

## The Fond Doux Flyer January 2026

### Fond Doux Foundation Committee

As part of the reorganization of the functioning of the Foundation, the board formed a Haitian advisory committee. The FDFC (especially its chairman) shall serve as a person or persons to whom people of the community may suggest improvements to the work of the Foundation. As an investigative body, they are expected to identify and evaluate the unmet needs of the community stretching from Quipelier, Fond Doux, to Ravine Parc and Platon. They will seek the help of others and evaluate new projects. Although advisory in nature, they may also be requested occasionally to assist in carrying out the board's objectives. Members represent the areas of the Methodist Church, the Wesleyenne Church, Fond Doux including people of the Primitive Church, and Ravine Parc. They also are interested in agriculture, education and the clinic.

### Meet Fritzmann Saint Surin



**Fritzmann Saint Surin**

Fritzmann Saint Surin was chosen by the board of the Fond Doux Foundation to be the chairman of the new Fond Doux Foundation Committee. He has a long history of leadership in the community. Both he and his wife were born in Fond Doux, but left the community for a while to live in the city, but returned to the community to raise their family.

Fritzmann was not raised in a Christian family, although his father later became a Christian. Fritzmann did not immediately follow. But he did become acquainted with and developed a close friendship with a Haitian Pastor, Brucely Delma. Around 1993-1995, Brucely Delma used to come to Fond Doux and stayed at Fritzmann's home. When Brucely discovered that Fritzmann arranged cock fights, Brucely told him he needed to become a Christian and give up cockfighting. In fact if he did not, he (Brucely) could no longer continue to be his friend. Under Brucely's influence Fritzmann gave up cock fighting and became a Christian. Fritzmann in turn prevailed upon Brucely to

come to Fond Doux and establish Fond Doux as his home. Thereafter Brucely established a Church in Fond Doux called the Primitive Church of Fond Doux. Fritzmann became a deacon in the Church. When in collaboration with Mission to Haiti Brucely established a school, Fritzmann was later hired by the mission to look after scholarship students.

Fritzmann said that he himself did not have a high level of education because his father did not put him in school. He saw other kids go to school, but he could not. Nobody seemed to care but Fritzmann. He began working in a sand mine to earn money to go to school.

He said: "I saved money and went to school very late. The first school that I attended was called the Wesleyenne. It was in 1986. When I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, I left that school to go to another named the Methodist. At that time there were protests. Violence was all over. Students were afraid to go to school. Thus, I stopped going to school. Education means a lot to me. I want my children to attain the level that I never attained."

In 2011 he became acquainted with missionaries from the Fond Doux Foundation who came and were building a stable for goats. But no Haitian spoke English. He thought it was important to learn English and he helped his sons Kinder and Schneider (and later Jowasky) to do so. He was impressed with all the things that the missionaries were doing. When a Haitian Committee was formed to assist them, he was on that original Fond Doux Foundation Committee. He was one of three older adults with 6 young Haitians. He called himself an advisor.

As part of that original committee, he was instrumental in convincing the Foundation of the desirability of establishing a clinic in Fond Doux. He credits the efforts of Linda Mitchell and Brent Engel for preserving the life of his youngest daughter, Tabitha. He himself also later suffered a severe illness and almost died. Thus, he has had personal reasons for desiring a clinic.

He is also very committed to the education of youth, the education that he himself never received. This includes English education, and the computer initiative of the Foundation. He also has an interest in efforts to better the community through agriculture.

He and his wife Carole are the parents of six children. Four are adults and two of them are teenagers. His three oldest children are no longer in Haiti, the oldest two children emigrated to Chile for a better life and the third is a student in the USA. He wants, however, to create opportunities in his home community.

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### Other FDFC Members

Other members of the committee in addition to the Chairman Fritzmann Saint Surin are:

**Johnson Louis.** Johnson is 33 years old and single. However, he has a fiancée. He hopes to marry later this year. He is in his last year of normal school in Miragoâne on a Foundation scholarship. He is a member of the Methodist Church of Fond Doux. He is a teacher at the Methodist school teaching the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. He uses part of his small salary to help children obtain school materials. To augment his income, he is likewise a gardener and participated in the irrigation project of the Foundation last year, serving on its steering committee. He is a tireless advocate for the education of children.

**Noel Joseph.** Noel is a father of two, a boy and a girl. He is the founder and owner of the School for Tomorrow in Ravine Parc. He began the school with help of a community council under the government of Jean Claude Duvalier because there was no school in the area. When the governmental assistance ended with a change in national leadership, he sold wood from some land that he inherited to subsidize the school. But he ran out of logs to sell. He now still runs the school with the financial help of the Foundation. He would like to see the school expand to include grades seven through nine, but now the very existence of the school is in peril.

**Lardany Ferus.** Lardany is a member of the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux with whom the Foundation operates the Fond Doux Community Clinic. She is the only woman on the committee although we had hoped for two. She is not well known by the board, but was recommended to us by several of our Haitian friends including Fritzmann. We are hoping to become better acquainted in the months and years to come.

A fifth member of the committee has not yet been announced.

### Other Developments

Unfortunately, one anticipated part of the planned reorganization of the Foundation did not occur. A potential precipitous loss of designated income to the English language program because of the ill health of its primary sponsor caused the cancellation of its expansion and one of our employees lost his job.

Eluard Louis, the expected leader of this expansion, served many roles in the Foundation. He served as Director of the English Language Program, a program

for which he was uniquely qualified because of his excellent command of the English language.

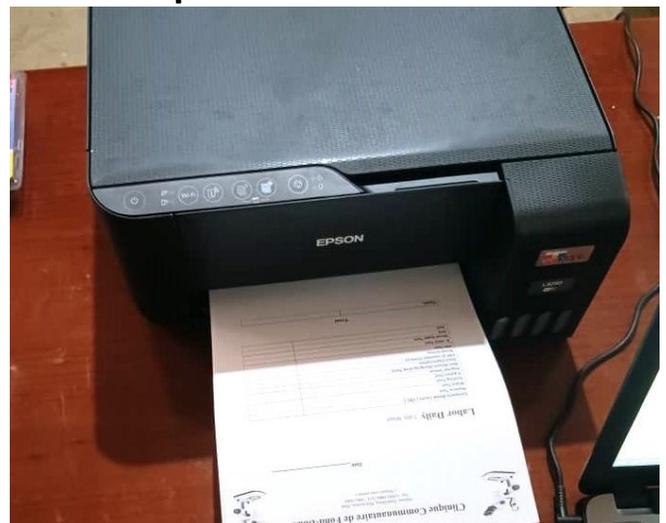


**Eluard Louis**

His gifts in this position were never fully realized because he was also employed as the Clinic Director before the elevation of Dr. Dieuseul Istache to that position. He also served for a time as bookkeeper and later as Assistant Executive Director, a position which was abolished in the reorganization. He became a casualty of the reorganization when stable funds were no longer available for his new expanded position.

We regret the loss of his extraordinary talent. He has found limited employment to teach English, but has not yet found full-time employment. We express our thanks for Eluard Louis's dedicated service to the Foundation. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

### New Copier for Foundation Office



**New Office Copier.**

Thanks to a special donation from a board member and the efforts of our bursar Junior Merjuste, the office of the Foundation finally has an office copier. We have

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slowly gathered items to equip a Haitian office. The Foundation shares an office with the Fond Doux Community Clinic also operated by the Foundation. The appropriate paper and ink can be purchased in Haiti. We hope it will cut down copying costs for some Foundation projects.

### Meet Clercide Mathieu



**Clercide Mathieu**

Clercide Mathieu is a refugee from Gressier, a coastal town in Haiti located about 16 km west of the capital, Port-au-Prince. The town was recently overrun by violent gangs and Clercide and her family of seven children were forced to flee and became homeless. Lovely Felix, the head of the Methodist School, said that bandits with guns are forcing people out of their homes in that area. Once the bandits arrive, no one can stay; they have to flee to another area. Clercide wound up in Fond Doux, where she found refuge with a local man in Quipelier (the location of the Methodist Church) and enrolled 4 of her children in the Methodist School. Unfortunately, the family was too much for the man and she was asked to leave. She later found temporary shelter with a family in Violet, which also could not keep her and her 7 children.

The Foundation first became aware of the situation when we purchased shoes for the four children who had no shoes to wear to school. She is now, as an emergency measure, in a home rented for one year. This was arranged by Lovely Felix of the Methodist school. The house is located near the clinic in Fond Doux. A regular Foundation donor is providing limited furniture for the house: beds, a table, a cupboard and chairs. Other immediate needs are food and school supplies for her school age children. The women of Swansboro United Methodist Church have shown interest in sponsoring her and have donated some money to help the family. The short term need is furniture and school supplies for children. Longer term housing, food and a job.

The town of Gressier is close enough to Fond Doux that more refugees are sure to follow. The Foundation at its recent board meeting decided, however that it cannot create a new program of Refugee Relief except for those that might be sponsored. We are hoping that some organization such as United Church Women of Faith or a regional body of the United Methodist Church might take up such a task. The demands are beyond our resources.

Several years ago, the Foundation came to the rescue of another refugee family fleeing at that time gangs in Port-au-Prince. Charlotte Fanfan and her four children are living in a house built by the Foundation near the road from Fond Doux to Ravine Parc. Many families in and near the capital have been displaced by gangs.

### Agricultural Report

One of the of the major projects of the Foundation has been with agriculture. The earliest work was by Dr. Libby Engel as she taught goat care and in the process taught Haitians how to deworm and vaccinate goats, a major part of Haitian farming. Today the Haitians do this themselves. Then over a year ago, we branched into gardening. We hired Mackenson Hillaire as our agricultural agent. He worked with some farmers south of the Methodist Church and developed an irrigation project now operated by a local Haitian farmer committee. He was then tasked with developing family gardens 6 months ago.



He reports that he is working with two groups of family gardeners. One in Quipelier (The Methodist Church area) and the other in the Mango Market area. He is working with the first group of four families on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with the second group of six families on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. He has also met with a group of four other families to teach gardening. He reports, "The main objectives of

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the program are to promote sustainable agricultural production, improve cultivation techniques, and strengthen food security for each family involved. The program consists of practical and theoretical training on modern gardening including: Soil preparation and simple irrigation methods; Use of natural fertilizers and agro-ecological techniques; Planting seasonal and fast-growing crops; Space management and organization of backyard gardens. The two groups of families received technical support, basic planting materials, and regular advice to optimize their production.” With the first group, they harvested vegetables, spinach and cabbage in October. He started the 2<sup>nd</sup> group in October and prepared nurseries of eggplant, peppers and tomatoes for both.”



### Marianne Narcisse's Nursery

Mackenson further reported, “While the program was underway, a hurricane called Melissa passed through the area, causing extensive damage. The hurricane was characterized by several days of intense rain, strong winds that uprooted plants, soil saturation that caused rot in several crops. Many seedlings in the family gardens were washed out by the waters. Despite the difficulties, a recovery phase was put in place after the hurricane. Work resumed with the same two groups of families, who showed great motivation and resilience. They had to: rebuild the cultivation areas, replace some damaged materials, receive new seeds to restart cultivation, receive rapid training to improve their adaptation strategies to bad weather.”

Not only did the torrential rain destroy the family garden nurseries, but the flooding devastated the crops of the irrigation farmers south of the Methodist Church in the lowlands near the marsh with whom he had worked during the early part of the year. Their land lay

under water. However, He wishes to work with these irrigation farmers to reestablish their farms in January.



### Damage by Hurricane Melissa

Another adaptive reaction that the Foundation is exploring is to establish some nurseries on the Foundation land across the road, north of the Methodist Church. We believe there is room on the land. Initial plan appears to be on the southeast corner.

### Christmas Celebrations

The Foundation helped the greater Fond Doux Community celebrate Christmas with Christmas celebrations in four locations in corporation with several different organizations. On Christmas Day the Methodist Church and Methodist School in Quipelier held a Christmas celebration, followed by one at the Capois la Mort School in FD on December 28, at the Platon School on December 29<sup>th</sup>, and the English Club and School at Ravine parc on December 30<sup>th</sup>. More information will be shared in next month's Flyer.

### “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.