

## Our Community Nurse



**Myrdred Kaminskie Delva**

The Fond Doux Foundation Committee has announced the selection of Myrdred Kaminskie Delva to be the Community Nurse for Fond Doux. Nurse Myrdred attended primary school at “Saint-Francois d Assisi” of Grand Goâve (1995- 2004), received her secondary education at “College Chretien” of Grand Goâve (2004-2010) and “Lycée Faustin Soulouque” of Petit Goâve (2010-2011), where she graduated.

She studied nursing at “University Lumière” (2012-2016). Her studies included French Communication and School health.

She comes seemingly highly qualified with a great academic and employment background. Her employment includes time spent as an assistant nurse at “Notre Dame Hospital of Petit Goâve”, as a quizmaster at “Doctors Without Borders Swiss” in Petit Goâve, as a nursing teacher at “University Lumière “, also at “ECIP” of Petit Goâve. She is now learning English and bureaucratism/ bureaucracy computer.

She will have three principal duties: 1) advisor /coordinator for the community health program of Fond Doux to address public health threats such as malaria and COVID-19, 2) as a public health educator, teaching about good health practices, nutrition, diseases and disease prevention, and 3) as the Nurse practitioner in the clinic that will be opening soon on a limited basis.

The Foundation authorized the FDFC to hire her on a probationary basis up to 40 hours a month. During this period, she will be preparing for the opening of the clinic, teaching classes and doing other duties with respect to community health issues such as organizing and leading a community health survey, including use of the mosquito nets and counter COVID-19 measures. Because so many activities have been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns, the Haitian Fond Foundation Committee has needed to assume greater responsibilities in respect to her interviewing and hiring.

### COVID-19 in Haiti

Press reports indicate that Haitians living in the Dominican Republic are streaming back into Haiti unchecked for the virus. The Dominican Republic has been hit hard by the virus. At the time of this writing Haiti has very few confirmed cases of COVID-19. Part of this is probably because of the few testing capabilities. At the time of the first confirmed cases, the government closed down the schools and issued a curfew. They ordered the people to wear masks when in public.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> the Prime Minister Jouthe announced victory over the virus and permitted factory workers to go back to work. The Pan-American Health Organization, however, predicts the peak is still coming, and confirmed cases have now been reported in Miragoâne, where our English language students study.

**COVID-19 Class in Platon**

On April 11 the new community nurse Myrdred Kaminskie Delva conducted a class on COVID-19 for the village of Platon. One travels to Platon by boat.



**Nurse Myrdred and Emile Maceus Arriving**



**Nurse Myrdred Kaminskie Delva Teaching with Soap and Buckets in Foreground**

The class covered the same topics that the earlier class in Fond Doux covered:

- 1) What is a coronavirus?
- 2) Different types of coronavirus.
- 3) Origin of COVID -19.
- 4) What is COVID-19?
- 5) Incubation mode of COVID-19.
- 6) The symptoms of COVID-19.
- 7) Type of person who is at risk for COVID-19.
- 8) How is it spread?
- 9) How to prevent the spread of Covid-19.
- 10) Resistance of the virus in various environments.
- 11) Importance of washing hands.
- 12) How to wash hands.
- 13) What to do if you have the symptoms of COVID-19.

Nurse Myrdred reported, “The villagers of Platon were very concerned about the activity, they were very participative and asked a lot of questions.”

Emile Maceus, who arranged the class and was one of those accompanying her, said, “The People in Platon were very involved and asked many questions! Myrdred was very eloquent... The trip was very long and tiring, but all of the tiredness was covered with happiness when we saw how the people in Platon ate up the teaching.”

In addition to the teaching of the class, the group also brought six (6) handwashing buckets with spigots to place in the village. One went to the school and another to the midwife Madam Gabriella. The other four were placed at strategic locations around the village. They also brought soap. These all were purchased with funds from the Foundation. Thank you, donors!

**COVID -19 in Fond Doux**

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread over the world our Haitian friends have responded in Faith.

**On March 24th** Pastor Brucely sent us this word, “Bless be the Lord; HE knows it all.”

**On April 2nd** when there were few cases in Haiti, but many in the US, we received this word form Schneider Saint Surin:

“Finally, I assume that it is not a good time in the world right now; like brother Brent said! I’m sure, we must all

come together, to pray for peace and well-being. This is a dark time right now. We must stay strong in our faith; we must all come together to help one another, support each other and have patience and understanding that we are all experiencing something never imagined possible!

And also, I'm so thrilled to hear that the Russian government has sent their support to the USA. That's more than amazing!

Down here we're trying our best to keep ourselves safely guarded. I confidently expect that we all will get over this together. May the Lord keep us under HIS wings of protection! God Bless.  
Coworker Schneider"

**On April 11<sup>th</sup>**, the FDFC took a class to the neighboring village of Platon as reported in this issue of the Flyer.



**Emile Maceus and Deacon Fritzmann Saint Surin**

Deacon Fritzmann Saint Surin of Fond Doux, better known as FonFon, who is a great advocate of health care after a serious illness of his own, accompanied Emile and Nurse Myrdred to Platon.

**On April 18<sup>th</sup>** we received the following from Emile Maceus: "No matter how hard this situation is, darkness will never be able to run over the light! We are the sons and the daughters of the heavenly light! Be safe!

After the lock down I would like to see each one of you in order to explain how hard it was. It is important to remember that we have all the obligation to stay alive. I

understand some of you might ask where is God in a situation like this? HE is here close to us, to watch over us. Remember, in a difficult time like this, wisdom is greatly needed from the Lord! May God keep protecting and save each of us!

Love, Emile"

To date there are no known cases in Fond Doux. But college student Faédra Olivier is unable to attend college again. She also has no computer to take online classes. The same with Frantz Delma. Emile Maceus is taking online courses and medical student Dieuseul Istache is working in the hospital rather than taking classes. Our English language students are studying online as well. Two phones were bought for English language students that did not have access to online classes.

The FDFC is now planning another class on COVID-19. The first class drew 70 people and was considered quite successful, but the committee believes that more people need to hear the story. They also want to provide face masks. They have found two tailors that will make them.

**On April 21** the Foundation approved the request of the FDFC for the purchase of 500 masks made by two local tailors to be distributed in Fond Doux. The cost was \$612, made possible by Foundation donors. This followed two confirmed cases in Miragoâne and a disputed case in Petit Goâve, which caused wide spread fear because the body was given to the family for burial without proper protocol.

### Micro Loan Project

The Haitian FDFC as reported last month has been vigorously pursuing a Micro-Loan project. They identified 20 people for possible loans and have been teaching them to create and follow a business plan. The Foundation's Board of Directors has suggested a one step at a time approach including careful monitoring of duplicate businesses. In the month of April, the Board approved funding for 5 micro loans with a report back in 60 days. If all goes well the Foundation will consider further loans.

The Haitian Micro Loan Board consists of:  
Danis Jean JOSEPH--- The head master  
Sonise COLIDOR PAULO --- First secretary  
Shanley CHARLES --- Assistant secretary  
Dave-Stevenson MICHEL--- Treasurer

## Follow-up on Malaria Outbreak

In February of this year there was a serious outbreak of malaria in Fond Doux, Haiti.

We are happy to report that the stagnant water pond, which MAY HAVE BEEN (we really do not know) the original cause of the outbreak has been cleaned up. The Fond Doux Foundation Committee has made a diligent effort to remove all mosquito breeding areas in the village.

On February 20<sup>th</sup> the Fond Doux Foundation Committee held a class on malaria conducted by Nurse Gernite Bonhomme.

- Among other things, it included;
- The definition of malaria
- The cause of malaria
- The mode of transmission of malaria
- How to prevent malaria
- Signs and symptoms of malaria
- What to do if you have seen these signs
- A demonstration on the use of mosquito nets

At that time two hundred fifty (250) mosquito nets were purchased by the Committee from funds provided from the Foundation and Epworth United Methodist Church of Durham, NC and distributed to the participants.

The FDFC this past month conducted a survey to determine whether the nets were being appropriately used. This survey was prompted both by the Foundation’s urging and also because the Haitians were aware that in an earlier breakout of malaria in Haiti, some people misused nets that were given to them. The Committee wished to safeguard this investment. They were gratified to learn that all the nets were being used properly so far as they could determine.

Unfortunately, they also discovered that there is a need for approximately 150 more mosquito nets. These can be purchased in Haiti for \$8.25 per net. The Foundation always knew that more nets would be needed and will respond as donations permit. It is expected that persons receiving additional nets (to the extent donors provide) will need to attend a class on their use. Linda Mitchell, our local community health missionary says, “If they do not attend the class, do not distribute the net.”

## Handwashing Survey

Linda Mitchell, our local community health missionary, has also asked for another public health survey in Fond Doux to be conducted by our Community Health Worker. This would be to follow up on the classes on hand washing. “What evidence is there that the family is washing their hands such as a water bucket with soap?” she asks. This is obviously important with COVID-19, but Pink Eye has also broken out, which can be almost entirely wiped out with hand washing.



**Special Handwashing Buckets**

## Thank You from Haiti

As we are going to Press the editor received this word from Haiti: “Dear Rev, I would like you to know how grateful I am (and we the people of Fond Doux) for the assistance the FDF has been giving us. Please, be safe, you and your family!”

For more information on any of our projects or to make donations, you may contact us at our website or address below:

Website: [www.fonddouxfoundation.org](http://www.fonddouxfoundation.org)

Fond Doux Foundation  
PO Box 51443  
Durham, NC 27717



Website manager: Brent Engel  
Newsletter editor: 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, USA, whose Christian community outreach began in 2011.