



VILLAGE PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL

partnering to help people help themselves



Village Partners International's Hopes & Dreams for 2013

Written by: Dr. Sylvia Campbell

Our Mission

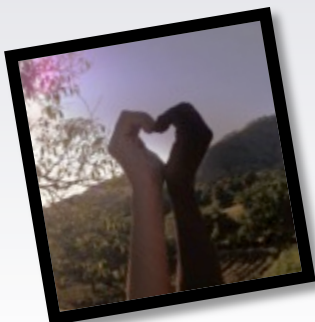
Village Partners International seeks to develop and enhance communities with profound need.

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.



“A dream is a wish your heart makes, when you're fast asleep...” these are words from the Disney song in the children's movie Cinderella that seem to ring so true, each day, as the dreams of our heart make themselves known. For we all have hopes and dreams... sometimes they seem impossible, but without the dreaming, they will never become reality.

Our hopes and dreams at VPI expand each day, each month, each year, as God opens new doors to us.

Our current hope for 2013, as we are privileged to continue working with amazing people in Haiti and Uganda, are as follows:

In Mombin Crochu, Haiti

1. Repair the building that houses the small hospital in this city. Built in the 1980's it has had minimal maintenance and is in great need of work. The roofs are leaking, there is mold and standing water in many of the storage areas, and the electrical wiring needs to be redone. Many of the outlets do not work, and lighting is poor. Following the repairs of these, and many other items on the property, it is hoped that routine maintenance teams can be sent to help and encourage the people in the village.
2. Continue supporting the pharmacy and laboratory with the much-needed supplies.
3. Purchase new tires for the truck so that it can tolerate the terrain of the mountain roads.
4. Purchase fencing for the area where the cholera patients are kept, to prevent children from entering the compound.
5. Support a mobile clinic to travel to the outlying rugged mountain areas, where no medical care is available.

Hopes & Dreams Continued...

6. Expand medical teams to travel to the hospital to teach and care for the people there.
7. Continue the support of "The Moringa Project".

In Papoli, Uganda:

1. Continue support and maintenance of the Pediatric Clinic and the soon to be completed Adult Outpatient Clinic.
2. Increase and expand Public Health Outreach and education
3. Encourage mechanisms of sustainability
4. Expand The Moringa Project to improve nutrition
5. Begin ideas for the ultimate goal of building a hospital in the next decade.

These goals are dreams that we hope to achieve, and in so doing, expand God's love to those who walk this earth beside us. For All Things Are Possible with God.

October Fundraising Celebration

Written by: Elizabeth Blakley

On Saturday October 13, 2012, Village Partners International friends, family and supporters gathered at the beautiful home of Dr. Ron & Blair O'Neal for a fundraising celebration to praise all the good work we have been blessed to be a part of and continue to be a part of benefiting the great people of Haiti and Uganda. The event was a huge success; it provided a venue to update current supporters on our recent endeavors and gain the interest of many new supporters.

The event featured tables that displayed Village Partners International t-shirts donated to us by C1 Bank, small moringa seedlings carefully grown by Dr. Campbell, beautiful hand-crafted Ugandan paper bead necklaces, hand painted batiks, and various other Haitian and Ugandan crafts available to guests for a small donation. Photogenica kindly donated a photo booth for our guests to share goofy pictures with friends to remember the evening by. Ron Salzman volunteered his time to be the voice of the evening and conduct a live auction of several wonderful donated items. Jim Larkin and his team provided a delicious variety of hor d'oeuvres to our guests. We were also fortunate to have Emmanuel, Martha and Samali, three of our Ugandan partners join us in this joyous evening.

The love and support that was poured out was more than we could have dreamed. We are proud to announce we have raised the funds to build the Outpatient Clinic in Papoli, Uganda and continue our work in Mombin Crochu, Haiti. Those who were able to share this evening with us, thank you for your interest and being a part of what we do.



PAPOLI, UGANDA



Christmas in Africa

Written by: Dr. Sylvia Campbell

Christmas is a time of reflection, anticipation, and gratitude for all that we have been given. As this Holy time approaches, we must also think of those who have great need, both here, and far away.

The Christmas in Africa program was begun at PCPC as a way to share the gift of love with family and friends, as well as to address the needs of those in the village of Papoli, Uganda. By purchasing a gift to give, you are helping feed children, address poverty, and provide means of self-sufficiency to this community.

With Christmas in Africa, loved ones are honored by providing gifts in their name. A tree, a goat, or a mosquito net or other items can be purchased, and given to another in the name of the person you choose. A list of gifts to choose from will be available. Each giver will receive a card to share with those being honored on which details of the gift can be written. Tables will be in the breezeway each Sunday, at PCPC, with details about the program, and purchases can be made at that time.

You can also stop by the church office and receive the information there, or e-mail Sylvia Campbell at sylcamp@aol.com or Bill Wallof at bill@palmaceia.org.

You can also purchase your gifts on-line at www.villagepartnersinternational.org and go to the Christmas in Africa site.

At this time of year, when we remember the greatest gift ever given to us, please consider sharing your gift of love with others, both here, and far away.

For it is in giving that we truly receive.





Papoli is Connected

Written by: Samali Nyabeli

Just as a candle can help one navigate a dark room, one spark of illumination can resolve many of life's unanswered questions.

It was about two years ago that Village Partners International began the process of bringing electricity into the village of Papoli, Uganda. Even though the last utility pole was only one-half mile from our village, the wheels of progress move rather slowly in Uganda. However we are very excited that Papoli is NOW CONNECTED.

Electricity is now available in the Robert Cooley Pediatric Clinic, the school and available to two small upcoming commercial centers within the village.

Bringing electricity to the village was meant for specific purposes and not intended to serve the general population. Due to the simple, agrarian lifestyle of the villagers, VPI and village leaders felt electricity on a larger scale could cause more harm than good.

Electrical equipment and facilities will considerably improve the overall quality of care available to patients of the pediatric clinic and eventually the outpatient clinic which is currently under construction. It will also improve the overall operation of the clinics. Eventually an electric pump will supply the clinic with running water.

Unless a Papoli student is fortunate enough to move on to higher education and possibly college, their knowledge of the outside world is very limited. Electronic learning aids can open up a whole new world to them through, sights, sounds and unlimited information. This will help them better compete with other schools in our district that have had electricity and inspire many to go further than they had ever dreamed possible before. Just a few used lap top computers and video equipment would be a blessing for our community. Any help with that would be greatly appreciated by our teachers and students.

Electricity to the two small commercial centers will stimulate business and allow villagers to compete with other centers in our area. Upon learning that electricity would be available in the centers; many villagers became very excited about the possibility of a machine being installed in one of the centers that would grind their grain for personal and commercial use. Electricity will also result in new businesses being established like mobile phone charging and welding. This would allow more villagers to participate in small business ventures and help them rise above subsistence farming.

The people of our community and leaders of the Papoli Community Development Foundation extend deep appreciation to VPI and all the donors who made this dream come true. Electricity is now full time in Papoli.

Thank you very much and God bless.

Building Partnerships

Written by: Dr. Anne Strozier

On October 11, 2012, first year Masters of Social Work students greeted Emmanuel Ofumbi, Martha Kawala, and Samali Nyabeli who spoke about life in their village of Papoli in Eastern Uganda. Emmanuel told the students about the many strengths of Papoli people – hard work, faith, and a great joy in life. He also shared that Papoli has received many gifts from Village Partners International (VPI), Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, and the College of Public Health (COPH). Together, they have built wells for the community, a much-needed clinic for children, a school and housing for widows.

Elizabeth Blakley, Program Director for VPI and a graduate of COPH, described her experiences in Papoli last year, where she and several Masters in Public Health students lived in Papoli while collecting baseline data.

Also present for the presentation were Dr. Richard (Ran) Nisbett, professor of Global Health at COPH, Betty Castor, a strong supporter of VPI and former president of USF, and two School of Social Work professors – Dr. Guitele Rahill and Dr. Anne Strozier.

An exciting outgrowth of this initial presentation is that the School of Social Work has taken the first steps of building a collaboration with VPI and COPH so in the future Masters of Social Work students will be offered the opportunity to volunteer and conduct research with Elizabeth and other USF students in Papoli.



MOMBIN CROCHU, HAITI

Hurricane Isaac Disaster Relief

Will White, our man on the ground in Port au Prince, Haiti, has been assisting VPI for several years. The following letter from him describes a recent situation he felt warranted assistance.

There is a young man who has been wiping down our car every morning as we go to the airport. He has been around for several years. After Isaac went through he said he was saving money for roofing material since the storm had damaged his roof. He said he just needed 10 sheets. Thinking that would be a good place to put the VPI money I told him I would help but wanted to see his house first. He lives on the edge of Cite Soleil crammed in with hundreds of "make due" type of tarp structures. His "house" was tree branches wrapped in old tarps. I knew immediately that it would never hold the metal roofing material and there was no way to really nail it to the branches. I found a boss who built a better frame for his house. It now has a tin roof, 2X4 frame and tarp siding. It is 100% better than what he had and now rain will not get in. If we have another large storm it should not blow away.



Will White, MAF Pilot

First Impressions

Written by: Dennis Bradt

The Small plane trip over the mountains from Port au Prince to the small grass runway in the northern town of Pignon was exhilarating. As expected, I didn't see a lot of trees but everything looked green from above, possibly because it was near the end of the rainy season. From Pignon we were to travel twelve miles through the mountains on wooden benches in the back of the medium sized truck that was purchased for the hospital in Mombin Crochu. I was told it was a bit bumpy but I thought, "how bad could it be to travel only twelve



miles". I never would have dreamed it could be so bad. It took two and one half hours to travel that treacherous twelve miles. We were almost constantly jolted, and jostled around traveling over large rocks, giant ruts, and through muddy creeks. All four of us had bruises where we never had them before. Along the way we saw many donkeys burdened with heavy loads and many young children that were completely naked or wore just a shirt. Many of the power poles looked as if they were about to fall on the road.

Mombin Crochu impressed me as being a sleepy village with children walking the streets in their sharp, school uniforms and shopkeepers sitting outside their concrete block stores. Most of the town noises came from children playing or goats, pigs and other animals wandering around or being herded through the streets. Much of the population lives outside the town proper, some more than a two-hour walk from the town and medical services.

First Impressions Continued...

The roads are rocky, often very steep, traverse many creeks and may only be accessible by foot.

Except for the naked children, the abject poverty was not evident when walking through the streets. It was only through talking with the people that the extreme hardships were revealed. One young woman begged us to take her young children because she was not able to care for them.

The government run hospital in Mombin Crochu was considerably larger than I imagined. However, it is badly in need of repair and decent equipment. The roof leaks. Most of the electrical fixtures don't work. Mold was evident and much of the equipment was old or rusty from the dampness. Most windows lacked screens or had screens in need of repair. Pleas have been made to the government for assistance. The employees are paid a modest salary by the government, however payment is sporadic. They were two months behind, on receiving pay, when we were there. No doctors are provided by the government; the two doctors on staff are funded entirely by VPI.

I sensed a desperate hunger for education among the older children but most have little hope of obtaining the funds needed for higher education. Many of the primary school age children can't even afford to attend public school because they must pay to attend plus purchase a uniform, supplies and shoes. There are some totally free schools in Haiti but only in the larger cities. Our translator, Pastor Fred, runs a free private school out of the dilapidated church where he holds Sunday church services. He spends much of his time raising funds to pay the three teachers and purchase school supplies. The sight of these poor children seeking education in such primitive surroundings and the dedication of the teachers and school committee members moved me to tears.

2013 Medical Mission to Haiti

On January 18, 2013 a medical mission team will leave Tampa to travel to Mombin Crochu, Haiti to again work among the poorest of the poor in this country that has seen such great suffering.

During this time, teams will perform surgery, give dental care, run medical clinics, eyeglasses clinics, and perform teaching and training of personnel and the community. Teams will also educate the community further on the use of the Moringa tree, as The Moringa Project is continuing to grow in Mombin Crochu. Measurement of children for malnutrition will continue, and the development of projects for the feeding of those in far outlying areas, accessible only by foot, will continue.

By partnering with the doctors, nurses, pastors and leaders of the community, the mission of VPI, that of helping others help themselves, will continue. We know that we cannot fix the world, but each person that is touched, each life that is changed, each heart that is healed, shares God's love... for those serving and those who are served.

Your help and support allows us to continue to share the love that we have been given, through God's grace, and to help others who know such need.



The Moringa Project

Written by: Elizabeth Blakley

During a recent visit to Mombin Crochu, I was able to see first hand the success that has come of this community's Moringa Project. Collectively they have planted around 4,800 trees; 3,000 of these trees have been distributed to community members to plant at their home. A large community meeting was conducted where an educational seminar was presented to people who were receiving the trees. The Moringa Project Board of Directors has kept a detailed record of the people whom have received moringa trees from attending their seminar so they can continue to monitor the use of moringa throughout the community. Their goal is to have a nursery in each block (there are four 'blocks' in all of Mombin Crochu with approximately 18,000 people living in each block). Planting more nurseries throughout the community will ideally increase the knowledge and use of moringa.

Additionally, I had the pleasure of visiting several of the homes of whom received moringa trees and had planted them for personal use. It is so exciting to see how proud the community is of this project and its potential.



“We alone cannot change the world, but we can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” -- Mother Teresa