

The Fond Doux Flyer July 2026

Obtaining Water



Water Station Adjacent the Clinic, Now Broken

In the United States, except in a few rural area, the local municipality provides each household with clean water. Even in remote rural areas, people pipe water directly into their homes from wells. Obtaining clean water is “no big deal.” We just open a spigot in the kitchen or bathroom or outside. Not so in Haiti. Finding clean water is a “big deal.” Although obtaining clean water is not a major effort of the Foundation, from time to time the Foundation (FDF) as part of its public health initiatives has become involved. On a couple of occasions, the Foundation has helped by repairing a hand pump to a well which is a major source of water for villagers. Twice we repaired a pump in Fond Doux and once in Ravine Parc.

When the board explored opening a clinic, one of the major considerations was where to obtain water. Three places presented themselves to us. Pastor Brucely Delma has a well up a hill from the clinic building. The board seriously considered running a pipe from his well to the clinic property. However, after consideration the board did not wish to be beholden to the whims of another property owner.

The board considered two other possible sources of water for the clinic. One possibility was to drill a well on clinic property. This is an expensive proposition. The other possibility was to repair a water main that used to flow just south of the building providing a water source on property adjacent to the building. We inquired about the cost of this option and found that it could be done much more cheaply than drilling a well. Extending a pipe to the clinic building could also be done relatively cheaply. The board decided to go this route. It had the added value that it also offered neighbors three new locations for obtaining fresh water.

As a temporary basis before the restroom was erected, the custodian obtained water at the water station adjacent to the clinic and carried it the short distance to the clinic building and filled a barrel there. Placing the pipe would take place after the new restroom was erected. However, the water main broke in a different place. The Foundation board did not immediately learn that the water source was once again disabled until they learned that the custodian was personally carrying water from a more distant well for the use of the clinic, especially for cleaning purposes.

When the restroom was built with its water tank on its roof, this was an untenable solution. No way could we require her to personally carry by foot all the necessary water to fill the tank for restroom use as well as clinic use. We asked the Haitian staff to arrange with someone else to fill the tank for a fee, at least on temporary basis.. They arranged for someone to do so. At first we thought they arranged with someone with a water truck to fill the tank, but in fact they contracted with someone to fill the tank by using a motorcycle.

When the board considered a more permanent solution to obtaining water, they again considered three options (This time: repairing the water main again, drilling a well or continuing a contract with someone to fill the tank regularly). Drilling a well would be very costly. The repair of the new break in the municipal water main would also be very costly without the guarantee that it would not break and leak someplace else. So, the board decided that continuing an agreement with Woodenson Fidelus to haul water would be the best option, at least for now.

Woodenson Fidelus



Woodenson Fidelus, Water Hauler

In a recent interview, he told about himself: “I was born and raised in Fond Doux. I am 21 years old. I am single and live with my parents. I have five brothers and

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no sisters. We all live in the community. The most difficult part of my childhood was having to go to school without enough food.

I took the national examinations but was not successful. However, that taught me an important lesson: even when life is difficult, you must keep fighting and moving forward. I have not given up. I am continuing my studies and plan to take the exams again soon. One of my greatest accomplishments is the determination and perseverance I have developed to continue pursuing my goals despite challenges. I am confident that I will succeed.

My dream is to become a gynecologist because I see how much our community needs this type of medical service. Unfortunately, my parents do not have the financial means to support the education required to achieve this goal. Even so, I remain focused on my dream and trust that God will make a way for me to pursue it.

I believe my dreams could begin to come true if I were able to attend a university and start working toward my professional goals. After completing my education, I would like to return and serve my community. At the moment, I have not yet had the opportunity to begin that journey, but I remain hopeful that one day I will.

I do not currently have another job. Getting this job was not easy, but I believe God touched the hearts of the people responsible for hiring me. I also believe that my dedication and willingness to serve played a role.

My main responsibility is to keep the clinic's water tank filled. I make sure the tank always has water because I do not want it to sit empty. When a tank is exposed to the sun and heat without water, it can become damaged and begin to leak. I collect water from a pump and transport it to the clinic using my motorcycle and several large containers. I do this several times each week, depending on the clinic's needs and water usage.

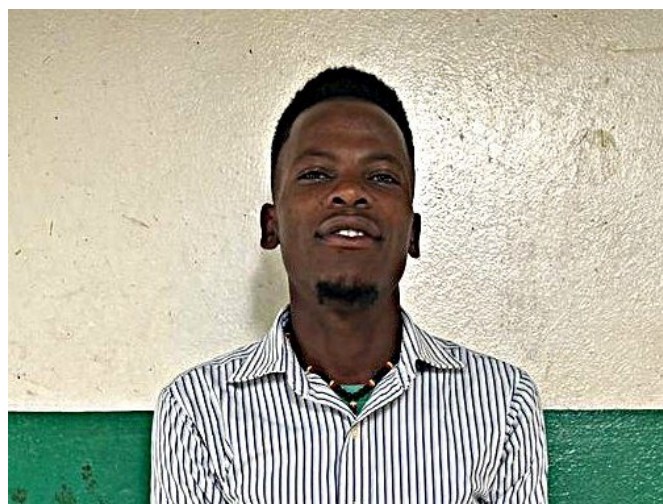
In addition to hauling water, I also help with other tasks for the clinic. I pick up vaccines and transport reports and supplies when needed. Sometimes I assist with transporting patients to the hospital or visiting patients who are being monitored by the medical staff. I am always willing to help wherever I am needed.

I knew about the Foundation before I started working with the clinic. It is an organization that helps many people, and I am proud and grateful to be one of its employees. I would like to tell the Americans who support the clinic that the clinic is an essential part of our community. Since Dr. Istache became the director, more people have been coming to the clinic, and we thank God

for that growth. We pray that God will send more donors and supporters so that the clinic can continue to expand its services and better serve the people of our community. We are deeply grateful for the generosity and support that make this work possible."

Clinic Security

Since the clinic first opened, Dave Stevenson Michael has been the nightwatchman at the clinic. He has been sleeping every night in the clinic building to have a presence to discourage break-ins and theft. He is married and has children and has built himself a new house and informed the board that he would resign the position as of the end of May. The Haitian staff strongly recommended that we continue to have a night watchman on site. On the recommendation of our clinic director, the board has hired Mr. Chandelier Saint Louis to replace Dave Stevenson Michael.



Chandelier Saint Louis, Night Watchman

In recommending him, Clinic Director Dr. Dieuseul Istache said:

"Mr. Chandelier Saint Louis is 28 years old and single. He currently lives with his mother. He completed his studies at the Wesleyan school in Fond Doux. He comes from a family of four brothers and one sister.

Chandelier is a respectful, serious, and responsible young man. He had a dream of pursuing studies in mechanical engineering, but unfortunately his family did not have the financial means to support that goal.

Despite the challenges he has faced, he remains motivated, hardworking, and determined to improve his future. I sincerely believe that he could be a very good candidate to replace Dave because of his character, sense of responsibility, and willingness to work well."

Chandelier Saint Louis began his duties as night watchman on June first.

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Responses to Food Distribution

The Foundation provides three different families a month with emergency food. They are the people that our Haitian advisory committee chooses because they are among the most vulnerable families in the community. Of course, it is a “drop in the bucket” among the many suffering from food shortage. The families that receive them are always very grateful for the food.

The Haitian committee would like us to greatly expand the program because the need is so great. However, as much as possible, we would like to go beyond emergency food distribution. We would like to increase food availability so that they do not need emergency food. This is why our agricultural agent visits all families receiving a food kit to see about the opportunity to start a garden, to help them prepare the soil and to provide them with start-up plants or seeds.



Cherline Similien and Four of her Children

One of the recipients upon receiving the emergency food kit said, “My name is Cherline Similien, and I live at Fond Doux. I am the mother of eight children, and I am raising them without a father. The reason all of my children are not present is because sometimes they go to neighbors’ homes just to find something to eat. That is why some of them are not here at this time.

You did not ask me any question, but I would like to share a very short story. I am a mother who cries more than she smiles when I look at the difficult conditions in which I am raising my children alone. We live in a shelter that is in very poor condition. Whenever it rains, we either

remain standing while getting wet, or we run to a neighbor’s house just to avoid the rain. Sometimes it feels as though we are surviving rather than truly living.

To conclude, I want to sincerely thank you for thinking about me and my family. Infinite thanks to the FDF for always wanting to bring change to people’s lives. I truly have no words to express my gratitude. I will continue praying for all of you, and I pray that God will bless you.”

This interchange and picture show another one of the major problems in the community: Inadequate shelter. The Foundation has built four houses for people living under intolerable conditions like the Similien family. And has from time to time repaired the roofs of some other homes and offered tarps to many more. In fact, however, most of these families needed not a tarp or a new roof, but a new home. Building houses is very expensive, but we would like to build at least one new house a year if possible. Our history is about one every three years (four in twelve years).

Another of the food recipients was a widower with two pre-teen children. Upon receiving the food he said, “I have two children. Their mother passed away four years ago. Since then, life has become much more difficult for us. Despite the hardships, I do daily labor work in order to provide for my children. I work clearing land, cutting wood to make charcoal, and doing whatever I can so that we may survive and find food, even under very difficult conditions.

But today, I can truly say that this support feels like a blessing from heaven. I want you to know that what you have done for me is something very great. You may not fully realize the impact of your help, but for many people who are close to giving up, you are a source of hope.”

A third food recipient, a mother of nine children, said, “My children are being raised without a father, so I am carrying both the role of mother and father for the family. The FDF is doing a great service for the community because, before receiving this support, obtaining food required enormous sacrifice. I do not have enough words to express my gratitude. I pray that God will continue to bless all of you for the work you are doing.”

Free Textbooks

The Methodist School of Fond Doux was able to get an assist from the Haitian Ministry of Education when they supplied textbooks for the 1st and 2nd grades. Ordinarily the parents must purchase them. The school has a very high proportion of parents unable to pay for the books.

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Progress toward Building Program



Survey of Campus Land

This past month, the Foundation finished the process of obtaining a clear title to our earlier land purchase with a surveyor marking the boundaries. A daughter of the seller of the land had disputed the land boundaries, apparently not realizing that a right-of-way path through our land did not mean that she owned the path. Neighbors, police and a judge were present when new boundary markers were installed.

With this step finally completed, we can proceed with construction. Board members Brent Engel and Jim Johnson are planning to go to Fond Doux this month to inspect the land and finalize the placement of our building projects. Previously, we completed drilling a well and building a well house. New buildings presently planned include a school, a caretaker's house and a restroom/latrine. They will all be powered with solar energy. While most of the money for the construction has been raised with one-time gifts, we still need continuing commitments to pay the teachers.



Boundary Marker

Needs of the Schools

The Foundation has been supporting three schools in the greater Fond Doux area: The Methodist School of Fond Doux, Hope for Tomorrow School in Ravine Parc and the Good Samaritan School of Platon. Altogether they provide basic education from pre-school (kindergarten three levels) through 6th grade for over 300 students. We employ 30 different staff members in the three schools. All of them are grossly underpaid, averaging under \$80 a month. A critical need is to find recurring contributors to meet and improve teacher pay. To pay the teachers even this sub-standard pay has caused the Foundation to cut back on three other very successful programs: high school scholarships, university scholarships and English language education.

All three schools have significant problems with their facilities. Facility improvement is already planned for the Methodist School. We will begin construction of a new building this summer which will house 6 grades of the Methodist School. At the Platon School, a water diversion project to prevent surface water from flowing into the school building has been approved. Kindergarten expansion at Platon and roof repair at Ravine Parc are being planned.

Because our schools provide education for the poorest in the community, many students have additional needs. The most significant are lack of food and clothing. Our student aid funds are grossly inadequate.

Garden Club for Youth.

Mackenson Hillaire, our agricultural agent, has organized a garden club for youth aged 10 to 17. He has met twice with a group of 15 children. He hopes to expand it to at least 35 members. Its goals include Bible stories, personal growth and gardening skills.

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 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.