

The Fond Doux Flyer August 2026

Board Members Visit



Treasurer Brent Engel

Board Members Brent Engel (Treasurer) and Jim Johnson (Liaison for Property Management i.e., Construction and Maintenance) visited Fond Doux to talk with staff and inspect the mission sites. The primary purpose of this visit was to arrange the construction of our new classroom building.

They met with the builder Hermann Léveillé to go over the blueprints, the budget and the method and quality of construction practices and materials. They visited the construction site to confirm the exact placement of the classroom building, the toilet, and the caretaker's house. They viewed the garden location and possible playground area, and the possible water station.

One cost that we hoped to avoid is the establishment of a fence along our borders. Unfortunately, some animals have gotten into the garden area causing severe damage to the garden. It needs to be addressed. Our preference would be for a chain link fence, but it does not seem to be available in Haiti.

They also met with School Administrator Lovely Felix to go over plans for the classrooms, school policies, furnishings, equipment and the relationship with the Methodist Church. The goal of the school is to provide quality education for the poor of the community. In order to do this the Methodist School does not charge tuition. At least for the present the practice will continue. In any event scholarships for the poor will be a part of the mission of the school.

They also met with the clinic staff and General Manager Junior Merjuste. They visited the Ravine Parc School. The board wishes to maintain a close working relationship with those that do the work of the Foundation.



Property Management Liaison Jim Johnson

School Administrators Meet

On July 10th, the administrators of the three schools associated with the Foundation (The Methodist School of Fond Doux, the Good Samaritan School at Platon and the Hope for Tomorrow School in Ravine Parc) met with General Manager Junior Merjuste to discuss the status of the schools and plan for the future. The biggest unmet need is teachers' salaries. The Ravine Parc School reported that they expect four teachers to resign because of low pay.

Because of the financial status of the Foundation, the Foundation cannot provide a general increase in teacher pay although there may be several modest adjustments based on education and/or experience for some teachers. The teachers at the Methodist School and the Ravine Parc school will receive a bonus. They operate on a 10-month salary schedule. The bonus consists of half salary during the two months school is not in session. The Good Samaritan teachers are on a full-pay 12-month pay schedule.

All three schools hope to have an improvement in their facilities this year. The Platon school will construct a water drainage diversion to prevent surface water from running into the school. They also hope to enclose a porch to provide another classroom for the kindergarten. The Ravine Parc School hopes to repair and paint a rusty and leaking roof. The Methodist School is looking forward to the new classroom building for six grades..

One of the major topics of the meeting was developing plans for teacher training for the three schools to be held before the reopening of the schools this Fall.

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Agricultural REPORT

by Mackenson Hillaire

As part of the agriculture program, I have begun working with several families to establish plant nurseries in preparation for creating their home gardens. During the initial phase, we encountered challenges because the seeds failed to germinate. Fortunately, with the support of Linda Mitchell and Brent Engel, we were able to resolve the issue.

At the beginning of June, I prepared a new round of nurseries, and they are now healthy and ready for transplanting. This will allow us to establish gardens for the families who have already started participating in the program.

In addition, under the direction of General Manager Junior Merjuste, I will be working in collaboration with Fritzman Saint Surin to support families who are benefiting from the FDF food assistance program. This partnership will help strengthen household food security by combining agricultural support with food assistance, enabling families to become more self-sufficient over time.

Young Agricultural Club

by Mackenson Hillaire



Agricultural Club Meeting

Every Saturday, I continue working with the Youth Club through a structured agricultural education program that I have developed. The program is designed to equip young people with practical agricultural knowledge while fostering environmental awareness and leadership.

So far, we have covered several key topics, including the definition of agriculture, the importance of agriculture, the importance and usefulness of plants and trees, and the vital role agriculture plays in

supporting food security, healthy communities, and sustainable development. The youth have also been introduced to common agricultural tools and learned how to use them safely and effectively.

In addition, we have focused on environmental stewardship by teaching the importance of protecting natural resources, including soil, water, and the environment as a whole. These lessons encourage the youth to become responsible caretakers of their communities and the natural world.

The Youth Club continues to make a positive impact by helping young people understand the value of agriculture and inspiring them to apply what they learn in their daily lives. I am committed to continuing this program and working with the youth to achieve its long-term goals of education, empowerment, and community development.

The expected results are 35 young people trained in agriculture, a functional nursery and a demonstration garden established, Improved knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices and active participation of young people in their community.

Emergency Food Families



Lucien Vilus Family

"Good evening from the Vilus family. We would like to extend our warm greetings and heartfelt thanks to the FDF. My name is Lucien Vilus. I am standing with my wife, the one on my left, along with our children and grandchildren. I am 75 years old, and my wife is 66 years old. We are originally from Bellevue Village, Gressier, but we are now living in Robou, near Fond-Doux.

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Because of the insecurity in our area, armed gangs took our home and everything we owned. Our situation is very difficult. A kind person paid the rent for the house where we are staying, but the time has come to renew the rental agreement, and we do not have the money to do so. We do not know where we will go. Our family consists of 11 people: 6 adults and 5 children. Among the five children, one girl, the one standing on my right, is not able to attend school. We are facing many serious challenges including lack of housing, food insecurity and health problems.

In summary, it is a great joy and honor for me to meet the FDF and to receive this assistance, which will make a significant difference for my family. Our entire family is deeply grateful and very happy. I truly believe this is God's work. All glory belongs to the Lord!"

Glomme Pierre Family



"Good evening. My name is Glomme Pierre. I live in Curpelier, and I am 66 years old. I have eight children, but the two children who live with me are grandchildren. I do not have a husband because I am a widow. I face many hardships. Most of the time, I

depend on the kindness of others who occasionally give me food or other basic necessities because I am not involved in any income-generating activity. My only hope has been to wait for help from others.

This is the first time I have received assistance like this. I sincerely want to thank FDF for your generosity and support. Every day, I pray for you because, just when I had lost hope, you gave me hope again.

In the same way, many other people who have lost hope will find hope when they receive this kind of assistance, and they too will pray for you. I truly believe that the more people pray for the FDF, the more God will bless your organization and provide you with even greater resources to help those in need. Once again, there are not enough words to express my gratitude. Thank you very, very, very much."

Melienne Vibrun Family



"My name is Melienne Vilbrun. I am from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. I am single. There are 8 people in my household: 2 adults and 6 children. Unfortunately, we are displaced. . . Our greatest needs are housing and food because we have no one to support us except God.

A group of women from the Wesleyan Church kindly found a house for me so that my family and I would have a place to stay, because I am not from this area. I am originally from Port-au-Prince, where armed gangs took everything we owned. In the end, we had no choice but to flee until we arrived in Fond Doux. By God's compassion and grace, He has continued to provide for us. Eventually, the FDF gave us invaluable assistance. There are no words to fully express my gratitude."

The Emergency Food program is administered by our Haitian staff. The recipients are chosen by the Haitian Advisory Committee. Fritzmann Saint Surin is the chairman. The families chosen are those the committee feels are the most vulnerable. The number of recipients is limited to three each month because of financial constraints. Because of widespread need, no family is given assistance two months in a row. The stories of these families always tug at the heart strings. Every family that receives food is also visited by our agricultural agent Mackenson Hillaire to see if they can develop a garden.

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Teacher Louis Graduates



For the last 3 years, Mr. Johnson Louis, a teacher at the Methodist School of Fond Doux has been attending the Normal School of Miragoane on a Foundation scholarship. He has now completed his studies and graduated on Sunday July 19th.

Mr. Louis said, "If it weren't for the foundation, I couldn't have gone to the university. My mother and father did not have money to send me. But with the Foundation, I spent three years there. Thank you very much. The Foundation is responsible for the fulfillment of all my dreams. I am glad that I have had the opportunity."

He also sent a message to the Foundation secretary, the Rev. John Clausing, "Thank you so much, Pastor, for investing in me to develop my skills with professionalism. Many blessings! God will follow you, will follow your children, your wife. Pastor, tell your children. 'You have a friend in Haiti.' "

The Foundation rejoices in Johnson Louis reaching this milestone. He is the latest of our scholarship students to graduate. Our university scholarship graduates have provided substantial benefits to the Fond Doux community, especially at the clinic and in education. This includes Dr. Dieuseul Istache, Director of the Fond Doux Clinic, kindergarten teacher Faedra Olivier Hillaire, primary school teacher Aldonis Laguerre, and school administrator Ancito Gene. Our former executive director Emile Maceus was also a participant, as was former music teacher Isemaelo Polistin.

Unfortunately, despite the proven success of the program, the Foundation has placed a pause on new university scholarships because of lack of sufficient resources to sustain the program. We have had numerous requests for university scholarships during this past year. Unfortunately, we had to turn all of them down, including current teachers in our schools.

Providing Water



The Foundation provides access to water for residents in the Curpelier (aka Quipelier) area 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Many residents in the area come to get water on the FDF campus. The pump that the foundation installed has become a blessing for the neighboring residents, allowing them to avoid long journeys to get water. Residents often express their gratitude and appreciation for the access to water that the Fond Doux Foundation allows them to get.

Invitation

\$50 Vita Mamba nutrition for 1 child for 1 school year.
\$100 Emergency food for 2 families for 1 month.
\$250 High school scholarship for 1 student for 1 year.
\$500 Medical check-ups for 100 children.
\$800 Rent for 1 homeless family for 1 year.
\$2500 University Scholarship for 1 student for 1 year.
\$12,000 Builds 1 shelterless family a house.

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