

The Fond Doux Flyer February 2026

Christmas Celebrations

The Foundation Board has often discussed whether spending so much money on a single Christmas meal is worth the cost. However, our Haitian friends have repeatedly told us of the significance to the morale of the people by having this meal. When people have so little, special events such as these are more special than it is for residents of the United States where substantial meals are routine and overweight, not lack of food is a bigger problem.



Methodist School Celebration

The Methodist School celebration took place on Christmas Day with 120 children and 70 parents present for the celebration. The celebration included a Christmas tree and a significant program by the school children and then a substantial meal in honor of Christ's birth. The program was a new feature to the celebration.



Christmas program at Methodist Church

This year we divided the Fond Doux celebration into two parts, the one at the Methodist Church on Christmas and the other at the Capois la Mort School sponsored by the UYPH and the Fond Doux English Club on Sunday December 28th.



Christmas Celebration at Capois la Mort School

There were about 260 people representing the two groups and other residents of the community. The FD English Club came all dressed up in white shirts and dark skirts or pants for the meal and program.

A third celebration drew 200 people in Platon at the Platon School on Monday, December 29th. The meal in all of the locations consisted of juice, rice, meat, and oil.



Platon Meal Preparation

The food was purchased in bulk to save on costs. Representatives from Platon, Quipelier (Methodist Church area), Fond Doux and Ravine Parc met at the clinic and arranged for the bulk buying facilitated by Junior Merjuste. It was good to see the cooperation of the locations.. The rest of the funds were divided to each group for decorations or additional food items.

The last of the celebrations took place on Tuesday December 30th in Ravine Parc sponsored jointly by the School for Tomorrow of Ravine Parc and English Club of Ravine Parc and held at the school building. Most of the people there were members of the English Club and their parents. The English Club showed up in their golden T-shirts. They strung tarp between the two

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buildings, presumably to keep the sun off the guests. There were well over a hundred people present.



Ravine Parc Christmas Celebration

Ancito Gene also announced a new English Club in the Trouchouchow region of Haiti, north of Ravine Parc of which he is the leader. It is not sponsored by the FDF, but is his personal project. Several members of his new club were present at the celebration.



An English Club in Trouchouchow

Concerning Food and Shelter

Junior Merjuste tells a story about delivering food::

“Noseline’s Case. As we arrived in front of Noseline’s home with two motorcycles -- I was on my own motorcycle while the other one carried the food kits -- we saw Noseline’s mother standing and talking with some friends. She moved away from the group and came closer to us. At that moment, I did not know she was Noseline’s mother. Ancito who was nearby informed me that it was her, and I then entered the house with the food.

With great emotion, Noseline’s mother said: ‘God sent you. This is an order from God. We were truly in great need. For more than a week we have been suffering, with no one we could turn to. But God placed FDF on our path to help us. I have no words to thank this foundation.’



Noseline Anoriscar and Mother

Shakira’s Case. Shakira lives in Delatte, in a mountainous area (North of Fond Doux). When I arrived at her home, the family welcomed us with great joy. Shakira was sleeping because she was hungry. Shakira’s grandmother and one of her uncles were shelling beans they had just harvested from the garden. However, they had no hope of cooking those beans because they lacked the necessary resources. But FDF had already been thinking about this family, and the help arrived at the right time.”



Shakira Marcelin and her Family

Junior Merjuste continues his story both about what we are doing and what is still undone:

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Impact of FDF's Work in the Community. As an FDF staff member, the work we carried out today had a significant impact on the communities. . . FDF is an organization that helps people in need, without discrimination. My pride today comes from hearing people say, as I pass by on my motorcycle or visit schools: "That is the foundation working in the community. They are the ones with the free clinic. They have programs for children. This fills my heart with pride. I am proud of FDF."



Eric Louis and his Home.

Eric Louis and Benadette Gille. Junior reports further: "This is something I have never been able to fully explain, and it even brings tears to my eyes. With great joy, this disabled man received the food. We can see this clearly. . . Regarding the disabled man, I spoke with Ancitho's mother so that she could cook food for him and keep it in a safe place, because the place where the disabled man lives is not in good condition. There was also a woman (Benadette Jean Gille) who walked long distances many times seeking support from FDF, but I was never able to assist her. Yet she never became discouraged from coming. This woman has ten (10) children. Their father died while digging sand — the sand pit collapsed on him. Since then, the children have been living without their father. I had to help her with her oldest child, who is in 9th grade. I decided to pay for his school tuition at Capois-la-Mort. However, the woman and her children live in her godmother's house in only two rooms. . . . Yet I was never able to assist this woman. I spoke with her many times and always told her that we did not have the means to support her. While I was repairing Charlotte's house, she came to see me again. I still could not promise her anything. I told her to pray.

She has a small piece of land where she wants to build a small house to live in with her children. While I was speaking with Ancito, I told him that the disabled man could not live alone because he could not take care of himself. I said I'd thought it would be important to find someone who could take care of him and cook for him. He told me that if we spoke with this woman and helped her build her small house, she could in return keep the disabled man in her home. I judged that this could work. I asked to personally see the woman's space with her. I visited the site and saw it.



Benadette Jean Gille's Proposed Home

Then I asked the woman if she would be able to take care of the disabled man for us. She said yes, but her house is not yet finished. However, if God provides her with a space and two wooden doors, she would support the disabled man because they are all suffering from the same cause. I did not give an answer. I said, 'Let us pray—God can do all things.' Now, I am coming to share this information with you. I am not promising anything to anyone, what we can do or will do."

What will we do? It depends on our donors. We can provide shelter (a new house) only when we have money so designated. We have approximately seven families that are on our waiting list. More could easily be added. We are exploring help from other NGOs. But help is hard to find.

Finding Competent Teachers

Finding competent teachers and keeping them is a goal of the Foundation, but is a real struggle for the school in Ravine Parc because of low pay. The Foundation is modestly increasing salaries in hopes of preventing further teacher turnover. This past year they had a 67% turnover in teaching staff

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The New Teachers

- 1. Louront Donchie**, Kindergarten 2, is new to the School for Tomorrow. She previously taught at the Christian Academy from 2022 to 2024.
- 2. Rose-Carla Joseph**, 1st Grade, has 2 years teaching experience. She previously taught at the grammar school Jacques Premier in Port-au-Prince. But because of the insecurity, she couldn't stay. When she came to live in the Ravine Parc community, she asked for a place at the school to teach and has been teaching at the School for Tomorrow since the Fall of 2025.
- 3. Patrick Sylvain**, 2nd Grade, also lived in Port-au-Prince and because it is unsafe couldn't stay. He came to live with his aunt in Ravine Parc. He had no previous teaching experience or education except for helping some children with their homework.
- 4. Anecheca Jean**, 4th Grade, is also a brand new teacher without previous teaching experience, but she is now simultaneously attending a university in Miragoâne.
- 5. Almando Gene** 5th Grade, taught at Ravine Parc 2016 to 2020., taught at Christian Academy, 2022 to 2023, and taught at Capois Lamort in Fond-Doux from 2023 to 2024. He is also now simultaneously attending Miragoâne Normal school.
- 6. Diones Jeune**, 6th Grade, taught at Ravine Parc 2016 to 2020. He left because of low pay. He taught at Christian Academy 2020 to 2024. He is a graduate of Miragoâne Normal school. He returned to Ravine Parc this year to help the school although he took a pay cut to come.

Returning Teachers

- 1. Serète Blaise**, Kindergarten 1, has altogether 7 years teaching experiences. Her first teaching job was at Deny Cezère in Port-au-Prince from 2021 to 2016. From 2016 to 2017, she taught at Sainte Catherine in Port-au-Prince. She left Port-au-Prince because where she was living was no longer safe. She has been teaching at Hope for Tomorrow since 2023.
- 2. Marianne Bogelin**, Kindergarten 3, is the oldest teacher in the school and has 26 years of experience all at the School for Tomorrow starting in 2000.
- 3. Gelin Saintil** is also an older person in his 50s with three years teaching experience, all at the school Hope for Tomorrow
- 4. Ancito Gene**, Educational Director, is a graduate of Miragoâne Normal School, and has 10 years teaching experience. He taught at the school Thomas Vinelon from 2016 to 2019 and from 2019 to 2026 at the school Hope for Tomorrow.

Thank You Donors

December 2025 turned out to be one of our better fund raising months for the Foundation. This was made possible because of some very significant one time gifts, seven of them for \$1,000 USD or more. The largest was for \$5,000. We also received a number of other smaller gifts. Every one of them is precious because not only are the needs, but also our commitments to meet them, very great.

We have standing commitments of thousands of dollars each to sponsor three schools, a clinic, an agricultural program and a nutrition program, whose needs are monthly. We provide emergency food distribution and administer a shelter program and a major surgery program when funds become available. Unfortunately, an English language program, a scholarship program, and a Bible story and music program have all been sharply curtailed in order to meet our ongoing obligations. So, every gift is precious! You have no idea of how important these gifts are.

Thank you for making a difference! And we are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of people! Our Christmas celebrations reached about nine hundred people this year, the majority of them children. We provide an education for over 300 students and provide a nutritional food supplement to 100 children every school day. We had over 4,000 patient visits to our clinic this past year. We treated 80 children for severe malnutrition. We provided emergency food for around 100 families, repaired several homes and provided dozens of tarps. We could not do it without you. We needed every cent that we received. Thank You!

“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.