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APRIL 2013

Micro-Business Classes Begin

Dear {tag_recipientfirstname},

If the good that comes to La Gonave is to be sustained, it will need to be driven by the island's own economy. And where there is little to no economy, we must help them start at the beginning. The micro-lending model of developing small businesses has been extremely successful in other developing countries, as well as in parts of mainland Haiti.

MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC

The image above shows the little church, high in the mountains, where Starfysh's very first remote, mobile dental clinic opened. Crowds gathered from miles around to get a chance to have their teeth taken care of. Read more about our first dental clinic in my [Heavenmarks](#) blog.



These women are currently participating in a training program that will educate and equip them to run a small business. Once their training is complete in May 2013, and they demonstrate proficiency and prepare a credible business plan, they will receive a small (micro) loan. And they will continue to meet with each other, in accountability, on a weekly basis.

This is the first—of hopefully many groups—of Haiti's newest entrepreneurs!

Steve Edmondson

LATEST UPDATES



It has now been 11 months since 1,700 banana plants were distributed to a few dozen villages on the island. On my most recent trip, it was fun to come across them—now 12, 14, and even 16 feet tall! We could see some of them were even starting to grow fruit. Currently, there are over 1,000 more plants maturing in pots, set for distribution when the Spring rains come.



Our on-island capacity increased significantly this month with the delivery of a 4WD truck. After making its 12-mile ocean voyage out to La Gonave, the truck was immediately put to work transporting equipment, supplies, and personnel across the rugged, mountain roads.

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