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# VILLAGE PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL

*partnering to help people help themselves*



## Our Mission

Village Partners International seeks to develop and enhance communities with profound need.

Through partnership we seek to strengthen their medical, educational and material resources.

In partnership we respect their histories, acknowledge their abilities, and honor their dignity.

By partnering our gifts are strengthened by their gifts.

We are seeking to help make the world a stronger community by sharing God's love one village at a time.

## VPI is Awarded \$10,000 Grant from GoodTube

VPI has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from GoodTube based upon Michael Crandall's creativity and amazing video along with the hard work and grant writing skills of VPI's Elizabeth Helfert.

GoodTube is a nonprofit video site devoted to sharing stories about the charitable world. It is a place for nonprofits to raise awareness about what they do, and to help them raise money through video contests and grants. Village Partners International submitted a video and grant application for the GoodTube Spring Video Grant Competition. Requirements included creating a short (5 minutes or less) video to portray your nonprofit's mission and need for the grant funding, as well as a written grant proposal. It is with grateful heart that VPI shares this wonderful news... We feel incredibly blessed that GoodTube believes in our mission and has selected us! Thank you GoodTube!

### **Our video can be viewed at...**

<http://www.goodtube.org/ViewVideos/TabId/65/Videoid/489/Papoli-Partnership.aspx>

This grant rewards not only VPI's work, but also PACODEF and the village of Papoli for the continued good work. This is an affirmation that what we are trying to do, and how we are partnering with other villages to do it, is something that absolutely will grow into tomorrow's tomorrow. And that is truly what we are here to do – to help others reach the hope.



## Save the Date!!!

Village Partners International Celebration...

Come join us **October 13, 2012 6-9PM**

Details to come!

### What a Wonderful Way to Celebrate Life!!!

We want you to help us celebrate the work that has been done and the wonderful plans for the future.

The Robert H. Cooley Pediatric clinic has changed the world for the children in and around the village of Papoli, Uganda and given them hope, and life, and the gift of living each day. Come join us as we continue to expand our work in Papoli and expand our medical care to reach the vulnerable, widows and elderly that God has connected us with in that area. As we raise our glasses together to raise funds for the Out Patient Clinic, we are celebrating the love that has been shared so with us.

Village Partners International has been involved in a multitude of field projects aimed at empowering people to help themselves in both Haiti and Uganda. Each project participates and communicates the community's ideas. Initiatives come from inside the community: local solutions specific to their traditions, climate, region and culture. The locals usually start small, develop a community plan of action and give their total commitment to the process. VPI has only helped by providing funding, guidance, strategies for implementing the action plan and tools for self help. To continue empowering the great people of Haiti and Uganda, VPI will be having a **Wine Tasting Event on Saturday, October 13th 6-9 pm**. Come join the celebration and help to build a clinic of healing for those in such desperate need. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned to our website, Facebook page and emails for details. We thank everyone for your continued interest and support in the work God has given us the opportunity to be a part of.

**GOD'S MERCY ENDURES FOREVER; WHAT A GIFT TO BE PART OF IT!!!**



## PAPOLI, UGANDA



### It's Almost a Reality!! Staff Housing for the Robert H. Cooley Pediatric Clinic

The Robert Cooley Pediatric Daycare Clinic is at an advanced stage of constructing a staff house that will take care of four staff members. As of now, the nurses and caregivers reside far off, some in Tororo town 10 miles away. This has been a big setback in our work at the Clinic.

The Pediatric Daycare Center opened its doors to children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS in Papoli village and its neighborhood well over two years offering the basics in nutrition, medicinal, hygiene and childcare.

The center on daily basis takes care of 45 to 125 kids from Papoli village with a population of about 4,872 people, being 52% female and 48% male; and kids beyond Papoli who come over for the special treatment and feeding that the Robert Cooley Center has become well known for. Kids of varying ages daily start arriving at the Center around 9:00am in different ways with the majority coming on their own after being escorted by mothers, siblings and or caregivers. The very weak ones are brought to the center and often the caregivers watch over and support the Center staff in feeding those children the whole day. The services of this daycare center include specialized nutritious feeding of malnourished kids, deworming, treatment of malaria and other common diseases, washing, bathing, shaving and cutting finger nails, play time and socialization among many. The Center operates outreach services, whereby the nurses follow up kids in the villages at their homes, identifying malnourished ones and impressing upon the parents/caregivers to bring them to the daycare center. The nurses have programs for

training the mothers and caregivers in best ways of taking care of the kids, feeding, etc. The home-based care practice has enabled us to reduce congestion at the center and also help instill among parents knowledge of caring for the kids.

The construction of the staff house, 4 in 1, is at advanced stage. The walls and roof are complete and work is in progress, plastering the house walls. The staff is excited about it and are already tendering applications for allocation of the apartments. This staff house, when completed and occupied by our staff, will have many positive effects. The staff will be readily available to handle health related emergencies in the village, which occur often, and villagers have often had very rough experiences on this. The staff too will save on their salaries that they have been using to transport daily. The outpatient clinic in the offing will have met the requirements of licensing to operate fully for we will have staff fulltime.

The community members and staff remain so grateful to Village Partners International for all the support and assistance rendered to our villagers, who continuously struggle to secure what is basic to improve upon their lives and others.



Written by: Samali Nyabeli  
Counselor/Community  
Development Facilitator/PA  
*(A graduate of the Papoli Scholarship  
program, who returned to her village to  
use her professional skills to help her  
people)*

## Pennies for Papoli = Children Helping Children

Written By: Linda Boza (Teacher at St. Mary's Episcopal Day School)

### What is Pennies for Papoli?

For one school in Tampa, Florida, Pennies for Papoli is an annual learning experience in which children are helping children across the continents. Every May, the seventh grade Introduction to Human Geography classes at St. Mary's Episcopal Day School in Tampa sponsor a two week, school-wide Pennies for Papoli Drive with the purpose of raising money for the Robert H. Cooley Pediatric Clinic in Papoli, Uganda. The Cooley Clinic was built and is maintained by Village Partners International. In the past, the pennies drive supported digging a well and other projects, but presently the money helps pay for daily food and medicine for the children in the clinic.

### Why are students involved in this project?

The seventh grade St. Mary's students are studying the impact of environment, culture, and human interactions on populations of people. Their case study of Papoli comes alive and personal during the penny campaign. They learn of the devastating impact of the AIDS epidemic in Africa and of the importance of clean water. They find out that there are thousands of orphans in the Papoli area due to many parents dying of AIDS. They discover that clean water can change the health and safety of an entire community. They realize that healthy, educated children can prevent the spread of disease and can become contributing community leaders. They hear the story of how a very ill 15-year old Martha Kawala of Papoli contacted Dr. Sylvia Campbell of Tampa for medical help. From that event a partnership of communities was bonded between the village of Papoli and other members of Village Partners International. They know that the Papoli villagers handmade the bricks for the clinic and that they, mere seventh graders, will personally become partners by helping provide the food and medicine. Armed with this knowledge and the resolve that each person can make a difference, the students are inspired to lead their schoolmates into action.



### How do they motivate their school community?

Educate – Coach – Reward is the formula to success in the Pennies for Papoli drive.

- To educate the other grade levels about Papoli, the seventh graders make a presentation in the weekly school assembly. They follow that with announcements on the in-school TV morning show and a letter to families, but the most effective technique is the homeroom coaches.
- Several seventh graders are assigned to coach a particular homeroom. They distribute stickers for penny containers to that homeroom and explain to the students that they have the opportunity to help the children of Papoli grow up to be healthy and productive. They coach the students on ways to find and raise pennies, quarters, and dollars with a variety of methods such as looking under the sofa pillows, doing extra chores, and sharing birthday money. The coaches get the homerooms fired up!
- To spark interest with friendly competition, the seventh graders provide a special Papoli Play Time reward to the grade that raises the most money. It is like a mini field day and includes activities such as a water balloon toss, relays, and a stick ball game played with balls made by children in Papoli. Interestingly, Papoli had its own competition. The village elders assigned each sector of the community a number of bricks to make for the clinic and the sector that completed them first was awarded a goat to roast for Christmas. It seems that friendly competition is a motivator in many cultures.

## Pennies for Papoli = Children Helping Children

### How is Pennies for Papoli more than raising money?

In addition to sending money to support the needs of the clinic, the St. Mary's students always complete a project to send to the students at the school in Papoli. Students in Uganda learn English at school so that they may pursue higher education and to increase their employment opportunities. The projects are designed to encourage the Papoli pupils to practice English skills. One year the St. Mary's students created simple game instruction booklets such as describing how to play hopscotch, complete with instructional photos. When a group from Tampa visited Papoli, they brought back balls the Papoli students handmade for the St. Mary's students and a video of the students singing and playing sports. The Tampa students were impressed with the barefoot soccer skills of the Papoli counterparts and were surprised how much they have in common. In 2012, the St. Mary's students produced personally decorated song sheets for a variety of fun songs, such as The Wheels on the Bus, and made a video of the Tampa students singing the tunes. The school in Papoli has a computer to show the video. All of the projects must be lightweight as they will be personally carried to Papoli by the next visitor from Tampa. The students feel the very personal connection across the continents.



### What were the results?

The 2012 drive was a huge success with \$3,395.84 raised. Now that is a chunk of change! Thankfully, the local Publix grocery store generously counted the coins at no charge. Dr. Sylvia Campbell of the Village Partners International Board of Directors complimented St. Mary's efforts and said, "Their love and help will purchase food and medication for children who are sick and hurting in a country far away, and bring hope and love to their hearts."

### What's next?

The St. Mary's school motto is "Learn-Love-Lead." Hopefully, what the students learn and the love and compassion they show in their Pennies for Papoli drive will lead and inspire other schools to make a difference by taking on their own Pennies for Papoli drive.

# MOMBIN CROCHU, HAITI

## Bio on Dr. Miles Cherenfant



Dr. Miles Cherenfant is 32 years old and was born in Mombin-Crochu, Haiti. His mother and father as well as one of his six sisters live in Mombin; four live in Port-au-Prince and one in Cap-Haitian. He attended primary school in Mombin-crochu and completed secondary school and high school in Port-au-Prince.

Miles studied medicine in Cuba and said it was a big experience to study medicine there. His dream was to become a doctor and return to Mombin-Crochu to help his fellow villagers. Miles is very proud to be a doctor, especially since it gives him the pleasure of attending to and caring for the people of Mombin-Crochu. After graduation in Cuba, Miles returned to Mombin-Crochu to perform his required residency and then decided to stay on in Mombin to live his dream.

Miles Cherenfant is currently director of the medical center in Mombin-Crochu. Miles stated, "I work a lot just for getting great results. In Haiti so many doctors don't want to work far from the capital (Port-au-prince). They prefer to stay in Port-au-Prince or Cap-Haitian to work because in so many areas like Mombin-Crochu the conditions are very bad. Me personally, I prefer to stay just for helping support my community. As you know, Mombin-Crochu has a lot of problems. I only can't do small things but with the support of everyone we can do great things."

## Together We Can

Written By: Dr. Miles Cherenfant

Together we can do great things and together we can help people. Step by step we can get great results.

As you can see, in the very little time, moringa project in Mombin-crochu is making a lot of progress.

It truly is a miracle tree. This tree will help so many people in the community with malnutrition

The Covenant Hospital staff, continue to work on the project; we plan to cultivate five additional nurseries within the community. The first nursery is progressing well. In a few days we will deliver to the people the plants for transplanting.

Together with your support and the support of others, we will continue to do great things.

A special thanks to Village Partners International for everything  
Nothing is impossible... together with the support and courage of everyone  
We Can Do Great Things.

“We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” -- Mother Theresa

