

The Fond Doux Flyer July 2020

A House for Madam Antoinette Une Maison pour Madam Antoinette

A Major Challenge:

We are looking for someone to provide a grant of \$2500 to match other gifts of \$250 (or more) to raise sufficient money for a house for Madam Antoinette. Our overall goal is six thousand dollars.

In last month's Flyer we introduced you to Madam Antoinette. She became a widow in 2010 when her husband was killed in the great earthquake. Since then she has been raising her family of four, now aged 10, 12, 15 and 17 in a shack

consisting of tin, canvas and plastic. This shack does not keep the weather out during the rainy season. We in the Foundation would like to build her a house. However, we can do so only with the resources that you our readers provide. To make this home a reality, we hope that someone's heart will be moved to provide a major gift (\$2500) to match gifts of \$250 or more. Will you prayerfully consider whether you could be this person? Or perhaps you could be one to give a gift of \$250 or more. Can we make this dream become a reality? With your help we can! Gifts of all sizes are welcome.

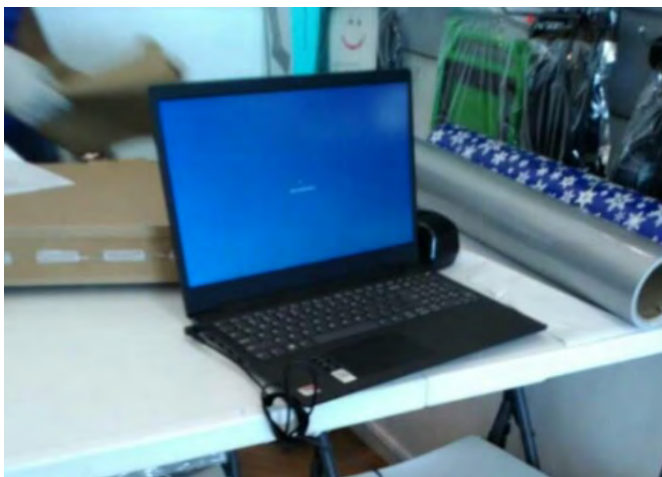


Madam Antoinette and Children in front of Present Home

Haitian Online Class Challenges

COVID-19 has devastated Haitian education. The government has ordered all schools and universities to close. This has had a profoundly negative impact on our scholarship students. The school of Emile Maceus closed temporarily and then offered online classes -- difficult, but not an overwhelming problem for him. He had a computer. For Dieuseul Istache the problem was more difficult. His medical education was temporarily suspended and he worked at the hospital for a time. Then the university decided that they could not reopen in-person classes, but decided to continue classes online. One major problem. Dieuseul did not have a computer. How could he continue?

The Foundation has had a program for some years administered by Brent Engel to provide computers. Upon receiving or obtaining used laptops, Brent has replaced or upgraded the software, added memory and otherwise refurbished these computers. Then, on each mission trip he takes these computers to distribute mostly to Fond Doux young people. Over the last 8 years he has distributed approximately 30 such computers -- a real community gift. Dieuseul was in line to receive one of these computers on the next mission trip. However, the COVID-19 crisis that closed the schools also prevented our mission team to travel to Haiti. Now what?



From a designated gift, the Foundation was able to purchase for him a computer in Haiti. But getting the computer did not solve the problem. He needed access to electricity. Public power in Haiti is unreliable at best. It is only for part of each day. But even worse, since the start of the demonstrations last year, many power plants have shut down altogether. For example, Fond Doux has

not had any public power for over 3 months. To use the computer and continue his classes, he needed a reliable source of electricity to charge the computer's batteries and to have sufficient lighting to study into the evening.

The Foundation has invested four years into his medical education. How could this education end? No, it cannot! The Foundation purchased a solar system consisting of solar panels, batteries, charge controller and inverter. The panel and batteries produce 350 Watts of electricity, The Inverter could handle up to 1000 Watts. Several batteries could be hooked up to the inverter. Total cost of the solar power system was around \$850.



From top: Controller, Inverter, Battery

Dieuseul has hired someone to place the solar panel on the roof. Unfortunately, the installer is hospitalized. In the meantime, Dieuseul takes it outside in the morning and brings it back inside in the afternoon.

Our other students have not been so fortunate. Faédra's school and Frantz's school shut down completely. Frantz's school is now laying plans to begin online classes. He has the same problem -- no computer. Faédra's school has not begun talking about online classes. She is exploring what can be done.

Our eight English language students had also switched to online classes. The Foundation provided phones for two that had no phone to enable them to continue their classes online. The Haitian Committee purchased another with Haitian funds. Then, the inexplicable happened. The school suspended online classes as well.

At this time, we do not know why. We are hoping that their education might soon resume.

First Micro Loans

Five people, all women, were issued micro loans by the Fond Doux Foundation Committee in June. They are:

Raymonde Settis, aged 37, who is selling underwear;

Sonise Colidor Paulo, 42 years old, married, the mother of 4 sons and 2 daughters, a teacher by profession, who is selling animals;

Guerda Charlemagne, 43 years old, a dressmaker by profession, married with 2 sons and a daughter, who is selling food products;

Marie-Sandra Flerijard, 38 years old, married with 2 sons and a daughter, who is selling fried Haitian food; and

Lovely Gedeon, 39 years old, married with a son and a daughter, who is selling food products.

Each of them received a loan of 2000 Haitian dollars, about \$100 US. The purpose of the loan was to provide initial seed money to purchase their items for sale. The repayment schedule was not available at this time. This is a test project. The FDFC has already chosen 15 more applicants, if this trial run proves successful.

Micro loans are not a panacea to end poverty in Haiti, but they may be a way to help some improve their situation in life. We pray that this experiment will prove successful. This is a project initiated and carried out solely by the Haitians. Only seed money has been furnished (along with some encouragement and advice).

A report on the progress of the project to the Foundation is due 60 days after the initial loan. Danis Jean Joseph, the Principal of the primary school in Fond Doux, is the head of the committee overseeing the project. The starting of these businesses has been impeded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Open Air Clinic

On June 18th the FDFC conducted its first open-air clinic with our community nurse, which we hope will become a regular clinic program in the Fond Doux Community. The clinic team consisted of Nadine Toussaint (aka Senny), Emile Maceus, Nurse Myrdred Kaminskie, Deacon Fritzmann Saint Surin (aka Fanfan), Eluard Louis, and Cristela Julsaint (aka Madam Toto).



Clinic Team

If you take a careful look at the picture of the clinic team above you may be able to tell that they are all wearing a protective plastic shield as well as a facemask.



Clinic in Operation

They began with registration. Then they took their vitals. They then saw the nurse and finally there was a distribution of medications. This all took place at the school porch which has open sides; thus, while open air, it was not quite like the soccer field. Originally thought of as a children’s clinic, it was expanded to become a general clinic. Medications were provided through the generosity of our Foundation donors.

Not pictured is an 18 day old baby with a skin problem.

Solar Power Battery Station

One of the problems of living without reliable electric power is that it is difficult to recharge the batteries on your phone or computer. As we seek to open the world to our Haitian youth, we have brought or purchased mobile phones and computers. Others have purchased them on their own. All have the same difficulty of keeping their batteries charged. The answer is to provide a charging station. This can be done with solar panels and batteries. Our thinking is that a charging station could be coupled with the proposed Community Library. But whether in connection with the library, an office or some other facility, the first step is to secure land to insure its permanence. This is another dream which requires the investment of some money.



Sendy and Child with Medication

Interested in Pen-Pals? Facebook?

If you would be interested in becoming a pen-pal with someone in Fond Doux, we may be able to pair you with one of our English language students for email correspondence. It would have the dual purpose of helping you to learn more about Haiti and help them with the opportunity to use the language that they are learning. If interested in this non-monetary partnership, you may contact us through our website or mailing address below:

Website: www.fonddouxfoundation.org 
 Fond Doux Foundation
 PO Box 51443
 Durham, NC 27717

The Foundation is also opening a Facebook page through the expertise of Schneider Saint Surin of Fond Doux. Look for Fond Doux Foundation on Facebook. More pictures of the clinic are posted there.



Solar Panel

For more information on any of our projects or to make a contribution, you can contact us at our website or address below:

Website: www.fonddouxfoundation.org 
 Fond Doux Foundation
 PO Box 51443
 Durham, NC 27717

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, USA, whose Christian community outreach began in 2011.