

STARFYSH NEWS

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM STARFYSH.ORG

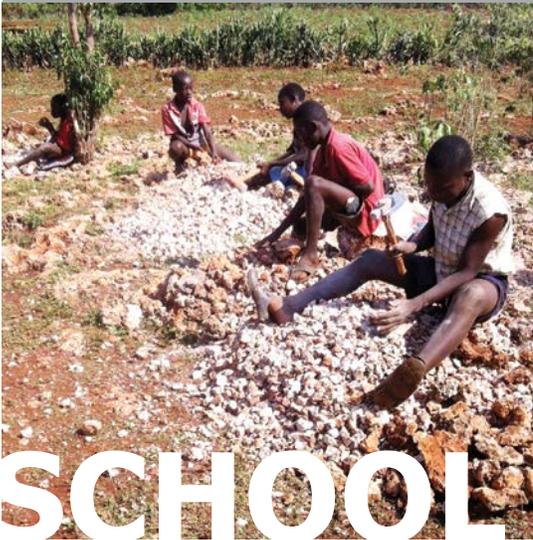
MAY, 2016

STARFYSH IS WORKING TO BRING HOLISTIC, SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION TO THE

ISLAND OF LA GONAVE, HAITI



CHILDREN OF THE VILLAGE PREPARING STONE WHICH WILL BE USED FOR FOUNDATION FILL.



GROUND IS BROKEN. FIRST FOUNDATION PIER SET.



STEEL FOR NEW SCHOOL FABRICATED IN PORT-AU-PRINCE



SCHOOL

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

It has been four years since we walked up on a group of children playing under that giant mango tree up in the off-the-beaten-path village of Makochon. There was no school in the village. The mango tree was where they met to play.

Starfysh came along side Makochon to help start a school. We started with K-3rd grade and it has grown to be a vibrant Pre-K through 6th grade whose teachers are energetic, and whose kids are learning and healthy and eating every day. We set out investing in people, less in buildings.

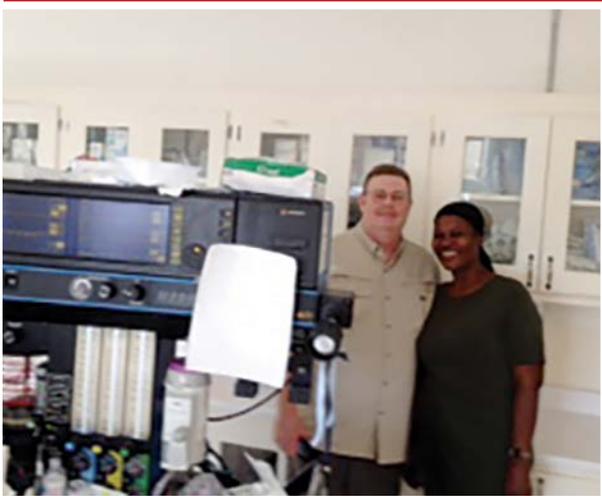
Today, we are happy to report that we have broken ground on a new school building where kids won't get wet from the rain when they're sitting in class. The structure will be composed of a steel frame, cinderblock walls, and a pitched tin roof that will capture rain for the school gardens. The steel frame will go up first, followed by the pouring of the concrete floor. Cinderblocks (some 5,000 of them!) will be made right at the worksite by a LaGonavian blockmaker. The cinderblock walls will then go up, also employing local Haitian laborers. Doors and windows will go in last, completing the school structure itself. The final steps will be painting and outfitting each classroom with supplies. All construction supplies are being purchased here in Haiti and the project will provide jobs and teach construction skills to local La Gonavians, bolstering the island economy.



We are still looking for financial partners to make sure the school will be completed in time for a September move-in. If you or your group would like to invest in something that will make an **IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM** impact, this may be what you're looking for. \$2 will buy a cinder block and we need 5,000 blocks.

Aside from the obvious value of a village getting its first school, this project will create economic lift, infusing dollars into the local economy (on an island where the average wage is less than \$2 per day).

INTERNATIONAL AID COLLABORATION



International Aid (Spring Lake, Michigan) and Starfysh recently partnered to send IA biotechnician, Jim Loeffler to La Gonave to inspect the hospital's technical equipment. Here he is, flanked by nurse extraordinaire, Miss Vero, on his left, and the IA anesthesia machine on his right. Purchasing and delivering this anesthesia equipment was one of Starfysh's early out-of-the-blocks project efforts several years back.

KEEP UP WITH STARFYSH

- Website: starfysh.org
- Facebook: [facebook.com/NPOstarfysh](https://www.facebook.com/NPOstarfysh)
- E-mail newsletters
- Twitter: [@starfyshing](https://twitter.com/starfyshing)
- YouTube: [youtube.com/starfyshing](https://www.youtube.com/starfyshing)



Starfysh
6757 Cascade Rd. SE #207
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
starfysh.org



A special thanks to Gazillion & One for underwriting this newsletter. gazillion1.com



In our efforts to provide a future market pipeline for made-on-La Gonave stuff, we are creating an online store called Starfysh Market. We'll start small by selling small amounts of things produced Stateside (Creole books, etc.). Any profits will be directed into our work in Haiti, of course. In the meantime, we are working on the legalities of selling things produced in Haiti, such as artisan crafts, moringa, and coffee. After working at it for over two years now, Starfysh is still pursuing official NGO (non-government organization) status in Haiti. Watch Starfysh market grow at StarfyshMarket.com.

CLEAN WATER

Installation of bio-sand water filters continues to be an important activity here on the island, where death and disease from water-borne illness is still a problem. In the villages where we have been able to place a filter in every home, our follow-up data proves that diarrheal illness has gone down significantly, especially in households that have and use a family latrine.

We placed filters in 627 homes during 2015 and, so far this year, have placed 275 more.

WHEN IT COMES TO WATER...

- One inch of rain that falls on a 10 x 10 ft. roof will fill a 55 gallon drum with fresh water.
- Every inch of rain that falls on Life Gardens' new teaching pavilion will provide us with 1,000 gallons of water.
- Rainwater is free.



Good and steady progress is being made toward our vision of creating an agricultural research and demonstration farm right here on the island of La Gonave.



Though hampered by another extended dry season this year, we are still on track for an inaugural opening this Summer, followed by the first of many agricultural conferences that will be conducted to provide hands-on, practical education to island farmers on methods they can use to improve their farm and garden yields. In addition to being a place of agricultural research and study, Life Garden will mass-produce trees for distribution to villages and families across the island. Adult farmers will not be the only beneficiaries of the gardens; primary and secondary school students will visit on field trips, too. Life Garden's campus in Anse-a-Galet is the first of several campuses that we envision across the island.

A large outdoor teaching pavilion is now near completion, our first shade nursery is now going up, and we are starting to harvest rainwater, an important step in sustaining the gardens through the Winter dry seasons. Our current rainwater storage capacity is 11,000 gallons.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

STARFYSH'S 2015 ANNUAL REPORT IS AVAILABLE TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE: STARFYSH.ORG

Year	Gross Donations	Fundraising & Administration	Percent Growth vs. Previous Year	Cents Per Dollar for Project Use
2010-2011	\$113,988	6.30%	—	0.94
2011-2012	\$158,609	5.90%	39.15%	0.94
2012-2013	\$189,149	3.70%	19.25%	0.96
2013-2014	\$242,424	7.80%	28.17%	0.92
2014-2015	\$275,039	5.60%	13.45%	0.94
Totals	\$979,209	5.91%	141.29% (from 1st year)	0.94

Annual Donations by Fiscal Year



DEAR FRIENDS,



The True Measure.

When I look back over the past few years of our young history I am amazed at where we've come. What started out as an idea has quickly turned into a groundswell, a movement of people who believe that there are some good stories yet to be written and this thing called Starfysh might be one of them. I laugh at how we started out, wide-eyed and naive. But believing God was in it we stepped out in faith. Today, six years later, those steps have turned into a journey of God's faithfulness, marked by milestones of progress and growth.

At this very moment, as I write, Starfysh has a team of folks painting the house where our new Field Directors, Bruce and Amy Kulfan, and their family will move into in just a few weeks. A few miles away, up in the mountains, a dental team is providing care to people who have been living for years with painful, abscessed teeth. A few miles in the other direction, on a different mountain, foundation piers are going in at the site of the new school in Makochon (where 127 kids are currently meeting in their tarp-covered school a few hundred yards away). Down at Life Garden, Agriculture Director, Paul Donn, is putting the final touches on his new office and five more 1,000 gallon rainwater cisterns are being erected and will start filling up with Spring rains. At this very moment, a mechanic is wrestling with the transmission on one of our trucks.

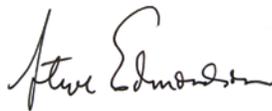
I suppose it would be easy to become so attentive to the day-to-day tasks of life that we forget to step back now and again to take a look at our lives from a distance. It is possible to become so busy with the tasks at hand that we can lose sight of the main thing. Tyranny of the urgent. It is true for me and you, and it is true for organizations.

It would be entirely possible to look through the reports and stories and pictures of a newsletter like this one and miss the greater story that God is writing here... a story, still in its early chapters, of how a broken and hurting people are gradually seeing their land and their lives restored, all because a bunch of folks have the gall to believe such things are possible. Believe it. You and I are witness to, indeed part of a story of transformation. And it's happening in an unlikely place called La Gonave.

We are glad for project successes and we do celebrate them. But we dare not bask too long. Projects and team efforts are fine so long as they serve to move forward the process of bringing transformation to the island. We regard our projects as a success only insofar as they move the needle on desperate poverty. When all is said and done with our project efforts and we've moved on to the next thing, have we moved people closer to realizing the God-given worth, dignity, and wholeness that they were created to enjoy? Isn't this, after all, the true measure of our work?

Thank you, thank you, for believing with me that the 100,000 or so people here are worth the effort. I can assure you, your prayers and financial investments are paying dividends... both for the short and long run.

May God bless you richly,



Steve Edmondson



FROM THE KULFANS

As we approach our move date, we are busy finalizing loose ends in the States and preparing for Haiti. We eagerly await to see what God has in store and are delighted to be a part of Starfysh. We are excited to be working with Starfysh's staff in Haiti, people from the States coming to work on Starfysh projects, and the people of La Gonave whose lives we will touch. This year is shaping up to be a pivotal point for Starfysh and a life changer for us. Thanks to all who have kept us in prayer, have helped with our transition, and helped prepare our house in Haiti, as well as to you who have supported us financially. We would appreciate any prayer support and funding to allow us to do God's will. You can follow us on our blog at Kulfan.blogspot.com.

Bruce and Amy Kulfan