



Compassion + Dignity + Hope



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, so he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The young man paused, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man. To this the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

As if he hadn't heard, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he turned, smiled, and said, "Yes, but I just made a big difference to that one!"

– Adapted from *The Star Thrower* by Loren Eiseley

Table of Contents

Annual Report | 2018



Introduction	2
Mission, Values & Leadership	4
Agriculture	6
Education	10
Clean Water	12
Economic Development	14
Community Health	16
Emergency Relief	17
Teams	18
Stats & Financials	19
Ways to Support	20



Our Starfish

Established in 2010, Starfysh was born as a grassroots movement of folks with an audacious notion...that we could, in our lifetime, not only witness the overcoming of desperate poverty and suffering of a people but, more remarkably, might ourselves participate in the drama.

Nothing less than a grand experiment in human compassion, Starfysh asks, "What might happen if a few people and organizations, in gutsy Christian response, came together in synergistic partnerships and collaboration to focus our efforts on an unlikely place and people group? To stay, moving beyond relief and rescue and brief kindnesses to do the harder, sweatier work of development in all its forms? To work to bring the true, lasting transformation that comes when people realize their dignity as image-bearers of their Creator?"

We would choose as our "starfish" the hardest of places. An out-of-the-way, hard-to-get-to place, to work among people hidden from the rest of the world. We would focus on La Gonave.

The Island of La Gonave

They call her La Gonave. Home to 100,000 of the poorest, most beaten down people with whom we share our planet—yet most of the world does not know that she and her people exist. Known as “The Forgotten Haiti,” the island of La Gonave is largely disregarded by her motherland, a place where most people do not have access to close, clean water. A place where meaningful work is nearly non-existent and the ability to hope for a better future has evaporated. Where few children can attend school and where, even for those fortunate enough to attend and complete school, there are no next steps.

Life on La Gonave:

- No running water exists. All water must be fetched from distant sources.
- Water-borne illness/diarrhea is the second leading cause of death.
- Fewer than 10% of families have a household latrine.
- 1 of every 13 children die before their 5th birthday.
- 3 of every 4 children under 5 are malnourished and underweight.
- 1 of every 3 children are infected with intestinal parasites.
- 95% of people do not have access to electricity.
- Fewer than half of people can read.

But La Gonave’s people are beautiful, created in the image of God. They are a people who love their country, for all its flaws. They are smart people, beautiful people, creative people, and industrious people, whose children love to play and sing. They are a resilient people who desire, more than anything, to make a go of it, and who are willing to work hard to pull themselves and their land out of their rotten situation...if only there were a way to do it.



Mission

Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, and by his model of compassionate servanthood, Starfysh exists to demonstrate Christian love and compassion through alleviating physical suffering and addressing social injustice on the island of La Gonave, Haiti. Starfysh's mission is to bring sustainable transformation to an island. With God's help, we will work alongside the people of La Gonave to bring the vicious cycle of their desperate poverty to a screeching halt.

Vision

Our vision is to reverse the vicious cycle of poverty on the island of La Gonave, Haiti. We'll know our vision has been realized when drinking water is clean, food is abundant, and people are able to provide for themselves, thus building dignity and hope for every person, every family, and every village on the island.

The Benchmark: Sustainability

Bold and gutsy claims must be backed by bold and gutsy plans. We must be smart, inventive, innovative. It is a new day. We cannot afford to revisit failed methodologies (i.e. those that have yielded short-lived, unsustainable outcomes.) Sustainability must be the benchmark by which success in our mission (true transformation) is measured. Sustainability must, therefore, be the measure by which all of our methods (policies, projects, budgets, etc.) are assessed. We will make honest, even painful decisions to let go of things that don't yield permanent outcomes. We must pour our energies into outcomes that will outlive Starfysh, surviving and thriving on their own.

Core Values

Driven and guided by the following core values, Starfysh is resolutely committed to implementing long-term, sustainable, and assets-based initiatives to communities on La Gonave. These values frame all of our planning and are central considerations to each project we implement.

Collaboration: We celebrate the fact that we are but one of many in a world of compassionate people and organizations working to relieve suffering and improve life for the desperately poor. We value the importance of partnerships in our efforts to bring about significant, sustainable change, and welcome the expertise and skills that others can bring to the table.

Empowerment: In all we do, we desire that the recipients of our compassion would be encouraged, equipped, and strengthened toward greater levels of self-sufficiency.

Dignity: We recognize that the dignity of individuals and communities can be diminished by indiscriminate and careless charity. In all we do, we demand of ourselves that we build up the worth of those we serve.

Holistic Focus: We choose to pour all our energies into one place, the island of La Gonave, Haiti, and to address as many of the root causes of her poverty that we can. We are convinced that nothing short of such a focused and holistic approach can reverse the cycle of poverty in any one place.

Sustainability: We regard our efforts as successful only to the point that we can see and measure progressively higher levels of independence.

Measurability: We regard seriously our work and so will not let the outcomes of our efforts to go unmeasured. The stakes are too high. Measurements of project impact and effectiveness will be essential learning tools that will sharpen and refine us as we move forward toward our vision.

Guiding Principles

It is possible for development agencies and charities to have harmful consequences in the wake of their well-meant efforts. Indeed, charity efforts in Haiti have demonstrated abundant examples of this truth. Starfysh is always mindful of the harmful consequences that might arise out of the way we conduct ourselves in Haiti and strive hard to avoid the easy fixes and shortcuts that so often characterize the standard operating procedures of relief efforts. In Starfysh's determination to "do no harm," we abide by the following principles...

Buy Local: When possible we will support the local economy through procuring the supplies needed for our projects in Haiti, preferably right here on La Gonave, even at times when the cost of supplies locally is more expensive than if purchased and shipped in from elsewhere.

No Bribes: We reject the practice of paying money for illegal favors.

Assets-Based Approach (not needs-based): Our approach in finding strategic solutions in a community gives priority to that village's assets and strengths over its problems and needs.

Non-Political: We do not take positions on Haitian politics nor do we attempt to influence political discourse.

Christ-Centered Ethos: In all we do (in governance and strategic planning, in how we relate to people, and in our work on the ground in Haiti), our desire is that the love of God, in Jesus, will shine brightly for all to see and that people will be drawn toward a personal relationship with Him.

Board of Directors



Dr. Steve Edmondson

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

POSITION: Family Practice Physician, Sparrow Medical Group
EDUCATION: BS Biology, Indiana Wesleyan University; Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine



Jone Destine

MEMBER AT LARGE

POSITION: Customer Rep., Knape & Vogt Manufacturing Co.
EDUCATION: BBA, Purchasing & Supply Management, Central Michigan University



Brian Dykstra

VICE PRESIDENT

POSITION: Managing Director, Oxford Financial Group
EDUCATION: BBA, Hope College



Daniel Bertrand

MEMBER AT LARGE

POSITION: CEO, La Gonave Wesleyan Hospital
EDUCATION: Engineering, Wesleyan College



Doug Lockhart

TREASURER

POSITION: SVP Bible Marketing and Outreach, HarperCollins Christian Publishing
EDUCATION: BBA, Spring Arbor University; MBA, WMU



Penny Beatty

MEMBER AT LARGE

POSITION: Special Education Teacher, Forest Hills Public Schools
EDUCATION: BA Learning Disabilities/Reading Specialist, Aquinas College; MA Art of Teaching Elementary, Maygrove College



Tim Ulstad

SECRETARY

POSITION: Licensed Counselor, Private Practice
EDUCATION: BS Secondary Education, Spring Arbor University; MA Counseling, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary



Joseph Yves

MEMBER AT LARGE

POSITION: Community Health Education Coordinator
EDUCATION: Education, Wesleyan College



Eli Maxime

MEMBER AT LARGE

POSITION: General Practice Physician, La Gonave Wesleyan Hospital, La Gonave, Haiti
EDUCATION: Lumiere University, Port-au-Prince



Dan Irvine

MEMBER AT LARGE

POSITION: Director of Strategic Engagement, World Hope International
EDUCATION: BA Religious Education, Hope Sound Bible College; MA Leadership, Indiana Wesleyan University



Cherese Gordon

MEMBER AT LARGE

POSITION: Mission Team Leader
EDUCATION: BA Communications, Christian Ministry, Spring Arbor University

Teams Coordinator and Host



Freddy Williams

Formerly a full-time missionary to Haiti, Freddy brings a rich history of cultural understanding and experience, coupled with his gift of hospitality to his role as teams coordinator. Folks interested in visiting our work enjoy working with Freddy to make their visit a rewarding one.

Director of Agriculture



Paul Donn Jean

After earning his BS in Agriculture and MS in Project Design/Development, Paul Donn returned to his birthplace to lead Starfish's efforts to make La Gonave a land of flourishing trees and productive gardens and farms.

Director of Education



Penny Beatty

Penny comes to us with extensive experience in elementary classrooms and with an intense love for the Haitian people. Her passion is to help children realize their potential and prepare them as future leaders in their country, and to raise the excellence of school teachers creating in them a strong sense of calling as teachers of Haiti's future leaders.



Agriculture is essential to the overall development of Haiti. It is important both for individual households and the island's economy.

Agriculture will play a critical role in La Gonave's overall development. Re-establishing the primacy of the family farm must be an emphasis in any thoughtful strategy to bring transformative change to this land. Much is heard about Haiti's ecologically distressed landscape. But in our exploration of La Gonave's 387 square miles, we see great and exciting potential for restoring her land. There are thousands of parcels of fertile ground here, just waiting to be beautiful and productive again. Some say the topsoil is gone, but we disagree. The soil is there. It's just tired and non-productive. It's there, just waiting to flourish again. We believe every one of the 12,000-plus family homes on the island has the potential to grow its own family food, plus some.



Life Garden

The centerpiece of our work on the island has been the creation of Life Garden (Jaden Lavi), a multi-site agriculture research, demonstration, and supply farm, where farmers from across the island come to study methods and solutions to their particular needs, where they can get ideas for new things to grow, and where they can obtain seeds, seedlings, and farming supplies. A place where they will learn about composting, pest control, rainwater harvesting, irrigation, and seed salvage and storage. Where people living on tiny plots of land can learn how they might grow things in their tiny space. Tens of thousands of various fruit, vegetable, and tree seedlings are continually being nurtured at Life Garden, which are daily finding their way to gardens across La Gonave. Starfysh currently has two unique Life Garden campuses, one at sea level and one in the mountains.



Extension

In addition to the the learning that goes on when farmers visit Life Garden, we have found "agriculture by extension" to be an extremely effective model that makes agriculture education widely available to people across the island. Not waiting for them to come to us, we are bringing lessons to villagers who eagerly gather to learn ideas to grow their garden

Farming Economics

Growing food for the family is one thing. Making the family farm a source of income is another. Because our vision is to see families making a living from the things they grow, we believe it will be important to develop supporting infrastructures such as navigable roads, cost-effective sea transportation, and pipelines to international markets. We are currently very excited about the progress we have made toward our vision of exporting La Gonave-grown coffee and moringa to the world market.

Agriculture Goals

A photograph of a row of young trees in a field. The trees have light-colored, textured trunks and green foliage. The background is slightly blurred, showing a palm tree and a clear sky. The text "Agriculture Goals" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.



Ecological Impact

We cannot underestimate the importance of the positive ecologic impact of our work. In addition to the paramount contribution in reducing hunger and providing family incomes, a thriving island agriculture program will go far in improving topsoil, preventing erosion, and protecting underground aquifers. And we believe that the cooling effect of restoring La Gonave to an island full of trees may invite more rains and shorten her dry seasons.



Soil Restoration

Significant progress in agricultural technologies has been made in recent years in the science and practices of soil improvement and restoration. One such advance is in our understanding of the value that “fixed carbon,” aka “biochar,” can play as a permanent remediation to damaged soils. This is exciting to Starfysh because poor, unproductive soil is Haiti’s reality. Research studies have convincingly demonstrated that biochar improves soil as a habitat for beneficial microorganisms, improves soil’s ability to hold minerals essential for vigorous plant growth, improves crop yields, improves water retention, and improves pest resistance. It is even more noteworthy that the improvements that biochar confers on soil is permanent, that its benefits will remain for hundreds of years. Life Garden is demonstrating these claims to visiting farmers at its own biochar garden test site and Starfysh is studying the feasibility of mass producing biochar right here on La Gonave.



Coffee

There was a time in the 1800’s when Haiti was the world’s largest producer/exporter of coffee. We have discovered remnant coffee trees of those days in several villages up in La Gonave’s mountains and have had their beans’ genetic composition tested. We dream: what might be if we could reforest the mountains of La Gonave with hundreds of thousands of coffee trees and someday bring La Gonave-grown coffee to market? Starfysh took bold next-steps toward this vision in 2018 and we have good reason to believe that La Gonavian coffee will hit the export market in the not-too-distant future.



Moringa

There is good reason for the gaining popularity of Moringa on the world stage. Its value as a “superfood” is widely accepted and it commands a hefty price in the global health food market, whether in pill or powder form. Providentially, Moringa grows prolifically on the island of La Gonave and is easy to propagate. Its leaves contain impressive levels of protein, as well as high levels of calcium, iron, and Vitamins A and C. In addition to its nutritional value, Moringa has medicinal properties as well. We are promoting Moringa’s use in Haiti and are integrating it into the feeding programs of our schools. We hope to bring La Gonave’s Moringa to the international market and we are currently awaiting funding to produce a documentary on the benefits of Moringa, a film we will make available to the rest of Haiti.



Farming Supply Market

There currently exists no place on the island of La Gonave where people can go to purchase seeds, plants, or supplies for their farming and gardening needs. The trip across the sea and the journey from there to Port-au-Prince is an expensive, all-day proposition. We plan in 2019 to open a garden supply marketplace on the island, where La Gonavians can purchase the things they need for their farms and gardens.

The education system is broken or non-existent. Preparing the next generation is foundational to Haiti's future.

If the people of La Gonave are to ever rise from their misery permanently, it will not be because of continuous outside help, but because her own people do the raising. Recognizing this, Starfysh has placed a high priority in educating, training, and preparing young men and women to enter the labor force, which will create socioeconomic lift for the island. Starfysh's impact on the island's education system takes place on many levels: elementary education, adult and childhood literacy, continuing teacher education and training, agriculture and business education, health and nutrition education, and English language education.





Elementary Schools

As of the end of 2018, Starfysh supports and oversees four elementary schools, each of which, in addition to classroom education, receive the following support: daily nutritious meals, periodic child health assessments and anti-parasitic medications, books and classroom resources, and yearly teacher training. We require that each family pay a percentage of the tuition for their child to attend, even if that amount is extremely meager. We believe this preserves dignity and elevates the value of the education their child receives. We will continue to add schools as funding allows.



School Sponsors

After several years of working on a sustainable model for school sponsorship, we are now able to offer a way for individuals or groups to sponsor an entire school in a village that does not have one, making it possible for one or two hundred kids to attend school who would otherwise never have that chance. In addition, sponsoring a school spins off several other significant benefits: employment and ongoing training for 9-10 teachers, nutritious daily meals for children, and economic lift for the village.



School Meals

Kids can't learn if they're hungry or sick. Daily meals of Haitian-rice-and-beans, supplemented with moringa, locally baked bread, or vegetables from the school garden ensure that the children grow healthy, strong, and alert. The daily meals are prepared on site, often by parents of one or two of the students.



Teacher Training

Our strong desire for our school teachers is that they would feel strongly called to the important and lifelong position they have as educators of Haiti's next generation of leaders, and that this calling would create in them a passion for learning themselves. We are starting to see signs of such passion, as evidenced by the the popularity of our yearly teacher training seminars.



Life Skills Education

Acknowledging that the vast majority of kids graduating from school in Haiti will not be able to advance to college-level education, nor will they have a job waiting for them when they get out of school, it is important that we equip our students with practical life skills that will help them thrive when their education years come to an end. Such life skills include agriculture, trade, and basic business economics. We are currently working on a model to integrate agriculture into the classroom (and outdoor gardens) of our schools.



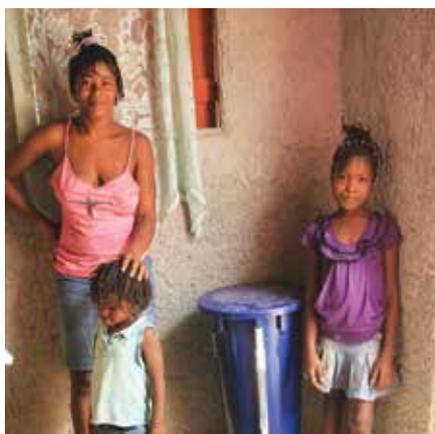


Most people walk miles to get water, and the water they bring back is usually contaminated.

Sadly, the vast majority of the 100,000 people who call La Gonave home do not have access to clean water. Wells from days-gone-by are broken, and most spring water sources are contaminated with disease-causing microorganisms. Most people on the island must walk long distances to get their water, and the water they do bring back to their families is dirty. Water-borne illness is endemic, typhoid fever among the most common. Cholera still looms like a threatening shadow, and one-third of all children are infected with intestinal parasites.

Making dire matters worse, great time and energy is expended in fetching water back to the home, a daily chore that cuts severely into time that could be spent in attending school, working the family farm or family business.

In a land where diarrheal illness from contaminated water is the second leading cause of death and disease, and where most families spend great segments of their days fetching water for their homes, our vision is to see that every home has access to close, clean water.



Home Water Filters

Water can be made safe to drink in many ways, but we have found biosand water filtration to be the most well-suited for the unique living environment for most families scattered across the mountainous terrain of La Gonave. The filters are relatively inexpensive, easy to install, require no electricity, and will easily last ten years or more. To date, we have installed over 2,000 such filters in homes. As a result, eight villages can boast that every home has a filter. Our follow up visits continue to show that families in these eight villages continue to use their filters daily and that the cases of diarrheal illness have dropped dramatically. Our vision is to see that every home in every village has its own water filter.



Rainwater Harvesting

Fact is, La Gonave is blessed with an abundance of water. Six to ten feet of rain falls on La Gonave every year. Each year, 6-10,000 gallons of fresh, free water lands on every tiny, 12' x 12' home, water that, if it were captured and stored, could be used for crops and animals and bathing and cooking, more than enough water to supply every farm and garden through La Gonave's yearly 4-month "dry season." The first phase of our vision is to see every large rooftop on the island—every church, every school—capturing and storing as much water as possible for their communities' use.



Village Wells

It is sad to us that many communities on the island of La Gonave do not have a village well, which means that family members, often women and children, must walk many miles every day to fetch water. In our visits to many villages on the island, we frequently run across old, non-functioning wells whose communities do not have the resources to maintain them. Our vision is that every village would have its own functioning, self-sustained well, and that each village would be permanently independent of the need for outside help.





People have few opportunities to express their ethic of hard work and creativity. They want so badly to lift themselves out of poverty.

The degree to which true success in bringing transformational development to La Gonave must be measured by how well our efforts can be sustained without the need for continued propping up. Truth is, La Gonave has a nearly nonexistent economic engine, with very few goods or services being produced that could provide economic lift by bringing dollars to the island. The small businesses that do exist are small street vendors who often sell merchandise imported from Haiti's mainland. A few larger businesses do exist (e.g., casket-makers, cinderblock-makers, etc.), but even these businesses have La Gonave as their only market. Not counting dollars brought in by foreign charities, the vast majority of La Gonave's currency flows away from the island. Sequestered by the sea, La Gonave is on her own.

The degree to which our efforts begin to thrive on their own will depend on the extent to which we are successful at building La Gonave's local economic capacity. To that end, it is essential that we birth and stimulate village economies that will enable the communities to carry on without the need for continued outside funding. If the island is to prosper permanently it will only be because she prospers from the inside out, not vice-versa.

As we work to help La Gonave create its own endogenous island economy, it is not lost on us that the economy that our own presence here generates is significant. By the end of 2018 our schools and project efforts were providing full-time employment for dozens of islanders. Improved crop yields will serve to generate thousands of transactions at the local market. These transactions, then, will give rise to thousands more transactions as business profits are passed along in the marketplace. In addition, the food and supply purchases and temporary labor hires that we make here serve to infuse significant dollars into the La Gonave economy.

This said, our desire is to see an island economy that will emerge and grow, apart from the economy that Staryfish or any other outside development agency or charity might bring. In this, now our eighth year of development work here on the island, we see exciting possibilities that a true, endogenous economic lift may be just around the corner, and that it will come in the form of agricultural export.



58% of Haiti's population is undernourished. Diarrheal illness claims more lives than nearly every other disease. Most have never seen a doctor.

Any thoughtful approach at improving population health must not ignore that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Dollar-for-dollar, day’s-work-for-day’s-work, the energies and resources invested in community health education do more to save lives, improve life expectancy, and improve overall health than do the more popular curative-approach medical efforts. And, while we must in Christian compassion treat the sick that present to us, Starfish’s emphasis is to pour more energy into proactively preventing them from getting sick in the first place. To be sure, there are innumerable opportunities for visiting medical- and dental-treatment teams and we can certainly put them to work in the far reaches of the island where doctors and dentists have not been. Day-to-day, however, we are taking our message to these uttermost villages, educating people with practical lessons on how to be healthy (e.g., healthy habits, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, etc.).



Latrines

Nationwide, only one in ten households in Haiti has a family latrine, a statistic that helps to explain Haiti’s high rate of diarrheal illness. Our vision is to establish La Gonave as a bright, shining exception to this statistic for the rest of Haiti to see. Our model for achieving the goal of a latrine for every home is by providing the family with the cement necessary to construct a pit cap and stool, if they first dig their latrine pits to our specifications. The people here have been extremely receptive to this deal. We are thrilled that ten villages on the island can boast that 100% of their homes have family latrines. At any given time we have 100+ families who have dug their pits and are waiting for cement.



Our dream is to be the resource for emergency medical relief and human rescue on the Island of La Gonave, Haiti.

Our primary work is in the area of bringing transformational development to the island. This is where we devote the bulk of our energies and resources. It is no secret, however, that Haiti experiences more than its fair share of natural disasters, and we want to be able to shift into relief and rescue mode when the need arises. And, while we cannot prevent hurricanes and earthquakes, we want to be ready to respond quickly and in force when the call comes. We are building capacity to respond (manpower, transportation, supplies) should disaster visit La Gonave.





Teamwork

One of the great delights in our work is receiving and hosting the many guests that come down to visit and participate in our work throughout the course of the year. Fully aware of the tremendous impact on a person's life that working among the poor can have, we work hard to make sure that our guests' experiences here are deeply meaningful. For teams wishing to work, we try to be shovel-ready. For folks wanting to simply explore what it is we do, we'll give the "grand tour."

Regardless what brings them here and what they do while they're with us, our simple desire is that they will return home with fresh eyes for what God is doing on an obscure, precious little island and for how He might be speaking to their own hearts.



Growth & Progress



Non-Government Organization Status

Fewer than one-in-ten charity organizations in Haiti are officially regarded by the Haitian government as a Non-Government Organization (NGO). We determined at the outset that we would pursue this designation. It was not until late 2018, after an arduous four year application process, that our application finally navigated its way through all three government departments and Starfysh became Haiti's newest NGO. We are, of course, very proud of this designation and excited for the difference it will make, moving forward, in our effectiveness for change on the island of La Gonave.



Guidestar Gold Seal of Transparency

In 2018, Starfysh was awarded the "Gold Seal of Transparency" by Guidestar. Guidestar gathers, organizes, and distributes information about US nonprofit organizations which is made available to potential partners and donors.



Employees

Here at the end of 2018, Starfysh project activities provide full time employment to 58 Haitians on the island of La Gonave. In addition, we provide frequent project contract jobs throughout the course of the year. Starfysh currently has no paid staff in the US.

Facts, Metrics, Statistics, etc.

As of the end of 2018

- 2,022 homes have received water purifying filters.
- 494 students are attending Starfysh schools.
- 8 villages could boast that 100% of all its homes had water purifying filters.
- 263 families built new latrines during the year.
- 10 villages could boast that 100% of every home had a family latrine.
- 58 islanders are employed full-time as a result of Starfysh project initiatives.
- 1,984 families had been visited by a community health educator during the year.
- We surpassed seeing the 12,250th tree planted on the island since opening Life Garden.

Financials

Fiscal year 2017-18

- Total gifts = \$324,924.25
- Administration and fundraising = \$28,194.95
- % A&F = 8.7%

The cost of producing and mailing this report is a gift, underwritten by partners who believe in our vision. This gift makes it possible for us to keep administrative costs low and channel the vast majority of gifts toward ministry.

Starfysh's fully-disclosed financial information (IRS Form 990) can be viewed at:

- [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) (EIN 27-1976856)
- [guidestar.org](https://www.guidestar.org)

Join Us



Sponsor A Project

Many people and groups are looking for a need or a project that they can underwrite or sponsor. We are always looking for folks who want to target their gift in a meaningful way. The categories are diverse, the opportunities... many! In researching a specific project to get behind, our website is a good place to start. At the time of this document's printing we are looking for people to invest in the following project areas:

Moringa Documentary

Help get the news out to all of Haiti on the nutritious potential of this tree that grows well in Haiti's soil and climate.

Schools

Sponsor a school in a rural village and make it possible for kids in a rural village to get an education, eat a nutritious meal every day, and provide employment to ten teachers. Typically 100-150 students, 9-10 teachers per school.

Agriculture

Underwrite Starfysh's next shipment of fruit trees and banana plants to the island.

Water Filters

Provide the life-giving gift of clean water for a family or an entire village.

Island Business

Underwrite the start-up costs of opening an island farm-and-garden store in Spring, 2019.

Coffee

Provide start-up funds for launching a bold initiative for establishing an export-scale coffee crop on the island with a model of fair trade compensation for coffee farmers and 100% of profits directed back to island agriculture initiatives.

Ways To Support

Pray

"Lest the Lord builds the house, they who labor, labor in vain." Truth is, we have made bold steps of faith, so bold that, unless God shows up, we will certainly fall short of seeing our vision come to reality. Pray not only for Starfysh and for project successes, but also for the the people of La Gonave, that they would experience God's mercy and kindness through our presence and our work.

Give

Gifts come in many forms. Small gifts. Large gifts. Checks in the mail. Online, automatic monthly credit card and bank debit gifts. As we have seen, God brings them all together for enormous combined impact. If you would like to explore more giving options, such as estate planning, etc., please contact us.

Visit

Consider a visit! We'd love to host you or your group. We'll meet you at the airport and get you back to the airport and will cover the bases for everything in between. Whether you come just to explore or to help, or a little of both, we're sure you will return home energized and with eyes-wide-open to the great God-given potential of the island of La Gonave.

Share

It is fun and exciting to us when we see people who believe in our work do out-of-the-box things to share our story and raise funds for a project that touches their hearts. Garage sales, sponsored walks and runs, selling t-shirts or hand-made crafts. Picnics and horseshoes, ping-pong and bowling. Fun ways to get our message out about the real-life drama taking place on a little Caribbean island.



starfysh.org

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