



Erin Engel with Music Class

Music Class Huge Success

For the past three years Erin Engel has been teaching some students in the Fond Doux High School how to read music so that they can in turn teach others. The student teachers are Valdine Vitelus and Ismaelo Polistin. Erin Engel's teaching the teachers of music has made a significant contribution to the Fond Doux community. Approximately 30 children meet twice a week in a music class taught by these student teachers. On the recent August mission trip, the music club invited Erin as a guest of honor to a special music event. She gave the students an impromptu quiz on whole notes, notes on a staff, etc. Before she was even finished asking the questions all were answering – not just one or two or a few, but all of them. Before this we were unsure how effective the program had been. The evaluation is that that the \$100 paid to each of the teachers per year was well worth the investment. There are no music teachers in the school and prior to this the students were unaware that music could actually be written.

This year Erin also brought 50 recorders donated by the Engels and lesson plans to teach the recorder adapted by Erin from a power point for this purpose created by Jane Massilio, a music teacher friend of Libby Engel. These were given to the two music

teachers that Erin is teaching in order to enable the music club members to learn to play the recorder.



Erin Teaching Recorder

Beyond Mere Survival

In Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, poverty is everywhere to be seen. Food insecurity is rampant. The Foundation is very active in searching and finding ways to improve nutrition and health care, but the FDF mission teams go beyond seeking to assure survival, the teams seek to enhance the lives of our Fond Doux friends in other ways. The work of Erin illustrated here is one example. Another is the work of Brent Engel with computer assistance. A third was the work of former board member Karen Thorsen in erecting and establishing a soccer field. Enlarging the soccer field to make it regulation size is one of the prominent goals of the local Haitian Fond Doux Committee.



Children Playing Soccer



Not Always with Sportsmanship

Helping to develop a middle class is an extremely important step toward a better future in Haiti. The Foundation firmly believes that if the enormous problems facing the country are to be resolved, it will be by the Haitians themselves. Only a Haitian middle class imbued with Christian values will have the will to succeed. We are proud to assist them.

Computer Assistance

Since 2011 Brent Engel has been quietly taking computers to Fond Doux. He buys used computers and refurbishes them and distributes them to outstanding students and leaders in the village. He has taken well over 30 computers over the years, averaging about 4 computers a year. On this his 9th year of mission trips he took with him 6 computers. He gave them to Pastor Brucely Delma, Emile Maceus (an emerging leader of the community), Barthelemy Delma (a young rap music artist and member of the FDFC), Ismaelo Paulistin (one of the student music teachers), Kihoshinne Delma (medical student) and Jowasky Saint Surin.

He also taught a class on computers. One major component was to teach them how to evaluate a computer. It is based on five things: a) looking at the processor speed, b) at the size of the hard drive, c) at the amount of RAM (memory installed in the computer, d) which version of MS Windows is installed and e) evaluating the battery (how much charge does the battery hold). This is important when you have a lack of available electricity to just plug in.



Brent Engel Demonstrates a Computer

Having a computer opens a person to a whole new realm of possibilities and offers many educational opportunities in a land with minimal educational facilities. These computers constitute a giant step toward building a middle class. The Foundation believes this is a significant contribution to the village of Fond Doux.

Next Mission trip – January

Linda Mitchell is planning to lead the next mission trip in January. The exact dates are not yet certain. If you are interested in going to Haiti, please contact her soon. Plans must always be made far in advance. We are very much interested in a man, especially one with some knowledge of solar power. We are also especially interested in someone with knowledge of starting up a micro-business. Cost of the trip is \$1200 plus vaccinations and passport.

Contact her through the website or by writing her:

Website: www.fondouxfoundation.org

Address: Fond Doux Foundation
PO Box 51443
Durham, NC 27717



Sharing Our Story. The Rev. John Clausing spoke to the Pleasant Greeners, a monthly luncheon group at Pleasant Green UMC on Wednesday September 25. Dr. Libby Engel and the Rev. John Clausing shared in the worship hour at Amity UMC on Sunday September 29th. We welcome further invitations to share our story.



Children Receive Health Kits

Last June the children of Epworth's Sunday school packed health kits for the children of Fond Doux. Above the children received these kits during the August Mission trip. The kits included gauze, surgical tape, antibiotic ointment and band-aids.

Cooperation in Haiti

The Board of Directors of the Fond Doux Foundation has invited Bill Nealey, Jr, the Executive Director of Mission to Haiti, to coordinate our work in Fond Doux. Since both agencies are active in Fond Doux, it only makes sense to see where we can be mutually helpful and not duplicate our endeavors. The meeting with the Board is set for November 23rd.

The Board also will be meeting with other area United Methodist Churches involved in Haiti to explore mutual mission on a date not yet determined.

Correction to September Issue:

The revised Mission Statement of the Foundation was adopted August 18, 2019, not August 25, 2019 as previously reported.



A Man with Prayer Shawl from Epworth

Shawls for the Elderly

Did you know that you still can become chilly in the tropics? Most elderly in Fond Doux are thin and lack adequate clothing to adjust to night temperatures. All mountain villagers spend long periods of time outdoors and are exposed to temperature and wind variations. Our team is teaching a class to all villagers over 65 years old that includes first aid, nutrition, and pain relief. Each villager attending the class was given a prayer shawl made by the women of Epworth. The man above is well known to the team and was extremely grateful for the shawl. (Note the hat on his head that accompanied the shawl.) This time each participant was also given a first aid kit and our Haitian nurse demonstrated how to use it. Thank you to Epworth UMW for the shawls and children of Epworth for providing first aid kits. Through the generous donation of a dedicated Foundation supporter each participant also received a bag of beans and rice. Our goal is self-sufficiency, but we cannot eat while our hosts are hungry.

Looking for Partners and Angels

To expand the opportunities in Fond Doux the Foundation is actively looking for new partners. The great thing about partnering in Haiti is that you do not need to be wealthy to provide significant impact. Did you know that \$100 to \$150 a month can provide an elementary school teacher? Did you know that the equivalent of \$380 per month could provide the equivalent of a full-time nurse practitioner?

This issue has examples of small investments that make a big difference: shawls for the elderly, first aid kits for children, the distribution of beans, rice and oil, and our assistance with music, computers and soccer.

The last issue spoke of three modest dream projects that the Foundation and the Haitian Committee would like to see move forward: Community Nurse, Library and Soccer Field. They will only occur when our base of support becomes wider. We think that the Holy Spirit is moving someone (or some group) to select one or more of these as their special personal mission. What are you good at? Or really like to do? The chances are really very good that these talents could be used to empower the people of Fond Doux to have a better future. May the Lord lead you!



Carlene Delma Giving out Oil

In Memoriam

Each mission trip **Lucia Meade Patton Austin** of Swansboro United Methodist Church contributed for many years toward the distribution of beans and rice to feed the hungry and underfed. This year she died at the age of 103. Fond Doux lost a valuable friend, the Foundation a faithful supporter. While her reward is in heaven, we wish to acknowledge with gratitude her service to the community while in this life. She is the mother of Lynn Rouse, who has been a frequent member of an FDF mission team and also herself a contributor for beans and rice.



Gabby Duerk of Swansboro Handing out Rice

Depending on the size of the donation we spend between \$450 and \$1000 each trip. The host church decides who are the recipients.

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