

Project: Fair Trade sales/ Microlending bank

Category: Environmental Justice

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UUC Economic Justice Group (EJG) is in its third year (2008) of holiday sales of Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate as well as Chinook Books. This year's goal is to raise at least \$5,000 for a microlending bank in Haiti. This is the third EJG fundraising campaign to raise funds for a microlending bank. UUC works with a non-profit group in Washington, DC, FINCA, who sets up microlending banks around the world. Last year, UUC's fundraising created the Femn Devwe ("Dynamic Women") Village Bank in Les Cayes, Haiti, which made initial loans of \$115 to \$465 that allowed 23 women to start or expand businesses ranging from food to furniture-making. In 2008 (along with Valentine's sales in 2009), we raised enough funds to set up another microlending bank in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. All of the coffee, tea, chocolate, and cocoa sold is Fair Trade Certified™. Fair Trade Certified™ means that farmers are paid a fair wage, and that producers invest in their farms, communities, and environmental protection. This year we are also emphasizing buying from local businesses in Seattle by selling Pura Vida Coffee and Theo's Chocolates. The Pura Vida coffee is roasted from organic coffee beans that are shade-grown among forest trees, less damaging to bird habitat and resulting in more complex flavor. The tea and cocoa come from Equal Exchange, a Massachusetts business specializing in fair trade coffee, tea, and cocoa.

