

Fondwa News

May 2015



Summertime Brings Visitors to Fondwa, Haiti

There is always a lot of excitement among the residents of Fondwa when visitors from the United States come to the APF (Association of Peasants of Fondwa) Center in Fondwa, Haiti. Mission teams come to build houses, make improvements to water features, and other service projects while they explore the beautiful region of Fondwa. The children at the Saint Antoine School and the Fatima House Orphanage thoroughly enjoy seeing the visitors, even if their stay is brief.

Widline Louis, a 6th grader at the school and resident at Fatima House Orphanage said, "I love when the visitors come! They bring candy, games, music, and they visit and play with us." She noted all children are happy to be able to spend time with groups who help make improvements at the orphanage, and they particularly enjoy when David and Jamalyn Peigh-Wilamson, FHM Fondwa Project Managers, spend time in Fondwa.

Jed Oscar Voltaire, 11-years-old and a 6th grader from Fatima House, said it is fun when the US visitors are there. "I can play and talk with them. I enjoy eating with them and spending time with them." Jed also commented on the impact these groups have on his home: "They help build houses and other buildings in the community and at the orphanage. Visitors come to help and to spend time with us. I am always happy to see them." For these students, as well as the others at the Saint Antoine School, visitors from the US are a welcome sight in Fondwa and create an atmosphere of excitement and fun when they come to the mountains.

This summer there will be lots of visitors in Fondwa. The Duke Global Health SRT Students arrive in Leogane in May and will visit Fondwa throughout the summer. Reverend Lisa Nowling-Shubert of College Avenue United Methodist Church in Muncie, Indiana, will lead a service team June 6th - 13th. Kathy Walmer, FHM Executive Director, and Heather Robinson, FHM Communications & Mission Travel Manager, will take a medical mission

team to the Blanchard Clinic (Port-au-Prince) June 13 - 21 and will visit Fondwa June 19th and 20th. David Williamson and Jamalyn Peigh-Wilamson will spend a week with a service team June 20th - 27th. Missy Owen, FHM Global Health Research Associate, will lead the annual Vacation Bible School team July 18th - 26 and host Bible School activities in the Blanchard community and Fondwa. Stay tuned for more photos and updates of the summer in Fondwa!



Fatima House Orphanage, Fondwa. Carol Mohn, of Cary, NC with Kerline and Estere. Carol and her husband Andy are FHM sponsors who adopted the twins and brought them to the US in June 2014.



Student Spotlight

Jonakson

Jonakson is five years old and a third-year preschool student who lives at the Fatima House Orphanage. Jonakson loves to be around people, and like other kids his age, he loves playing soccer and drawing. His vibrant personality draws other people to be around him. He enjoys playing and talking, but what really sets him apart is his desire to help other people. When asked what his favorite thing to do with other people is, Jonakson responded, "helping them." There aren't many adults that would give the same response.

Recently, as Jonakson led his "cow" behind him - a stick tied to a string - I asked him what he would do if he were the President of Haiti. With a grin, he first responded that he would play a lot. The he responded " I would help the other children. I want to be able to share with all of them."

Jonakson is a selfless, caring child who truly enjoys being around the other kids and sharing his caring heart with them. Thank you for joining all of the children of the Fatima House Orphanage and thank you for being a part of Jonakson's story.



Ernst Jeudy

Ernst Jeudy begins his day at 5:00 a.m. each morning, dresses for school, usually before the sun rises. Most mornings, he doesn't have the chance to eat breakfast before leaving for school at 6:00 a.m. The Saint Antoine School is located in the valley of Fondwa, and many students, like Ernst, walk long distances for the chance to get a quality education. Sometimes he has the opportunity to buy a motorbike ride to the school, but most often, he walks the two hour trek to arrive on time when classes begin at 8:00 a.m. He journeys an hour along the Jacmel Road, past the site of the future FHM Carmelle Voltaire Health Clinic, before descending the steep Fondwa Road down the mountain to the Saint Antoine School. If he has money, he buys a small lunch at the school. He usually stays after school to study and spend time with his friends before making the 2 hour walk back home.

Ernst is a dedicated and inquisitive student. Spend a few minutes with him and you will quickly discover his dream to learn and speak English well. Education is highly valued in Haiti, where a daily 4-hour walk to and from school is a burden the children gladly bear in order to build a better foundation for their future.



Fondwa Life at a Glance



Students and visitors at the Fatima House Orphanage.



Saint Antoine teens doing what teens do best... hanging out after school.



Children at the Fatima House Orphanage enjoy time on the playground.



An afternoon game of dominos.

Deliveries to your Sponsor Student? Jamalyn Peigh Williamson will be going to Fondwa June 20th. If you would like to send a letter or photos to your student, mail them to her at 100 West 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260. **LETTERS MUST be received NO LATER THAN Monday, June 15th.** Items must fit into a flat 9x12 manilla envelope.