

The Fond Doux Flyer May 2025

From the Editor – Priorities

To meet the many challenges of working in Fond Doux and vicinity, the Foundation has adopted financial priorities in response to the requests and pleas of our Haitian friends. The Foundation has programs in six different areas: education, health care, nutrition, public health (water, sanitation, health education, and disease prevention), shelter, and Christian nurture. The Foundation does not have sufficient financial ability to go “full steam ahead” in all areas at the same time even within each category. Sticking to these priorities is very difficult because there are always emergencies. It is always painful to say NO.

First Priority – Education: More specifically at the present time, we are focused on primary education in three schools: The Good Samaritan School of Platon, The Methodist School of Fond Doux and The School for Tomorrow in Ravine Parc. The number one need is to secure stable pay for the teachers.

Goal One – Teachers Pay. All the teachers are underpaid and in the past often unpaid in some cases for months at a time. No school can survive and create quality education if the teachers are unpaid -- being underpaid is bad enough. Without our support, none of these schools will survive, but with it they might thrive. We pray for strong support.

The Foundation has already been sponsoring the school in Platon and recently agreed to assure the teachers of the Methodist School of Fond Doux and the School in Ravine Parc regular pay until June of 2026. Whether we can continue beyond that depends on the response of our supporters. We have some very generous one time gifts that should ensure that we can do this for a year, but to continue beyond requires finding groups and individuals longer term. We believe that an additional \$1500 per month in pledges can preserve the teachers' present pay -- if all current pledges are maintained. Of course, they really need to be increased, but we first need to be able to keep present promises.

Goal Two – Facilities: The priority for the moment is the Methodist School. Seven classes meet in the Methodist sanctuary. It is noisy, crowded and underequipped. Starting before the end of the year, we expect to erect, a classroom building with an additional library room. To do this requires a minimum of \$20,000 additional in one time gifts. We are optimistic our donors will come through.

Goal Three – Student Support. We are providing education for approximately 300 primary students. These students need supplies, books, and adequate nutrition. We have already provided shoes for approximately 50 children at the Methodist School and Vita Mamba to the students at the Platon school and for the kindergarten of the Methodist school and our English clubs. Improved nutrition improves student outcome. Unfortunately, we do not currently have the resources to expand Vita Mamba to all Methodist School children or for Ravine Parc. When we have the resources, we hope to expand this program. The Foundation is also investigating the possible use of different kinds of text books to replace the soft covered workbooks to improve instruction and reduce costs. We will need additional support to provide quality education. We presently have no dollar figure for desired student support.

Financial Priority Two – Maintain Initiatives. Last year we increased our outreach at the clinic and in our nutrition programs. We would like to secure the necessary money to maintain these advances.

Goal One – Fund the clinic Expansion. This past year we expanded the clinic in three ways: Increased the hours the clinic is open, added two employees (a doctor and a lab technician) and added a nutrition program for malnourished children. We need to fully fund and fully utilize all three areas. The ability of the Haitian community to support this program near term is not possible. So we must develop dependable long-term donors. To do this requires that we secure a minimum of \$2000 per month in dependable continuing contributions. To date we have been very much dependent on a single donor and one time gifts to cover much of the cost of the clinic. We are grateful for these donors, but we really need to cultivate donors committed to sustaining the clinic over time!

Goal Two – Sustaining Nutrition Programs. Begun with 60 students at the Platon school, the Vita Mamba nutritional supplement now is provided to 200 school children. with a yearly expenditure of \$10,000. To expand the program to all 300 students requires an additional \$5,000. The new gardening program is budgeted at \$400 per month including the salary of the agricultural agent. It had a short term pledge to begin, but needs new donors to sustain it.

These are our present financial priorities. Pray with us. Help us expand our financial resources!

The Fond Doux Flyer May 2025

Creating Home Gardens



After the First Lesson

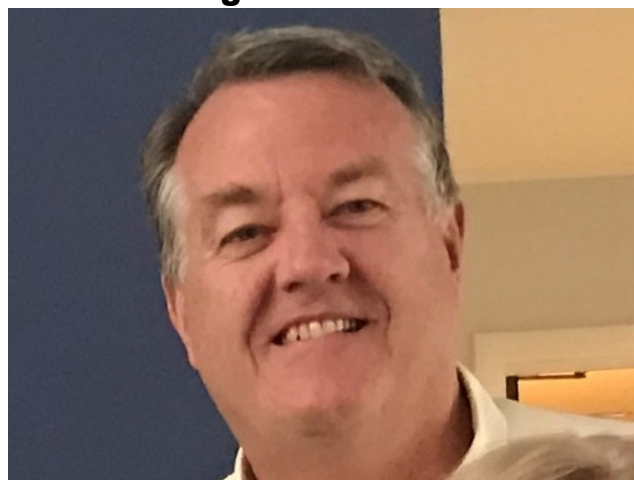
On April 12th three families received instruction on how to make home gardens at the Methodist Church of Fond Doux. Mackenson Hilaire, our agricultural agent, is on the left. Then comes Charlotte Fanfan and her son Ricardo, part of a refugee family; followed by Jolanda Saint Julien (age 20), the oldest of three children that tragically lost both of their parents recently; then comes Bertram and Japhcanie Alexis who recently lost their mother. Each family also received some seeds and a watering can. Mackenson will visit each of their gardens to monitor and help them with what they are doing. They were referred to our agricultural agent because family tragedy made it difficult for them to feed themselves.



Mackenson Helps Japhcanie

Mackenson has additional seeds and is presently planning to help up to 15 additional families develop small family plots to help feed themselves.

Brent Engel Visits Fond Doux



Brent Engel

For the first time since the pandemic, someone from the Foundation has been able to visit Fond Doux. On March 25th and 26th, Brent Engel, the Foundation's treasurer, was able to visit Fond Doux and talk with our Haitian staff and other partners in person. Such trips had not been possible first because of the pandemic and then because of gang violence in Port-au-Prince. The road from Fond Doux to Port-au-Prince is often blocked. We became aware that people associated with Hope Beyond Borders have been able to visit Fond Doux by flying to Cap Haitien in northern Haiti and then to Les Cayes in southwest Haiti allowing them to motor from Les Cayes to Fond Doux without encountering gangs. He was able to follow the same plan. He said that he did not feel unsafe although his car was stopped three times by police between Miragoâne and Les Cayes.

The purpose of the trip was to view first hand some of the new initiatives that were begun since the last visit from Americans associated with the Foundation and to bring to Fond Doux some items hard to ship.

Brent took with him five computers and several phones for distribution. The recipients of the computers were Clinic Director Eluard Louis; English teachers Jowasky Saint Surin, Venelson Vitelus and Ancito Gene;; and our physician Dr. Dieuseul Istache. Those receiving phones included school teacher Johnson Louis, who also works as coordinator of the Irrigation Committee; Junior Merjuste, coordinator for the Union of Young Progressives; Dr Dieuseul Istache; Jowasky Saint Surin; and Nadine Maceus, wife of the executive director.

The Fond Doux Flyer May 2025

For the English Clubs he brought along two wireless portable Bluetooth speakers, one for each English Club. These are used to enable the students to listen to native American speakers. The playtime is 26 hours with rechargeable batteries.



Speakers for the English Clubs

For the laboratory at the clinic, he brought along a small centrifuge, useful in the laboratory for blood tests.. We are trying to make the lab as fully equipped as possible.



Centrifuge for the Clinic

He also took some items difficult to obtain in Haiti:
6 64GB Flash drives to go with the computers,
Screen protectors and cases for the phones,
A solar book for Eluard Louis,
Extra Strength Acetaminophen for the clinic
3 French/English dictionaries, and
Ivermectin for goat deworming.

Brent visited the sites of most of our new initiatives including inspection of the land purchased last year by the Foundation. This land is located across the road from the Methodist Church, a site chosen because the Foundation has been forging a long term relationship with the Methodist Church of Fond Doux. Later this year, the Foundation plans to erect a Community Center whose rooms can also be used by the Methodist School. Some of the land will need clearing before building can begin.



Land that Needs Clearing

Although regular school was not in session, several classes were especially invited at both the Methodist School and the Ravine Parc School so that Brent could see the schools in operation. The Methodist School meets in the sanctuary of the Church



The Methodist School

He also visited the site of our agricultural experiment with irrigation on some of the farms southwest of the Methodist Church.



Cabbage Crop

The Fond Doux Flyer May 2025

Updates



Saintiline Ovide House

Last month, we showed you the start of a house for Saintiline Ovide and his wife René Joraldine and family. It is built of sticks and woven palm leaves. Although the house is not complete, they have moved into their new house. There are many families in and near Fond Doux that live in such houses. We long for the day that they can have more substantial housing.



Toddler James Is Walking

In the last issue we learned that Junior Merjuste took in two young children. He plans someday to run an orphanage. The Fond Doux Foundation provided some emergency help. He gave the following update:

"I would like to say a big thank you to the supporters, especially Pastor John Clausung. The children are really making progress. I think the supporters will

really like to see the pictures of the children because James who was sitting but not walking is now starting to walk and Levinsky is starting to prepare for school in September."



Well House Costruction

The new well house at our campus north of the Methodist Church will serve as both the base for a water tank and a place to store the generator that powers the electric pump and small garden tools. Eventually, the well may provide the campus and community drinking water and water for irrigation.

Progress of Our Fund Drives

School/Center - goal \$100,000 -- \$76,450
Campus Well - rev goal \$ 11,850 -- \$ 9,850
Teacher Pay monthly minimum \$1900 -\$ 520

Thank You, donors. We are gathering the funds to begin to develop our campus and maybe to sustain the schools. Pray for our ministry and the people of Fond Doux and vicinity.

"SO LITTLE CAN DO SO MUCH"

To learn about our projects or to donate, you can reach the Foundation in a number of ways:

Website: www.fonddouxfoundation.org

Email: John@fonddouxfoundation.org

By US mail at: Fond Doux Foundation, PO Box 51443, Durham, NC 27717.

Or through Epworth UMC Church, Durham, NC

Website manager: Brent Engel

Newsletter editor: Rev. John Clausung

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.