



Vaginal Disease Class and Hygiene Kits



On October 1, 2020 about 3:40PM a class of over 40 teenage girls in Fond Doux, Haiti received instruction concerning vaginal diseases and each was presented with a hygiene kit provided by the Sewing Sisters from Epworth UMC, Durham, NC. and associated Churches.



Woodmicha Jeantille Recognizes the Source

The class was taught by the community nurse, Myrdred Delva, as a part of the community health initiatives of our Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee, our partners in Haiti Mission. The class was about more than the kits but involved all aspects of feminine hygiene and possible vaginal infections and their care.



Nurse Myrdred Kaminskie Delva

Only a teenage girl actually knows what first menstruation is like, especially when it happens at school. What if no feminine products are available? For girls in developing world countries it can be quite traumatic. Hygiene kits are our answer. It enables girls to stay in school and continue their education.



Madam Cristela – Community Health Worker

Madam Cristela, our community health worker in in Fond Doux said, “When the girls have their menstruation at the school, they climb up here to my house and ask me for a kit. They ask, ‘Mme. Toto, is there any kit available because I am having my period?’ And if I have one, I give it to them, but sometimes I don't have any. What is really bad is that they frequently don't have money to buy sanitary napkins themselves. They cannot solve the problem! Some of them go home, and they don't go back to school for the week. . .

The Fond Doux Flyer November 2020

The girls appreciate this program. Oh yes, they do, especially when the girls are in class, and they have their period. Other students used to watch them. 'Ugh!' What's good is that now they are able to find a place where they can find someone that can help -- through cleaning themselves and giving them sanitary napkins. And they feel comfortable through that. . . Those who have a kit, they stay at the school. But those who don't have a kit or other appropriate method, they stay at home until their menstruation is over."

Even during the pandemic five women from the Sewing Sisters have continued to be active in making the kits by sewing at home. These five are Claudia Goacher, Mary Gyurki-Kiss, Susan Armour, Judy Bolt and Ruth Clausing.

During September 66 Sewing Sisters' "Days for Girls" Kits, i.e. feminine hygiene kits were delivered to Fond Doux for distribution. Below we see one teenager examining the contents of the kit: ten washable sanitary pads, soap, two shields, two panties, two washcloths, a plastic bag to place soiled pads and a cloth carrying bag.



Katie Ormilus Shows us the Carrying Bag

Some of these kits were carried to Haiti by Brent Engel on September 23rd. He experienced several stressful moments. Because of weight limitations 20 hygiene kits were left in Durham. No big deal, but in Miami one of the



Loudmie Ovide Examines the Contents



Brent Engel

duffel bags was found to be 3 pounds overweight. Would he need to abandon something in Miami? Another bag was 5 pounds under the limit. So, in the Miami airport, he re-distributed his luggage. In Haiti, he needed to declare that he was carrying 8 computers and 150 pounds of luggage into the country for a one-night stay. The immigration officials pulled him aside for further examination of his luggage. He felt considerable relief when they completed the examination and allowed him to proceed.

The Fond Doux Flyer November 2020

The New and the Old -- The Antoinette Family Rejoices



The Fond Doux Flyer November 2020

House Construction Day 35 – Finished October 5, 2020

In the name of our local committee and community, I would like to thank those who made this project a reality! The house is finished and the Antoinette family started sleeping in it even when we had not yet put in the doors! Today, they were overjoyed to receive the key to the house. I know it was not easy to get the necessary funds for the house, but we can proudly see the fruits of the hard work on the face of the family! What a way to store treasures in heaven! My prayers go to you guys, your family and the United States of America! This project was not possible without your determination! 😊 God is on the move.

---- Emile Maceus of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee

Micro Loans Expanded

The Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee made five microloans in August. Due to an unfortunate miscommunication the loans were limited to only 2 months, too short for them to solidify their businesses. Nevertheless, all loans were repaid on time with interest. The loans have since been remade with a longer period for repayment. The Foundation also issued additional seed money of \$700, which will enable several more loans.

Newsletter Readership

The Foundation would like to expand the number of people receiving the newsletter. If you have friends and relatives that are not now receiving their own copy of the newsletter, we encourage you to share your copy with them and then send us their email address so that we might send next month's issue directly. We have many exciting things to share and would like to spread the word as widely as possible. Thanks.

Dollar Exchange Creates Financial Crisis

The drop in the dollar against the Haitian gourde has created a significant increase in the cost of our operations in Haiti. This is most evident in our support of the Platon School. Last school year we supported the school at the rate of US \$300 per month. In the Spring this produced 6,000 Haitian dollars each month. (20ht per US \$1) In September while building the Antoinette house the rate fell to 18ht to 16ht to 15ht. Now in the month of October it has fallen even further to 12ht. This new exchange rate means that we need \$500 per month to maintain the same 6,000 Haitian dollar monthly subsidy. An additional \$100 per month was added to the fund through special onetime contributions totaling \$1100, but the FDF still needs to find \$100 more per month to keep the teachers at their current pay levels. If the exchange rate remains at this level, we need to find that in sustained renewable contributions. We were expecting to give the teachers a pay increase with the additional \$100 per month funding, but now cannot. Unfortunately, even current pay is now in jeopardy.

Computer Distribution

Eight computers were distributed from the trip of Brent Engel on September 23rd including one for the clinic. We will show more pictures in future newsletters.



Nurse Myrdred Receives Clinic Computer

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.