

The Fond Doux Flyer January 2021

Soccer Field Enlargement

Sports are very important in American life. But what if you have barely enough to eat, if that, and no expectation of a much better future? Surprisingly, sports might be even more important to you! Yes, although this may seem counterintuitive to us who are Americans, from the very formation of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee, their number one goal has been enlargement of the soccer field to regulation size. This was even higher than the clinic, food and/or education, which are also desperately sought. The hope is that other communities will schedule soccer games on this field and it could become an economic boon to the community as well as a community playground. Soccer is the only major sport in Haiti because it can be played with only a little equipment. It is really the “only game in town”.



Fond Doux Soccer Field

Originally created under the leadership of Karen Thorsen, then a Fond Doux Foundation board member, miscommunication and a lack of local oversight caused the soccer field not to be quite what was intended. The field is short of regulation size. To enlarge the field to regulation size requires taking down part of a hill and hauling away the dirt. Earlier the FDFC received an estimate from another builder to complete the field for \$14,000. The bid was rejected as far too expensive.

However, a different contractor, Yslande Casimy, is now building a market at Bekin on the road to Miragoâne, west of Fond Doux. Because she will have machinery in the area and can use the dirt in her other construction project, she gave a special price (\$4500) to the FDFC for completion of the field.

With this new figure, the board of directors approved the enlargement with three conditions: 1) a contract to complete the field satisfactorily, 2) the FDFC’s taking over maintenance of the field, and 3) the FDFC’s immediate correction of a drainage problem. The contract was signed by contractor Yslande Casimy, Pastor Brucely Delma and the FDFC agent, Emile Maceus.



Power Shovel to Remove Hill

Although the board did not immediately begin extensive solicitation for the project because of the Foundation’s very recent efforts in fundraising for the house for Antoinette George Innocent and her family, some contributions have already been received and more will be sought. Ultimately, we wish to finance this project from donations specifically ear-marked for this project, not from general funds. Still needed is \$3500.



Fixing Drainage Problem

The FDFC placed Fritzmann Saint Surin and Alindor Lener in charge of the soccer field. Others may still be added to the committee. Fixing the drainage problem began on December 10th. The removal of the hill began on Saturday, December 26th.

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Scholarship Pays Off -- Faédra Olivier Begins Teaching

Our 2019 Scholarship student, Faédra Olivier, began teaching school part time in the Capois Mixte la Mort Primary School in Fond Doux, Haiti at the beginning of the Fall semester this past December. She is teaching school in the morning and continues to go to the university in the afternoon to pursue her teaching certificate.



Faédra with the School Children

Although Faédra has only been on scholarship for slightly over a year, she is the first of the scholarship students to land a job as a direct result of his or her scholarship.

Emile Maceus, the executive director of the Fond Doux Foundation Committee, himself a recipient of a university scholarship, said, "The work of the Foundation is casting out poverty and creating a free man. That is the main purpose of education -- creating a free man! I hope that FDF can find more donors in order to give more scholarships! "

The Foundation echoes the sentiment. We hope that we can find more donors. Education makes a profound difference and will eventually transform the society. Haitian university scholarships (room, board and tuition) cost about \$2500 per year. We now have four scholarship students. We would certainly like to be able to offer another scholarship in 2021. All scholarship students are expected to give back to the community as a condition of the scholarship. There are many Fond Doux students that could benefit from a scholarship. From them the Haitian Committee chooses those most deserving and most likely to benefit the community.

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Venelson Vitelus Receives a Computer



Venelson Vitelus with Computer

Venelson Vitelus is 18 years old, a student in College Mixte Capois La Mort High School, one of our more advanced English scholarship students and is helping to lead the restarted English Club. He is one of eight who recently received a computer from the Fond Doux Foundation. He explained how this came about:

"I do not really know a lot of things about the computer. What I do know is that the computer was originally going to be given to Frantz Delmas. I think, they were going to give it to him for his learning. But he did not receive it, because he is no longer here. He went to the capital city of the Dominican Republic.

"Two or three months ago, I asked Emile Maceus to get me a computer. Because we saw that Jowasky was getting one, he thought it would be really good for me to have one too! When the opportunity came, Emile gave it to me for my English school. It came from the USA."

Six computers were given by the Foundation to emerging young leaders of the community. Others were Faédra Olivier, Schneider Saint Surin, Jowasky Saint Surin, Junior Merjuste, and Dave Stevenson Michel. Another computer was designated for the clinic and still another for Orlymy Dorce, a teacher at Platon.

English Club Meets



Venelson Vitelus with the English Club

On Saturday December 5th, the English Club in Fond Doux began to meet again. This hoped for event was delayed about 2 years for lack of a leader. Venelson Vitelus led the first session which was in greeting one another in English. Sixty-three children came to the first club meeting. Jean Guitho Pierre, first year student, and Barthelemy Delma, former English language student, assisted as well as Emile Maceus. Average attendance has been steady around that 60+ figure.

One of the major goals of the Fond Doux Foundation is to increase the number of English speakers because as the international language English can open up a doorway to the world. Originally, mission teams taught conversational English by playing English games during mission trips. Then Kender Saint Surin organized an English club for primary age school children on Saturday mornings. However, when he emigrated to Chile, the club was suspended because it had no leader.

With new persons learning English on Foundation scholarships, new leaders have emerged. Five young people are currently enrolled at the Simple English school in Miragoâne. Two of them have reached sufficient mastery to begin simple conversational instruction. They are Jowasky Saint Surin, Kender's brother, who is on book 4 and Venelson Vitelus, who is on book 3. However, Jowasky's Saturday class schedule temporarily conflicts with the club and cannot immediately help.

The aim of the club is to make English fun and to encourage English use. The children may engage in conversational games in English, learn to say their

name, greet one another and engage in some simple English conversation. As the English of the teachers improves, the depth of the instruction can also improve. Because many children do not have adequate nutrition, the Haitians would like to supply juice and crackers as a snack to the participants. We may do this if we have donors that would like to provide them – cost \$40-\$50 per session.



Handing Out Snacks



Children with Snacks

Platon School

We normally think of three things that are necessary to run a school – teachers, materials and facilities. In Platon we really need to think of a fourth – food.

Last school year the Fond Doux Foundation assumed responsibility to ensure the payment of the teachers at the Good Samaritan Primary School in Platon. Without question, it would have closed had we not done so. We will probably be able to pay the teachers this year because of some one-time gifts, although we will need

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additional sustained giving to maintain this. Thank you for all that are helping.

This year Pastor Jonas also asked us if we could help with the second of these necessities – class materials. He said, “What I purchased last year, those books were not original. Since I bought some of them and I could see that they are not in good condition for this year, I want to buy original books. They are surely much more expensive, but they will last far longer and just like I said they are in good condition, so the images and the writings are not blurry.” He priced out what he would like to purchase for each grade. We added them up. It totals \$4106. We have not yet favorably responded to his request. We will respond as we are able. Your gifts are always appreciated.



Teacher Orlmy Dorce in Platon Classroom

Obviously, the facilities also need improvement as well, but that is actually the lowest of the four priorities for the school. We purchased benches last year. A toilet is the highest facility priority. There is none now.

The foundation is highly concerned about the fourth of these necessities -- food. People have long known that the lack of a breakfast hinders good education. This is true whether in the USA or in Haiti. The board of directors authorized a food survey at the Platon school to evaluate the food insecurity problem among children in the village. The Pastor had told us a year ago about children coming to school without breakfast and suffering bellyache and headaches which he could alleviate with crackers from personal funds.

The survey was conducted by Emile Maceus on December 9th. The results will help to guide future efforts to improve nutrition in Platon. Thirty-one

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children took the survey. Four were absent and 4 kindergartners were unable to answer the questions.

Twenty-one of them had eaten before school. Three of them had eaten crackers, two had eaten fruit and four spaghetti. The others ate some form of rice or fried food. Ten had not eaten before school. All of them said their last meal was yesterday. However, five of them said their last meal was yesterday morning. Ouch!

Twenty reported eating one meal a day. Six eat one or two meals a day. Five regularly eat two meals a day. None said that they ate three meals. In an effort to determine protein in the diet, we asked when they last ate egg, meat or fish. Five said yesterday and five said 2 days ago. Three said 3 days ago and four said 4 days ago. Two were last week and the rest were a long time ago or could not remember. Thus, just a little over a half of the children had eaten an egg, fish or meat within the last week. But nearly half did not and would appear to be protein deficient.

Malaria Strikes Again

Just before Christmas we received word that two members of our Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee have contracted malaria -- Ancitho Gene and Sonise Paulo. A young girl has also contracted both malaria and typhoid. We have asked our community nurse to evaluate the situation. The FDFC is seeking more mosquito nets. We purchased over 350 nets earlier this year. Keep these people in your prayers.

We learned as well that Ancitho had previously fallen from an avocado tree and had cracked a rib but had skipped a doctor's appointment because of lack of money. To offer help or for more information on these or other projects 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.