational effort, undertaken at the urging of the Christians of Fond Doux, was the decision to pay teacher's salaries for the primary school in the remote village of Platon. This undertaking was begun as an emergency program to prevent the closure of the school. It was taken after a commitment of the school to pursue quality education and with a recognition that the school had no other place to turn. At current levels of support this requires a minimum of \$6,000 annually. At the present time we do not have sufficient recurring commitments to sustain this subsidy. We trust that some additional people will feel called to offer sustained support for this program.

Solar Lamps for Students

During the September meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fond Doux Foundation, Jim Johnson demonstrated a solar powered study lamp. These solar lamps cost about \$30 each. They provide 8 hours of light sufficient for study purposes when fully charged. Fond Doux, Haiti,

has no public power available. Even if it did, most times the electric power in Haiti is unreliable. Thus, solar power is more desirable and dependable.

Following last month's demonstration of solar lamps, Jim Johnson corresponded with Emile Maceus about the households without any electricity or solar power in Fond Doux. Emile estimated that in the inner circle of Fond Doux there were about 90 to 100 households that have no electricity or any solar power.



Jim Johnson Demonstrates Solar Lamp

The \$30 10-watt solar lamps are only good for lighting, although they could alternatively charge a cell phone in emergency. Because it becomes dark at about 6:00PM in Fond Doux, it was the opinion of the board that students would benefit a great deal from even this minimum provision of light for studies. The board decided to purchase 15 solar lamps to be given to our scholarship students that do not have electricity or solar power. It is estimated that we have about 12 students without night lighting.

Clearly there are other families with children, that could also benefit from obtaining a light for high school students, or even just the convenience of being at home. If people would like to provide a solar lamp for a Fond Doux family, you may contribute electronically on the Foundation's website or by check. Indicate that it is for the lamp project.

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D. Health Initiatives

During the last year, the Foundation has been pursuing the dream of the people of Fond Doux to establish a clinic in the village. A community nurse has been engaged; a clinic building is now available. The contract for its use has apparently been agreed to, but not yet signed.



Clinic Building

As soon as the contract is signed, the Foundation will begin to prepare the building for occupancy. It needs a toilet, storage for medical supplies and adequate solar power. A few medical instruments will need to be purchased as well. The FDFC decided to wait until the building was secured before pricing out these improvements. For the moment, preparing for the opening of the clinic is a major focus of the board.

Christmas Gifts

Most of us reading this newsletter, if we are Americans, have an abundance of material possessions. Question: What do you give someone who already has all that they need? Answer: A gift in their name to someone in need. We invite you to give alternative gifts through Epworth Church or directly through the Fond Doux Foundation. We will acknowledge that gift when we receive the name and address and will tell them exactly how it is used. It costs \$30 to give the gift of light to a student's family that will last as much as 10 years. What a blessing! A \$70 gift could pay for two months of an English course that can enrich their entire lifetime. A \$125 gift could pay a teacher's salary for one month and a \$150 will pay our community nurse for a month. Those contributions are incalculable. We invite you to seriously think about alternative giving.

2020 Christmas Meal Planned

Our strong desire is to use gifts to produce long term rather than transient benefit (premise #3 on page one). Yet, compassion compels us, nevertheless, to recognize the present realities of inadequate food. The Foundation decided years ago that mission teams could not eat three meals a day while their Haitian hosts were hungry. They simply could not! Thus, on every mission trip the teams have brought gifts of food to be distributed to those most in need as determined by our Haitian hosts. But even as we are not now, because of the COVID crisis, travelling to Fond Doux, the people are more hungry than ever.

The Foundation decided in 2019 in the absence of a January visit to give the gift of a Christmas meal. The Foundation decided to repeat it this year. This is not a commitment to do this every year, but to show our concern for their present condition even in our absence -- when we are unable to visit Fond Doux in-person. Gifts to support the meal are welcome.



December 26, 2019 Christmas Feast

For information on this or any project, you may contact us in the following ways:

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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.