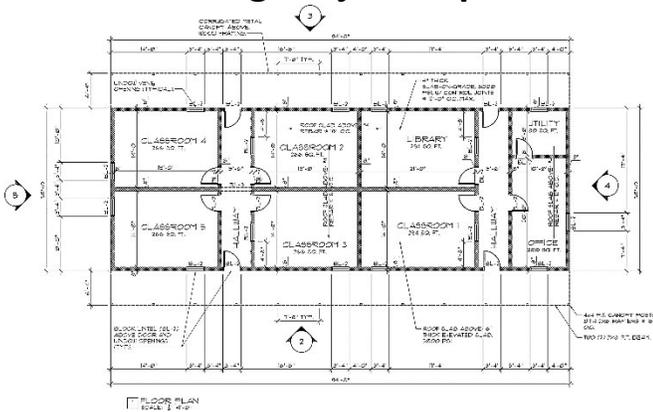


Building Project Report



Although the construction of a building on our campus has been delayed by over six months, it is now closer to reality. The delay was caused by a change in design of the floor plan, selection of a builder and a desire to ensure quality construction. To facilitate quality construction of such a large investment, the Foundation turned to a professional architect for blueprints. We desire to build a building that is both earthquake and hurricane resistant. While such construction may cost more now, it may save lives and lower future costs. The blueprint was drawn up by Eddie Gontram Architecture pro bono. We thank him for donating his work.

Last fall the Methodist school added another teacher to have a teacher for each grade. We then added another schoolroom to permit each grade (grades 1-6) to have their own room. There is one classroom in the church and there will be five in the new building. The kindergarten will remain in the sanctuary but will have a significantly different environment when they no longer share the room with four or five other classes. This makes it very chaotic. We then also decided to enlarge the building to include an office and more storage. This lengthened the building by 15 feet.

We have asked a local builder to give us a quote to build the building. We believe that the redesigned building will better serve the community well into the future. While we regret the delay, we believe that the improved quality of construction and the redesign of the building will be worth the delay.

The larger building also means that we needed to engage in additional fundraising to pay for the larger building. We have a donor that is willing to increase their contribution. When we receive the new construction estimate, we will know if this will pay for the increased cost. If all goes well, we hope to have the building ready for the opening of school this Fall.

Help for an Orphan?

The following message was received by the secretary of the Fond Doux Foundation from one of our staff members:

Good morning, Sir.
 It is with a heart filled with sadness that I am addressing you this morning. This is a case that is beyond my personal capacity, yet one that I cannot refuse to help. The child's name is Dawin. He is 2 months old (now 3), born on November 28, 2025. His mother, Fabiola Figaro, underwent a cesarean section and passed away during the operation, leaving the baby without a mother.



Dawin Figaro an Orphan Needing Support

Esther Léveille, who is my cousin, has always been involved in providing training and support for people in that area. After the mother's death, the family and community members were forced to contact Esther to ask her to take in the baby, as they were unable to care for her. Esther reached out to me to ask how we could take responsibility for the child so that he would not lose his life. Without hesitation, I recommended that she get the baby. Since then, we have been working together to care for him. I have already taken the child

The Fond Doux Flyer March 2026

to see a doctor, and this morning, I brought him to receive his vaccinations.

At this time, I do not know what kind of aid we may be able to obtain for this child. The needs are many and the responsibilities are heavy, but we must continue, because we believe that God has entrusted us with the mission of helping children . . . in especially difficult situations such as this one.

Junior Merjuste
Fond Doux Foundation Bursar

Medical Emergency/Surgery Fund

Sometimes our clinic is not able to provide all the services that are desired in-house. Such was the case of Elwen Philemon, the 2-year-old son of Keisha Alfred. He came to the clinic with a fractured femur and was referred to an orthopedic doctor in January. His treatment was made possible by our Medical Emergency/Surgery Fund used for life saving or life-changing procedures. This fund is supported by designated giving, and the FDF is only able to provide such services when we have sufficient money in the fund to pay for them. We thank the donors that provide these funds.



Elwen Philemon in Cast

The board recently received the following message from our clinic director:

I would like to share with you a photo of Elwen Philemon after his visit to the (orthopedic) doctor. The family says it is a great blessing for them, as they did not have the means to pay an orthopedist to take care of Elwen's case. The day before yesterday, I went to see him, and I am satisfied with the work that has been done.

Dr. Dieuseul Istache
Fond Doux Community Clinic Director

The Nutrition Fund

The Nutrition Fund might also be called the Emergency Food Fund. Hunger and malnutrition have been a long-standing problem in the Fond Doux community. Finding ways to improve nutrition has been a goal of the Foundation from its earliest beginnings. The mission teams of Epworth and Swansboro United Methodist Churches attempted to establish a goat farm to increase protein in the Haitian diet, but it unfortunately failed because of the failure of the proposed pasture grass to grow sufficiently well to support the herd. However, the Foundation has nevertheless improved agricultural production through education provided by the veterinarian Dr. Libby Engel, primarily about the care of goats, but also pigs and chickens. Presently we have a gardening project run by the Haitian agricultural agent Mackenson Hillaire.

Unfortunately, many families have not yet benefitted from these programs or at least not sufficiently to avoid the problem. This has caused the Foundation to engage in emergency food assistance. At the most recent board meeting, we authorized spending \$120 per month on emergency food assistance. Yet the requests from our staff for help far exceed our resources. Dr. Dieuseul, the clinic director, says that they get 25 requests a month and approve five for beans and rice.

Lovely Felix, the administrator of the Methodist School sent this message along with a picture: "Mr. John, I am asking you for help for this girl. This morning, she came to school late. I talked with her. I wanted to know the reason she was late and she explained to me, 'I did not get money to eat. That is why I came late.' If there is someone in your church or community who provides help, I would like to get help for her."

Unfortunately, she is not the only one. Johnson Louis, a teacher at the Methodist School, also sent pictures of children and said, "This, Pastor, is not only from a family that does not have money to go to school, but they cannot eat. Their father is a farmer who breaks rocks to make gravel to take care of his family. He sent pictures of others also.

Junior Merjuste, our bursar, reenforced this message and said, "It's important that we support them with emergency food. . . (but) there are more than these in need."

We are glad that we can help some needy people, but our goal is for them to be able to support themselves. Thus, everyone who is helped with emergency food will also be referred to our agriculture agent.

The Fond Doux Flyer March 2026

The Vita Mamba Project



Peanut Butter Based Food Supplement

In addition to the Nutrition Program of emergency food and the Agricultural Project, the Foundation has engaged in a third way to improve nutrition and combat hunger and malnutrition. This is the Vita Mamba Project. We provide this nutrition supplement to 100 children in the Platon and Methodist Schools and have provided a different nutrition supplement (Medika Mamba) for 80 children at the clinic.

The nutrition clinic meets every Friday when the nurse examines the children and provides the weekly supplement for the coming week. Because of the progress with the program, the number coming weekly to the clinic for malnutrition is now 25 instead of the 60 and 70s that we had at the beginning of the program, but 45 are still in a nutrition program.

The school segment has been confined to 60 children in the Platon School and 40 children in the kindergarten of the Methodist School. We have not been able to expand the program to the rest of the Methodist School nor to the Ravine Parc School for lack of funds.

But the program has been highly successful where we have been able to implement the program. Jonas Pierre, the administrator of the Platon School reports that the attendance improved, the liveliness of the students and the grades of the students have all improved since we began the program.

Unfortunately, getting new supplies for the program has been difficult. Gangs have infected the supply chain. Although the gangs are not found in Fond Doux, they significantly affect life. How severe the problem is, was recently made very real in a message from the Ravine Parc School Director Ancito Gene. He was having his motorcycle repaired, and the repairman went to Leogane to obtain some parts. The repairman and three others were attacked by a gang who stole their money, beat them and left them for dead. The other three men died of their injuries. Ancito's repairman was in a coma for two days but survived.

Trip to Fond Doux



Nutrition Day at Fond Doux Community Clinic

Linda Mitchel and Brent Engel, FDF board members, visited many of our mission sites on a Haitian trip from February 11 to February 16. On Friday, the 13th they visited the Fond Doux Community Clinic, one of our projects, on the day of the Nutrition Clinic. They were pleased with what they observed there.



Junior, Linda, Dr. Dieuseul, and Brent at Platon

On another day, Junior Merjuste, Foundation Bursar, and Dr. Dieuseul Istache, Clinic Director, accompanied them to Platon where they talked to Jonas Pierre, administrator of the Good Samaritan School, and some residents of the village concerning our work there.

The pair also visited the gardens started under the guidance of our agricultural agent Mackenson Hillaire. Linda Mitchell, our board liaison to the project, said that she was well pleased and found Mackenson both knowledgeable and a nice person to work with. He plans a future garden on our Foundation campus.

The Fond Doux Flyer March 2026



A Haitian Garden

They also had the opportunity to observe the Methodist School with its many classes in one room. There is an urgency in getting the new building erected. They visited with its director Lovely Felix. On Sunday, they attended the worship service at the Methodist Church. Although the adult membership is small, there were many children in the worship service.

School Sponsorship?

Almost all of our funds have exploded in the last few years -- the educational Fund more than any other. Originally, the Foundation did not want to be involved with general education. We were content to let Mission to Haiti handle that mission. However, we were confronted with problems in areas that MTH chose not to be involved – the schools in Platon, Quipelier (the Methodist School) and Ravine Park. They have a combined total of 30 employees). We would very much like to find Churches, organizations or even individuals to each sponsor one of the schools (annually about \$15,000 to \$30,000 each). Interested? Contact us. Without new support, these projects will not flourish.

Hygiene Kits Delivered

One of the major projects of the Foundation has been to keep teenage girls in school by supplying hygiene kits with reusable sanitary pads. Without them these girls miss up to a week of school each month. The sewing Sisters of Epworth United Methodist Church make these kits. Some other Churches also sometimes help. The project has been on hiatus for over a year because finding a way to ship the kits to Fond Doux has proved elusive.

Previously, Mission to Haiti had allowed the Foundation to piggyback our shipment of hygiene kits with their shipments of supplies to Haiti. However, the

last shipment which we sent through Mission to Haiti (sent in 2024) never made it to Fond doux because the road from their campus to Fond Doux is very dangerous to use. (See the Vita Mamba story.) Those kits were then donated to MTH so that they could find good use.



Brent Engel Packing Hygiene Kits

This past month, the Foundation tried another method. Brent Engel and Linda Mitchell placed kits in their luggage on their recent visit to our mission site. Unfortunately, their luggage was held up by the airline in Cap Haitien. Each day they waited for the delayed luggage to arrive. One day one bag arrived, but it was not the one with most of the kits. Only a handful of the kits made it there. They were instantly handed out. Finally, after Linda and Brent had returned to the US, on Feb 19th, the other bag arrived and was retrieved from Les Cayes by Junior Merjuste. This is an important project which we are glad to be able to restart.

For more information on 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.