



Mission MOMENTS

NEIGHBORHOODS

When we think of our neighborhoods, we may think of block parties, garage sales, pool parties and children playing in front lawns. We may even think of homeowners' associations.

But did you ever think that a neighborhood could save a life?

You made it happen in Haiti.

In a number of small towns in Haiti, your support helps cooperatives. These are groups of neighbors and community members who unite to accomplish together what none of them could do alone. They work on shared services, like improving roads and building bakeries. More importantly, these cooperatives become banking units that give out low-interest loans to members.

Without the cooperatives, families in need have to borrow money from wealthy landowners who charge huge interest rates. Think about the interest rate that you have on your mortgage. Or your car loan. How much is it? In Haiti, some of these rates were as high as 25 percent.

It was one of these low-interest microloans that saved a life.

Marcel is a member of a cooperative called KABM. When his pregnant wife went into labor, the couple traveled to a nearby town for the birth. They couldn't afford to pay for the medical services, so they were being transferred from place to place without care. Marcel's wife had complications while she was in labor, and she needed urgent care.



Marcel Photo: CWS

Marcel called KABM, and they gave him a low interest loan to help cover the costs of the care his wife needed. When he was telling this story, Marcel said, "It saved her life, it saved our family, and without her I wouldn't have been able to care for our kids."

We're urged in John's first letter: "let us love...in truth and action" and by supporting KABM, you did just that by helping ensure that Marcel could obtain the same support that you would want for your own family.

When this family needed help, you were here. You are here when a cooperative builds a new school to empower the next generation. You were here when a vegetable nursery that a cooperative built had to be expanded three times to keep up with its flourishing production. You are with the people in small towns across Haiti's Northwest Department as THEY build the future that they deserve.

Thanks for being here. Thanks for being a good neighbor.