

The Fond Doux Flyer June 2025

Progress of Our Fund Drives

School/Center - goal \$100,000 -- \$87,450
 Teacher Pay monthly minimum goal \$1900 \$520

Thanks to a generous contribution from an Oklahoma family the foundation is nearing its goal for erecting the long awaited community center/school. A big thank you! Please pray for this project.

A Day in Platon

Platon is a village on the ocean shore north of Fond Doux where Foundation mission teams went both to relax and assist. On May 6th, an entirely Haitian Foundation staff spent a day in Platon. The program was multifaceted including an open air clinic, goat deworming, community health education, and working with the school.

Venelson Vitelus and Jean Gaston dewormed 76 village goats. The Haitians had previously learned the procedure from veterinarian Dr. Libby Engel on her visits to Fond Doux.



Mosquito Net Distribution

Nurse Myrdred Kaminski Delva taught a class on the prevention and treatment of malaria and typhoid. Mosquito nets were distributed to forty people to assist in fighting malaria.



Open Air Clinic

The clinic staff led by director Eluard Louis, consisting of Dr. Dieuseul Istache, nurse Myrdred Delva, lab technician Sheeder-Fanya Ernest and health worker Jean Guitho Pierre, treated 108 patients



Platon School Teachers

The school teachers of the Good Samaritan School in Platon met with Emile Maceus to work on developing standards (goals, expectations) for each grade level. This is the first step towards developing a comprehensive plan for student assessment. The teachers expect to have these prepared by the time school begins again in September. We believe that quality education includes measuring the progress of each student with objective standards. Jonas Pierre (man at right center in the picture above) is the administrator of the school. The Foundation has been assisting the Platon school since 2021.



Deworming Goats

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Narrative of Dalineda Georges

As told to Emile Maceus



“My name is Dalineda Georges (pronounced George), but my married name (following Haitian custom) is Madame Exilus. The name of my husband is Mr. Exilus Sanolien. I have three wonderful children. The name of my first child is Benshescka Sanolien. She is 7 years, and I have twins who are Betsaïda Sanolien and Betsanora Sanolien. They are 2 and a half years old. I am Christian. I love Jesus, so much! I am now a preschool teacher. Working with kids is my passion.

I was born here in Fond Doux. I grew up here and I got married here too.

I attended primary school from 1st to 6th grade at “Lifeline Christian Ministry.” Then I attended secondary school at “College Wesleyenne de Fond Doux” from 7th to 12th grade. After that I went to “Lycee Faustian Souliuque” for my final year. Then I went straight to the normal school Emile Durkheim in Miragoâne from 2018 to 2021.

I am also a tailor. This is something that I learned after finishing high school. I also learned to be a patisserie (a female pastry chef). I do use these skills, but most of the time I work only for myself. However, when school is about to reopen, I always make a lot of uniforms; but sewing school uniforms does not mean that I make very much money, you know!

Before I graduated from normal school, I started working with kids; that is to say I had a job which I liked very much. I was working at the school where I attended primary school (Lifeline Christian Ministry) when Lovely Felix approached me about the needs of the Methodist school. It was reported to me that the school is facing huge problems especially in the kindergarten section.

She also explained to me that they have big dreams for the school and that they need people to work together in order to make those dreams become a reality. So, with not much reflection, I said to myself: This school is in the area where I grow up, let me throw myself into that project with the hope that I can make a difference. If the school succeeds in developing, it will surely be glory for me and also for those who live nearby. So, since Lovely knew that I could make a difference and I have the qualifications, that might be the reason why she approached me. You may know that to have a wonderful school, the kindergarten should be the place where the good foundation is being laid .

I am working with all of my energy to make an impact in my section of the school (kindergarten). I can see clearly that some things are beginning to change. The behavior of some of the kids is starting to be different.

Honestly though, there could be more change; but don't forget that to have the change that we are all dreaming about, we need to put in place all the necessary mechanisms. There are materials that I need to work with the kids. Unfortunately, I don't have them. Sometimes, it is just not enough to work with only your voice and your hands. In a word, inadequate equipment and supplies prevent me from doing what I need to do with the kids. When I approach Lovely (the school's director of education) about this, I do not always find a positive response. She does not have the money to purchase the necessary materials to facilitate my work .

I can tell you one thing that I am seeing. Most of the kids come to school with no books, no notebooks, not even drawing books. Believe it or not, this is a pitiful situation! (Parents are expected to provide these.) Because of this situation, you need to go slowly and spend more time than you desire. One of the challenges is the absence of adequate materials. it is hard and painful when you know what to do and the lack of materials prevents you from doing what you want to do.

Another thing is the classroom. The classroom unfortunately is not appropriate for the kids learning. The classroom should be decorated and arranged according to the level of each grade. As you know we have three levels of kindergarten. But as you may also know, we have just one class that is separated by plywood from the other classes. That is a mess. Trust

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me, it is a real mess when those kids start talking at the same time.



Dalineda Georges

Another thing is the absence of a play-ground. You know kids like to play. We as teachers need to be creative to meet the challenge of learning, but sometimes this kind of situation goes beyond our capacity.

One last thing: The kids come to school hungry. When they show up, in the very beginning of the school day, they are all lovely kids. They can focus on what you need to teach them. But around 9:30 that changes rapidly. That is when they start to be hungry. One of the things that helps is the Vita Mamba that Lovely or someone else shares with them. It seems to me that the parents send the kids to school without eating in the morning. So, a school canteen would be more than a blessing, not only for the kindergarten, but for all the kids at the school.

You may consider this just to be like a joke, but for me it is not. There is a girl, beginning around 9 AM, she starts to cry. When I ask her what is the problem, she always says, "I am hungry." At this time there is nothing you can do but to find her something to eat. If not, she never stops crying." (To be continued)

Dalineda's story will be continued next month as she talks about her dreams for the future, many of them shared by the Foundation. Her story explains why the Foundation has put such a great priority on funding the school and constructing a classroom building. Quality education is next to impossible under the conditions that she describes. Our building, however, is not simply a schoolhouse for the Methodist School. The Foundation has need of a reliable meeting space to be used by the community for multiple purposes. The planned building will provide such a space.

Agricultural Work



Mackenson Hilaire Discusses Market Gardening

June marks the one year anniversary of the Fond Doux Foundation's experiment in attempting to improve the yield and nutritional value of the gardens in Fond Doux. One year ago, we hired Mackenson Hilaire to lead the program. He is a resident of Petit Goave and engaged to a Fond Doux woman. He was trained as an agricultural technologist. He began his work with 15 farmers who had farms or gardens south of the Methodist Church. After analyzing the soil, he worked with them to grow tomatoes and cabbage as a good money crop, providing them with seeds and fertilizer to begin their work.

When the dry season hit, the crops were in peril. He organized a cooperative, an irrigation committee, that installed and now oversees a system of irrigation with pipes and a pump purchased by the Foundation. Fourteen of the original farmers plus 6 additional farmers not in the original group were serviced by the system. Altogether, 20 farmers utilized the program and contributed to the cost of fuel to operate the pump. The Foundation paid for the fuel for the first 2 months as part of the start-up costs.

When the crops were imperiled from insects Mackenson purchased a sprayer and insecticide to combat the problem after organic means failed to eradicate the problem.

In order to measure the effectiveness of the program, he gave a comprehensive report of what each farmer did and earned the year prior as compared to this year. One of the farmers moved away, so we have results from only 14 farmers on the improvement in the cash value of their operations. Two farmers had

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never sold crops before, so the money that they made was all new. Ten of the farmers doubled or tripled the cash that they received. Two farmers failed to double their income. One of them became ill and failed to harvest all his crops, but still managed to increase the cash value of his crops. The last farmer increased his yield also, but did not double his income.

Although the actual INCREASED cash value for the farmers was quite small by US standards, only around \$500, this is equal to half a year's income for many Fond Doux Families. Further, they can plant another crop to further increase their income. Moreover, the increase was immediate and the gardeners should be able to sustain this increase without additional subsidy into the future.

Self-sufficiency is an important goal. The Foundation is seeking to find projects that might be self-sustaining and not require continuing subsidy. Agricultural activity is probably the shortest route to this end. Most of the Foundation's other activities require long term subsidies, such as the schools and the clinic. Some are just emergency gifts with no long term benefit.



Japhcanie Alexis Plants Cabbage

At the request, of the Foundation, Mackenson turned his attention to helping some families that have never been gardeners to establish family gardens to help feed themselves. His first group consisted of three families recommended by the Foundation. Our picture shows one of these gardeners, Japhcanie Alexis, preparing to replant cabbage plants that she started from seeds. Her work is being monitored by Mackenson for guidance each step of the way.

Mackenson is now expanding the number of small gardeners with whom he is working.

Haitian Flag Day in Ravine Parc



The Haitian National Flag



Ravine Parc Students – May 18, 2025

May 18th is a special day in Haiti. Students from all over the country celebrate the adoption of a flag on this day in 1803 during the Haitian revolution. The Flag is a symbol of national pride and independence. This year's celebration at the School for Tomorrow in Ravine Parc, one of the Fond Doux Foundation's partners, was organized by the founder of the school, Noel Joseph. The Foundation is presently negotiating conditions under which it will guarantee that the teachers are paid regularly (a genuine problem) through June of 2026. The school needs a subsidy to provide quality education. The school is grossly underfunded, but the only hope for many children.

“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 Clousing

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.