

The Fond Doux Flyer November 2025

Message from the Editor

As regular readers of the Flyer know, in response to the needs of the Fond Doux Community and the pleas of our Haitian friends, over the last six years the Foundation has moved from an organization where our services were provided by Americans doing what they could during Mission trips into an organization staffed by Haitian professionals. This has been both from necessity (the curtailing of mission teams because of the COVID crisis and gang prevalence) and by design (an effort to provide a continuing professional presence to better meet the needs of the people).

This has caused a very significant rise in the cost of our mission, going from a Haitian staff of one employee to the present 38 people whom we employ directly or indirectly (i.e. the school staffs). The cost has been picked up primarily by the board members themselves and their friends and families, and by a couple of retired individuals who have given five-figure donations.

One problem with relying on a few elderly people to sustain our work is that sooner or later there is an inevitable sudden loss of income. This causes a financial crisis when we lose even a single contributor. One casualty of this situation has been the English language program -- from an effort to greatly improve the program to its potential elimination. This is not just devastating to the program but also to staff who lose their jobs.

We have known for some time that we must broaden the base or our programs will be unsustainable. We have tried to do something about it and have found a few donors that have committed themselves to regular contributions to sponsor designated programs. These are highly prized. We are proud of what we have done and are doing with the limited funds that we have. But financial realities have caused us to cut back on programs and may result in even more drastic reductions in the future.

This issue of the Flyer will feature some of the programs for which we need to find sponsors to enable our programs to survive and to provide more adequately for the needs of the community.

Priority Need of the Foundation

The present greatest need of the Foundation is to find a person (or persons) who will engage in fundraising. It would be nice if the person has fundraising experience, but the major qualification is that he or she is enthusiastic about the Foundation and is willing to put in the time and energy to contact people and groups to allow us to tell our story.

Are you a part of a group? Please suggest to them consideration of one of these projects. Presently most of these projects are sponsored by only one or two elderly people. This makes continuation always perilous. Groups may provide a more sustainable base of support. Every gift is needed and appreciated. Will you consider sponsoring a project?

Projects for You or Your Group

- Fond Doux Community Clinic -----\$18,000 yearly
- Methodist School -----\$16,000 yearly
- Ravine Parc School -----\$16,000 yearly
- Platon School -----\$8,000 yearly
- Vita Mamba (Nutrition Program) -----\$8,000 yearly
- English Language Program -----\$7,000 yearly
- Agriculture Project -----\$6,000 yearly
- Sponsor a University Student -----\$2,500 yearly
- Pay a Teacher -----\$1,200 yearly
- Sponsor a High School Student ----- \$500 yearly

One Time Projects

- Build a House (Two Rooms) -----\$12,000
- Build a Restroom -----\$10,000
- Build a House (One Room) -----\$6,000
- Major Food Distribution (100 families) -----\$4,000
- Christmas Meal (1,000 people) -----\$3,000
- Pay for a Surgery -----\$1,000

Haitian Reality

What are the basic needs for life? Food? Water? Shelter? Sanitation? Education? Health Care? Employment?

Food. Most residents of Fond Doux eat but one or two meals a day and sometimes none. Malnutrition is prevalent among children. There is no food stamp program or food pantries if you run out of food.



A Water Source

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Water. Clean water is hard to find. Most wells are hand dug wells and many people find their water in pits created by sand mines. Such water is sometimes contaminated.

Shelter. The typical house is made of woven palm leaves for sides and a tin roof. If you are fortunate to have a cement block home, they still have tin roofs. Many roofs have at least some holes. When it rains, everything gets wet. Often there is no dry place to sleep and families huddle in dry corners if they can find one.



Typical House

Sanitation. The majority of families use the open ground to relieve themselves. The few public toilets are usually open holes in the ground, often with no sex separation, even if there are walls. The lack of proper sanitation facilities causes frequent contamination of the water supply, a common source of typhoid.

Education. There are no public schools in Fond Doux or vicinity (very few in the whole country). Parents must pay tuition and supply the books and school supplies as well. Many children drop out a semester or more as parents try to save enough money to pay the tuition.



Methodist School Children

Health Care. Doctors and hospitals require payment upfront or they deny care. Why? Not because they are meanspirited; but because if they did not, the unreimbursed cost of medicine and medical supplies would cause them to become bankrupt. There is no governmental program to reimburse doctors and hospital¹, for their supplies, not alone enable them to gain a salary. As a result many people have no medical care at all.

Employment. Most people in Fond Doux are engaged in subsistence agriculture, mini-businesses or sand mining. A few find work in construction and school teaching. The teachers are woefully underpaid and often unpaid for months at a time.

Foundation Programs

Food. The Foundation has three programs related to Food. The first is Vita Mamba, a nutrition supplement for school children provided every school day for 100 children -- also once a week to 80 English language students. In addition we provide medical treatment for 80 severely malnourished preschool children with Medika Mamba. The second food program consists of distribution of emergency food in two ways -- food kits for families in desperate need and periodic mass distribution to many families. Finally, we have an agricultural program. This also has two parts. One part deals with animals, the deworming and vaccinations of goats (and vaccinations of pigs). The other part deals with the creation and improving of gardens, part of which includes an irrigation project.

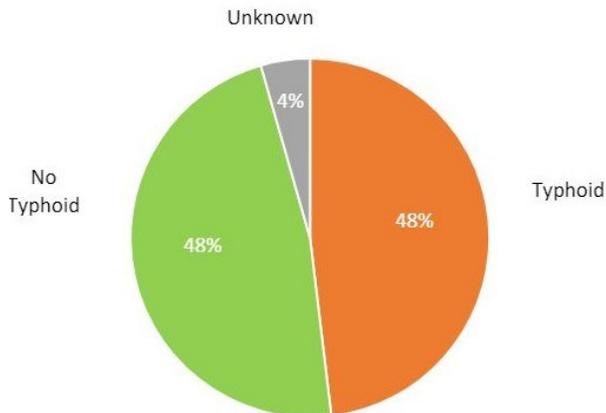


Public Health. This includes both **clean water and sanitation**. The Foundation has repaired water pumps, a municipal water system and drilled a well to provide access to clean water. The Foundation built a modern restroom at the Fond Doux Community Clinic and expects to build another modern restroom at our

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Community Center/School. The Foundation also built a basic pit toilet at the Platon School and has dreams of building some public toilets in other places. Public health also includes community education on typhoid, cholera, malaria and basic nutrition. We have provided mosquito nets as well. Through the clinic, the Foundation in cooperation with the Haitian Ministry of Health provides vaccinations of some children as well.

Incidence of Typhoid in Survey Population



Shelter. The Foundation has a goal to build one new house a year. But in addition has repaired houses with leaking roofs and given out many tarps to try to enable more families to find dry place when it rains.



Tarp Roof of a Platon House

Our goal is always to try to find ways for the people to help themselves, but the ability of Fond Doux residents to fund education and health care is not in the near future. The poverty is too great.

Education. The board in response to urgent pleas not to let several schools close has begun sponsoring teachers' salaries first at the Good Samaritan School of Platon, then the Methodist School of Fond Doux and finally the School for Tomorrow in Ravine Parc.



Platon Teachers

All three schools would probably have closed without our aid. Teachers were teaching without being paid. Of course, just paying the teachers is insufficient to provide a quality education. The teachers need supplies and better facilities. The students have needs as well, especially for books and note books. Our experience at Platon is that they need better nutrition as well.

We also have provided scholarships to a few high school students (Our schools are only through 6th grade) and to several university scholars. The university program has graduated three with teaching diplomas and a physician. Several people were granted trade school scholarships -- only to discover they could not find jobs for which they were trained. The scholarship program has been curtailed because we need better targeting of trade school studies for jobs that can produce employment and because we believe that supporting the schools rather than students is a better management of scarce resources. Insufficient money to sustain the programs is also a major problem.

Health Care. We have created a clinic staffed by a doctor, a nurse, a lab technician, a community health worker, a custodian and a night watchman. As we increase the usage of this facility, the need for medicine and medical supplies increases along with maintenance of the facilities. This year we added a much needed restroom and laboratory to our facilities.

A second health program is to fund emergency medical care and surgeries beyond the ability of the clinic. Referring such people to other institutions without providing them funds to pay for it is really no medical care. What is the use of referring a patient to another provider if the patient cannot pay for such medical care? There is no governmental program for indigent care. They would go without medical attention.

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Better School Facilities

The Methodist School. The Methodist school is without a building (It meets in the church sanctuary.) Thanks to a successful fund drive we are about to remedy this situation. We have dug a well and erected a well house in preparation to constructing a building which the Foundation will share with the school. Construction will begin soon. Thanks to all who are making this possible.

The Ravine Parc School. The school petitioned us to repair the roof of one of its building.. At the present we have not been able to respond favorably.



Roofless Room at Ravine Parc School

Because the roof has not been repaired for lack of funds, classes must be held on the porch.



Classes Held on the Porch

The Foundation also authorized building 5 blackboards and 4 tables, repairing 6 benches and 30 kindergarten chairs and adding benches for 2 tables. The cost is around \$1500 US and we are presently asking for contributions to this project. The teachers also need new books (\$1,030 US) -- no update for 5 years.



Water Damage at Ravine Parc School

The Platon School. This school has also asked for some funds to improve its facilities. We helped them in the past. At the present time we are not poised to further respond favorably, but would like to.



The Platon School

“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 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.