

## The Fond Doux Flyer December 2025

### Staff and Board Reorganization

In an effort to maximize the utilization of staff member talents and education, board members at the level of their expertise, and to improve accountability to American standards, the board assigned specific board members to oversee specific staff. The result is that President Dr. Libby Engel will be the liaison to Clinic Director Dr. Dieuseul Istache. The secretary, the Rev. John Clausing, will be liaison to Education Coordinator Emile Maceus. Treasurer Brent Engel will be liaison to Bursar Junior Merjuste. Nurse Linda Mitchell will be liaison to Agriculture Agent Mackenson Hilaire. Board member Jim Johnson, a retired project manager, will be liaison to the Facilities Manager (a position presently vacant and may be split to various staff members). Board member Ruth Clausing is in charge of the hygiene kit (sewing sisters) project.

### New Clinic Director



**Dr. Dieuseul Istache**

On October 6<sup>th</sup> Dr. Dieuseul Istache was promoted to become the Director of the Fond Doux Community Clinic. He is 34 years and grew up in Fond Doux and received his university and medical education on a scholarship from the Fond Doux Foundation, receiving his M.D. from Royal Université d’Haiti in 2023. He has been employed at the clinic since April of 2024 when he became the physician on staff at the clinic.

Dr. Istache is the youngest of eight children and the only one to attend a university. His father was a subsistence farmer and died when the doctor to be was but 18 years old. After this he lived with older sister Madame Merjuste. The Merjuste family was and still is

closely related to the Fond Doux Foundation. Madame Merjuste was a helper for the Foundation mission team members during early mission trips. The family lived in in a UNICEF tent until Ed Cerne arranged and financed the first Foundation built house for them.

Living with his aunt, the young Dieuseul became acquainted with mission teams from the Foundation. Self-taught in English, he helped translate for them during their visits. He tells us, “I served as a monitor in Bible School and taught children about Jesus and helped them to memorize Bible verses.”

Dr. Istache said, “I know most people in Fond Doux are too poor to pursue a university education. When I was in secondary school, I had a teacher of science who taught me to believe that I could pursue this dream, . . . I am also a believer. Jesus says ‘whatever you ask my father in my name, you will receive it by faith’ .”

For a time he taught physics at the Capois la Mort High School in Fond Doux. But then a friend promised to help him with university studies; but after one year, the friend could no longer afford to support him. He sought and found support from the Foundation and received not only a university education but a medical degree.

While still attending the University, he said, “I have three dreams in life. “The first one is to be an evangelist because I have a great job to do for Christ. . . The second one is to be a great doctor in Haiti. . . My third dream is to have an orphanage to help the vulnerable people of Haiti as Jesus put someone in my way to help me with my dream, I have to do the same for others.”

[Note: See the story of his cousin, Junior Merjuste, which may include perhaps the beginnings of the fulfillment of his third dream.]

Since becoming the director, he has worked on upgrading the medical records to insure all previous medical information is instantly available at the time of examination and to provide documentation for an application to UNICEF to provide Medika Mamba for the nutrition program begun by nurse Myrdred Delva.

He has also engaged in some informal outreach into the community informing them that a physician is always available when the clinic is open and that the examination itself is free to residents of the community. The initial response seems to be an increase in the number of patient visits by adults. Previously, the patient load was overwhelmingly a result of the nutrition program primarily of small children and the school check up program of school children.

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## New Bursar



**Junior Merjuste**

The new bursar for the Fond Doux Foundation is Junior Merjuste. He was hired as part of the recent reorganization of Haitian staff designed to maximize the talents of our employees and improve accountability. As a proven master of detail and organization, he is expected to review the financial aspects of all new projects, pay all bills and transmit full documentation of all expenditures to the board.

He and Dr. Dieuseul Istache were the chief organizers of the Union of Young Progressives Haiti (UYPH) while both were living in Port-au-Prince. There they sought to help the people displaced by gangs and living on the streets. Since returning to Fond Doux, his home community, he has been executive of this organization, which turned its attention to their home community.

Operating “on a shoestring” and “filled with grand ideas”, they opened an English program, sought to provide food for some widows and recently established an “orphanage” of sorts. He told this latter story in our October Flyer of how he received two children into his home and has been helping two other children as the beginning of what they hope will develop into an orphanage.

He is 25 years old and grew up in Fond Doux, the oldest child of Rosemène and Albert Merjuste. Rosemène is employed by the Foundation as the cleaning lady at the Fond Doux Community Clinic. Albert was a sand miner until poor health forced him to retire. He has 7 living

siblings including a sister Casandra, who serves as the major caretaker of the two live-in “orphan” children, Evensky and James. Evensky started school in October.

Although he has a wide area of interests and activities, he has brought to the Foundation the desired organizational abilities and detailed accountability.

## Education Coordinator



**Emile Maceus**

Since January 1, 2022, Emile Maceus has served as a full time Executive Director of the Foud Doux Foundation. Prior to that he served as a part time director while still attending Quisqueya University with a major in education. In 2019 he was the chief organizer of the Haitian Fond Doux Committee organized to assist Pastor Brucey run the Haitian presence of the Foundation. The Pastor’s leadership was floundering because he was spread too thin.. Soon Emile was the Executive Vice-President of the committee. Eventually, he became the Executive Director of the Foundation..

During his tenure as Executive Director, he has seen a major expansion of the Haitian presence of the Foundation. It was he that suggested the Foundation support the Good Samaritan School in Platon to prevent its closure. He hired the first community nurse, a program that later became the Fond Doux Community Clinic in partnership with the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux. He brokered their cooperation. He engineered the movement of focus from the Primitive Church of Fond Doux to the Methodist Church of Fond Doux for greater access for community events. He led the Foundation to sponsor English Clubs and a continuing Haitian agricultural presence.

He led the Haitian vaccination of goats and pigs when the COVID crisis prevented American presence. Later

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he hired Mackenson Hilaire as the first agricultural agent of the Foundation with emphasis on gardening. Very recently he established the Foundation's support of the Methodist and Ravine Parc Schools.

As part of the reorganization of the board and staff, it was decided to enable him to concentrate on his area of expertise (Education) and to coordinate the greatly expanded educational activities of the Foundation. This includes attempting to upgrade education through extensive teacher training and better student assessment in all three schools now associated with the Foundation. He is expected to assist the schools in preventing student drop outs and to more closely monitor student progress especially among our high school and university scholarship students.

Emile Maceus was not born in Fond Doux, but went to school in Fond Doux struggling to learn without benefit of textbooks because of the extreme poverty of the family. When the Foundation was in its infancy, he caught the eye of Karen Thorsen of the Foundation which led to scholarships first to an English language institute and later to Quisqueya University in Port-au-Prince.

### Building & Repairing Furniture

As we reported last month, we requested money to build and repair some furniture at the School for Tomorrow in Ravine Parc. This School is the third of three schools for which we have extended aid because of danger of closing without our aid. Local carpenters took raw wood and created 5 blackboards, and created and repaired tables and chairs primarily for kindergarten children. We raised \$1000 US dollars toward the cost of the project. Another \$500 came from undesignated contribution.



**Building and Repairing Furniture**



**Completed furniture**

### Repair of Ravine Parc School Porch



**Repair of School Porch**

Because of a missing roof to a portion of one of the buildings of the School for Tomorrow, two classes of children meet regularly on one of the school porches. Uneven cracks created a safety hazard. As part of upgrading the school facilities, the roof also needs repair to prevent further water damage.



**Finishing the Repair**

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## Hurricane Melissa



**House Caught in the Flood in Nearby Petit-Goâve**

In late October hurricane Melissa hit not only Jamaica but Haiti as well. In the center of the nearby city of Petit Goâve in the area where the parents and other relatives of our Agriculture Agent, Makenson Hilaire, live, there was a flood destroying houses and carrying away everything in its path, killing over 20 people including 5 families, each of which had more than 3 members. Fond Doux and Ravine Parc escaped the flood, but Melissa devastated the homes of some of our scholarship students. Can you imagine what it was like to be in home like this during a hurricane?



**Home of a Scholarship Student.**

The Foundation provided emergency food for some families in Fond Doux and Ravine Parc areas.

Fritzmann Saint Surin organized the Food Distribution in Fond Doux. Junior Merjuste organized the distribution in Ravine Parc. Ancito Gene helped identify 52 families to receive the food. There were 65 families that received food in Fond Doux



**Preparing for the Distribution in Ravine Parc**



**Food Distribution in Fond Doux**

### **“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](http://www.fonddouxfoundation.org)

Email: [John@fonddouxfoundation.org](mailto: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.