

STARFYSHNEWS

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM STARFYSH.ORG

APRIL 2014

STARFYSH IS WORKING TO BRING HOLISTIC, SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION TO THE

ISLAND OF LA GONAVE, HAITI



SCHOOL UPDATE AND PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MAKOCHON SCHOOL

Two years ago, the mountain village of Makochon did not have a school where its children could learn. Today, despite the fact that the building they meet in is tiny and dilapidated, the school thrives. Children are enthusiastic and engaged, teachers are energized and excited to teach. Children eat a nutritious meal every day, and their health and growth are regularly assessed.

At the outset, we decided to invest in people first and see what happens. On faith, we hired teachers and announced to the village that school was coming even though at the time we had no building, benches, or blackboards. Early on we invested in people, meeting often with the village leaders and providing training for our teachers. It worked!

Today, some two years later, we are excited to announce that the village has purchased a parcel of land, not far from the existing school where a permanent elementary school campus will be built. In addition to kindergarten through 6th grade classrooms, the buildings will include an administration office, a small infirmary, a canteen, and latrines. Electricity will be provided by solar energy and rainwater will be harvested from the school roof. A large teaching garden, complete with an outdoor classroom pavilion, will be a place where children will be taught farming methods. Sports and recreation fields provide a place for exercise and play.



With land in hand, we are now ready to raise the funds necessary to bring this elementary school campus to life!

Classrooms:

- **Pre-K - 2nd grades:**

- Building = \$66,000 (\$16,500 per classroom)
- Furniture, equipment, and supplies = \$6,000 (\$1,500/classroom)

- **3rd - 6th grades:**

- Building = \$66,000 (\$16,500 per classroom)
- Furniture, equipment, and supplies = \$6,000 (\$1,500/classroom)

Administration:

- Principal's office, including furniture and supplies = \$12,000
- Infirmary, including furniture and supplies = \$12,000
- Supplies storage, including furniture and supplies = \$8,000

Solar = \$11,000

Water Catchment and Purification = \$10,000

Canteen = \$12,500

Latrines = \$10,000

Gardens: Supplies, outdoor classroom, and water reservoir = \$15,000

Sports and Recreation: Field and supplies = \$10,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

Starfysh.org --> Current Projects --> Education and Learning

Those wishing to sponsor a specific feature of this project, please contact us or designate on your gift specifically how you wish your gift to be used.

DEAR FRIENDS,

What could be more meaningful than being hugged by someone you've helped, and then being asked if you would pray for them? It's a common scene as we make our way across this island of need. We have learned that the simple act of showing up, ducking through the doorway of their tiny home, and holding their children is a ministry in and of itself.



Before even one water filter is installed or one tooth is yanked, we have entered into their existence and, in doing so, have proclaimed to them that they have worth. Is this not what God did for us? And if God entered our fray, cannot we enter someone's fray on His behalf?

This is the essence of Starfysh. We show up. It may look like we're planting trees, setting folks up in businesses, or teaching them how to read. But the essential message to the people of La Gonave is that we see them, we know them, we value and love them—just as Christ first loved us and did something about it some 2,000 years ago.

I am so humbled, so privileged. For God is seeing fit to continue blessing our work and, despite our occasional fumbling and bumbling, it turns out that He is using us to bring transformation to this place. The age and size of Starfysh would dictate that we should not have as much impact as we do. But that's the economy of God for you. Little is much when God is in it.

Please, won't you prayerfully consider how you can help us make a monster difference in the lives of the people living on precious La Gonave? Your investment, leveraged against God's blessing, will impact lives not just here and now, but forever.

May God bless you richly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Edmondson".

Steve Edmondson

SAVE THE DATE 10/23/14

2nd Annual "Love La Gonave" • Vision-Casting and Fundraising Event • Prince Conference Center • Grand Rapids, Michigan





STARFYSW WELCOMES

GREG CULROSS

We at Starfysh are very pleased and excited to announce the addition of Mr. Greg Culross as our new Director of Advancement. Greg brings with him a rich history of business ownership, software sales, and Christian non-profit administration. His experience in grant writing, communications, and project management is a welcome and needed addition as we enter our fifth year of work in delivering true and permanent transformation to an island deep in poverty.

Greg and his family reside in Ada, Michigan.

VEHICLES

Getting around on Haiti's mainland and out onto the island of La Gonave is a major challenge. Roads are terrible and vehicles take a beating, so we need to always have spare tires and parts in the pipeline. We currently have a good vehicle coming our way. A 15-passenger van in great condition has been donated. It will be a tremendous workhorse on the mainland, transporting teams and supplies. We are looking at a cost of about \$4,000-\$5,000 in shipping and customs charges to get it there. We will, of course, get our money's worth in shipping because we won't ship the van down empty. It will be chock full of supplies that will help move our projects forward. If there's anyone who wants to help make this happen, please contact us.

VEHICLES NEEDED

Starfysh needs two 6-passenger ATV's (pictured). Diesel is preferred, as it will improve our range across the island considerably. Cost, including purchase, shipping, and customs is \$25,000 each. There is perhaps no more practical investment than helping our workers get to those in need. Anyone who feels led to help Starfysh with this need, please let us know.



REMOTE MEDICAL UNIT

The need for taking medical care to villages of La Gonave is great and with our Remote Dental Unit in active use, we are now in the process of creating its medical equivalent. International Aid is partnering with Starfysh in procuring the equipment and supplies necessary. Although our medical teams will often provide curative treatments, the emphasis in our teams' approach will be to provide general health assessments, preventative care, and education to communities whose needs are so basic (e.g., nutrition, hygiene, latrines, etc.). In addition to the medical supplies we are now pulling together, we have a need for two heavy-duty, 6-passenger all-terrain vehicles which will provide our medical and dental teams the safest passage possible along La Gonave's treacherous mountain roads. (See article, "Vehicles Needed" above.)



REMOTE DENTAL UNIT

The Starfysh Remote Dental Unit (RDU) is now fully equipped, field tested, and ready for deployment. The vast majority of La Gonave's 100,000 people have never had any kind of dental care, so the need for dentists and dental hygienists is great. Dentists and hygienists, please contact us if you would like to explore the possibility of demonstrating God's love through dentistry in the mountains of La Gonave.



PRAYER

People frequently ask us how we would like them to pray for our work. THANK YOU! The roots of Haiti's poverty are deeply complex. We cannot, we must not approach poverty, therefore, with trite, simplistic, near-vision solutions. In all we do, in Haiti and in the States, we must cover it with targeted, strategic prayer.

Here are some specific areas in need of prayer:

- Pray for release of agricultural supplies and guesthouse furnishings that have been tied up in Haitian customs for one year now.
- Pray that funds come in to purchase and provide cement for the 850 families on the island who have dug their latrine pits and are waiting for cement to complete their latrines.
- Pray for Spring rains to come. It has been especially severe dry season on the island these past 4 months.
- Pray for Greg Culross as he joins Starfysh as Director of Advancement.
- Pray for the Makochon's school teachers as they participate in teacher training classes this month.
- Pray that Voodoo's influence would be weakened by the power of God.
- Pray for effectiveness and Christian witness of the teams that come down to help, and that much would be accomplished in their hearts as well.
- Pray for Starfysh, that our vision will be large and God-honoring.
- Pray for an island called La Gonave. For transformation of her land. For transformation of hearts.



AGRICULTURE

For one year now we have been awaiting customs' release of our agriculture project supplies, delaying our research and teaching farm initiative. In the meantime, our 2,000 banana plants have matured out very nicely in gallon pots and are ready for distribution when the Spring rains come.

KEEP UP WITH STARFYSH



- Website/weekly blogs: starfysh.org
- Facebook: facebook.com/NPOStarfysh
- Monthly e-mail newsletters
- Twitter: [@starfyshing](https://twitter.com/starfyshing)
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