



VILLAGE PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL

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partnering to help people help themselves

VILLAGERS AND VPI CELEBRATE ONE YEAR CLINIC ANNIVERSARY

In May 2010 the Robert H. Cooley pediatric clinic opened its doors to all villagers in and around Papoli, Uganda. No longer would disadvantaged children and children with AIDS in this area have to suffer without proper care. Within a very short period of time the clinic was operating at a level far above the original assumed capacity. After one full year of operation, the villagers were anxious to celebrate this blessing that has changed the lives of many children and their families. The recent trip by Village Partners representatives provided the villagers with that opportunity.

Rev. John DeBevoise, Sylvia Campbell and Deirdre Johnson with the VPI Board along with Paul Clark and Jay Jester with the Advisory Council recently returned from a relationship building and assessment trip to Uganda. Also present on the trip were Shauna and Lynn Peterson from Profiles In Caring. Shauna and Lynn were there to do a follow up documentary on the work being done in Papoli.

The highlight of the trip was a celebration of the successful one-year operation of the Robert Cooley Pediatric Clinic. About 1,500 villagers from far and wide joined them that day to celebrate the health, care and hope the Robert Cooley Pediatric Clinic has brought to the area.

The trip was a strong success on many fronts but most importantly it gave the team the opportunity to meet the staff and experience firsthand the wonderful work being performed at the clinic. The entire team was moved by the loving care being provided at the clinic and the overwhelming gratitude expressed by the villagers. Paul Clark stated "They smile, they laugh, they return to their homes happier for being cared for and cared about. This love that is shown and the boost to the individual spirit are infectious. It is passed on to siblings and

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even to adults whose own dire situations are made more hopeful by the bits of joy and happiness they see in the children." God continues His work in Papoli, Uganda.

The success of the pediatric clinic has shown the great need for care for the rest of the population in this community. We are currently raising funds to build an out-patient facility to care for the widows, elderly and sick adults that live here. Please consider helping with a donation to allow these people who have such great need to receive basic health care.



Rev. John DeBevoise helps feed the children at the clinic

USF Students Travel to Papoli

A team of five students in the masters program at the University of South Florida College of Public Health traveled to Papoli, Uganda. Collectively, the team engaged in a collaborative effort with community members to assess public health needs and build a lasting partnership within Papoli. They spent a total of eight weeks collecting baseline data, as well as conducting health promotion and awareness programs on topics like malaria, water and sanitation, nutrition, and child and maternal health. First, the team engaged in countless meetings with community leaders to be sure the work they were conducting was a collaborative effort and community members were involved in all decision making. Their guides and community leaders provided them with information about crop production, malaria breeding grounds, water sources, boundaries of each of the zones, and leadership structure. Then the students visited 140 different households collecting information such as food insecurity, water and sanitation, malaria prevention, socioeconomic status, mental health and access to healthcare. They also examined many children under the age of five to determine the level of malnutrition in that age group. The information collected in surveys, focus groups, key



USF Students with Clinic Patients

informant interviews, and observations was used to conduct workshops for the village leaders on subjects such as malaria prevention techniques, nutritionally balanced meals using locally available food, and proliferation and use of a particular dietary supplement to combat protein and micronutrient deficiencies. The leaders were given the training and tools necessary for them to disseminate the information to all villagers. In eight weeks, these students built lasting relationships with the people of Papoli, as well as established the start of a promising partnership with Papoli village.

Clinic Outreach Initiatives

Lydia Nyachwo and Mary Nyawere are nursing assistants at the Robert Cooley Pediatric Clinic. Lydia and Mary not only provide care to patients at the clinic but are also involved in an outreach program designed to improve the overall health of the children in and around the Papoli village. They visit villagers on a regular basis to observe the living conditions of families and assess the level of hygiene and healthy living practices being observed by the family units.



An aged widow peers out the door of her home

If the nurses, upon reviewing a family's situation, found that good hygiene and nutrition practices were not being observed, they would explain the importance of maintaining healthy living conditions and make recommendations on how to accomplish that. These nursing assistants also made presentations to several of the primary schools in the area about proper health and hygiene practices in and away from the home.

Before the Robert Cooley clinic was built, most caregivers did not have their children inoculated for the six killer diseases in the area. They said that the clinics were too far to travel and in many cases would not have immunizations available. Now, thanks to the Cooley Clinic and encouragement by the Nursing assistant, families are starting to take their children to the clinic to complete the series of immunizations needed to protect them from these diseases.



*He ain't heavy. He's my brother
Two patients at the Robert Cooley Clinic*

-- HAITI --

A LIFELINE IS BROKEN

Help is needed NOW

The village of Mombin Crochu, Haiti suffered the loss of two villagers whose lives could possibly have been saved, had the resources been available. A mother and her child died because there was no transportation to take them over the long rough road to a more advanced health care facility that could have saved their lives. A few years ago Covenant Hospital Network provided the small hospital in Mombin Crochu with a used but sturdy vehicle that was designed to withstand the beating caused by the horrible terrain that serves as roads between the village and larger cities. That vehicle has recently required extensive and costly repairs and has now reached a point where the cost of needed repairs far exceeds the value of the vehicle. That vehicle has been the villagers' lifeline for food, and supplies, and has served as an ambulance in times of need. The village is now in desperate need of another vehicle as soon as possible to allow these services to continue. The cost of a good used vehicle that will hold up to the rugged terrain will be about \$20,000. We are currently trying to raise these funds as quickly as possible to provide this. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of a reliable vehicle for the village of Mombin Crochu, visit our website at www.villagepartnersinternational.org, click on current work then on Mombin Crochu Vehicle or send your check designated for Mombin vehicle to VPI, 217 S Mantanzas Ave, Tampa, FL 33609. VPI, CHN, and the people of Mimbin Crochu, Haiti greatly appreciate your support.

Mombim Crochu Feeding Program:

Father Sylvain Bakanda Nyoy, coordinator for our Food for Life feeding program in the village of Mombim Crochu, Haiti reports that the program is going well. The families under the program are receiving more food than the meager amount they have been forced to live on for quite some time.

Ten needy families with a total of ninety family members are happy and very thankful for the food they have received. Although the need for food is great throughout the area, the funds available for the program at this time necessitated choosing the families that were most in need. Fr. Sylvain visits the families on a regular basis to see how they are doing and delivers the food to them. Here are two accounts of his visits.

Jean Baptiste Idoinise is the sole provider of her seven children as well as her aged, blind mother and a long time friend. Fr. Sylvain stated that he arrived one morning unannounced with a supply of food. Little nine-year old Patrick could not hide his surprise to see for the very first time an entire sack of rice at their home. He expressed this by saying “father, it is the first time in my life to see my mother bring an entire sack of rice for the family.” His face was full of joy.

Mister Joseph Marat and his wife have ten children. The youngest two children were suffering from extreme malnutrition. Thanks to the feeding program, their condition has now improved. Joseph was emotional when he said to me “Father, without the food assistance from the feeding program I would have lost these two kids of mine”.



Joseph Marat and some of his family

Fr. Sylvain said that he receives much joy from his work with the feeding program, especially when he sees sights like a child kissing a sack of rice. We hope to be able to expand the Food for Life program so other needy families can receive this blessing of life.

We're on the Web!

Please visit us at:

www.VillagePartnersInternational.org