



JULY 2013

# Village Partners International

Our human compassion binds us the one to the other - not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.

Nelson Mandela

**Opening  
in August!**

**The Jay and Janice Jester**

**Out-Patient Clinic and Maternity Centre, Papoli**



## **THE EXCITING MOMENT HAS ARRIVED**

They came, they saw, they wondered as to how the people of Papoli village are able to get medical treatments at all; this was in May 2011.

The available medical facilities are a distance away, not having competent dedicated and well enumerated technical staff. Neither the equipment nor medical supplies are available to support the primary health facilities. This pathetic situation, coupled with an earlier local health research carried out by Papoli Community Development Foundation (PACODEF) staff and the field findings by Public Health Masters students from the University of South Florida, was presented to VPI. The findings resulted in a decision by VPI to seek funding to finance the second phase of the preplanned Papoli Medical Center.

## The Jay and Janice Jester

### Out-Patient Clinic and Maternity Centre, Papoli (cont.)

This would involve teaming up with community members of Papoli village to construct a much needed Outpatient and Maternity Clinic. The construction started in October, 2012 and is now just about to open its doors to those in need. Papoli village, with a population of just over 5,012 has welcomed this new facility as a God sent gift to them; as has been evident in their voluntary participation in the construction. Community members provided all brick, sand, stones and other unskilled labor. The 5 acre piece of land for the clinic was donated by one of

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**WHAT A GREAT GIFT THIS IS TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR COMMUNITY. THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR VILLAGE HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED.**

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the elders, Mr. Difasi Yoga. This facility reinforces work already in progress at the all famous Robert Cooley Pediatric Clinic and Safe House, which has saved the lives of many children since its opening three years ago.

The maternity centre will provide pre and post natal care and treatment, vaccination against the killer diseases like Tuberculosis, Polio, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

Family planning clinics, counseling and testing for HIV will be top on the agenda of the clinic.

In our planning and construction work; we have had support and guidance from Tororo District Local Government (District Health Office and Works Department) and other none state actors in the field of health like, The AIDS Service Organization, Tororo Civil Society Network, Uganda National AIDS Organization and WorldVision.

We have with great honor, love and gratitude named this facility after our great and generous couple- Jay and Janice Jester. The first years of operation, the Jay and Janice Jester Outpatient and Maternity clinic will provide the following services:-

- ❖ Antenatal services
- ❖ Maternal health services
- ❖ Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT)
- ❖ General HIV testing and guidance/referrals
- ❖ Laboratory services
- ❖ Minor surgeries
- ❖ Out Patient Care

*By: Emmanuel Ofumbi, Papoli Village Leader*

#### OPC CONSTRUCTION



# Papoli Update 2013

by Malinda Pope, VPI representative

For those of you wondering about the current state of affairs in Papoli, I would like to report that many exciting things are happening! My name is Malinda Pope and I was given the opportunity to live in the village of Papoli for a month during May/June of 2013.

## Community organization



In terms of long-range community planning, I was most impressed with the way the residents of Papoli have organized themselves. Their organization makes it possible to assess and respond to the needs of all the villagers of Papoli. Divided into community zones, each zone is led by a community volunteer. Every month (and, sometimes, more often), approximately 20 highly motivated community volunteers meet together. Each of these volunteers covers an area of Papoli. Led by Samali Nyabel, PACODEF (Papoli Community Development Foundation) community health worker, the group discusses current needs in each zone. Plans are then made as to the best way to address these needs.

While staying in Papoli, I was honored to be part of two of these monthly meetings. Currently, problems being addressed include: boreholes (water wells) not functioning as they should,

damage and destruction caused by hard rains to latrines and homes, early crops being washed away by these rains and the future impact on food supplies. According to Equire Steve, the Pediatric Clinic Administrator, "there has been a disaster with rain - loss of Moringa, kitchen gardens and food crops" (cassava, millet, sorghum and maize). Cassava is the staple food crop and it takes 12 months to mature. This is one illustration of how the heavy rains has increased the probability of domestic starvation - "Food may be a real problem later in the year".

Resources received from VPI are welcomed by this group of volunteers and distributed to those most in need. The people of Papoli are truly being good stewards of the help they are receiving. They use what we give and work together to make repairs on homes, latrines and roads. Without knowing the term "shareholder", they have become "shareholders" of the FUTURE independent and self-sustaining village of Papoli. WE are also "shareholders" as we continue to help them reach this level.

## Children at the clinic



The well-being of the children in Papoli is a top priority. Malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and malaria are still primary concerns that must be addressed daily with education, feeding programs and medical treatment. I was at the Robert H. Cooley Pediatric Clinic almost every day for a month and I witnessed the caregivers of 35 to 50 (sometimes more) children provide what they could to malnourished and sick children. Community Health Volunteers would talk to families about sending their health-impaired children to the clinic. PACODEF community health workers would visit families to identify children with health issues. The staff at the Clinic would bathe, provide skin care, and feed porridge to every child that walked through their doors. Each child was observed for health needs on a daily basis. Without these services, combined with clean water, many would not survive.

I was in Papoli in 2012 and then in 2013. Between those two visits, I could tell that the visual "look" of the children had improved. These children are able to smile, they are learning to say ABCs and numbers, and although some still show visible signs of malnutrition, their overall health is improving. If you are part of this "connection" with Papoli, be proud of the part you are playing. Lives are changing as a result of VPI's assistance to this community.

(continued...)

## Outpatient/Maternity Clinic



Upon returning to Papoli in May, 2013, one of my first “agenda items” was to see the new medical building. This combined clinic was almost complete on the exterior but much work had to be done on the interior. By the time I left in June, the clinic was almost finished. It is a beautiful structure that will house rooms for maternity care and delivery in addition to a clinic providing health to adults - particularly the elderly population of Papoli. It is scheduled to open in July, 2013.

## Community members at large



While walking about in the Osia zone of Papoli district with David and Samali (PACODEF community health workers), I was able to witness an organized meeting of village women. These women are doing a fantastic job of supporting each other in the planting and maintenance of their fields/

gardens. We spent quite some time with Miriam, a member of this group as well as being a PACODEF Community Volunteer. Miriam reported that the women were really focusing on growing Moringa trees (an almost “magical” tree due to its high nutritional value), growing enough produce to have some extra to sell, making sure the children are all attending school, and more. I was especially excited to hear that they were working on building enclosures for chickens so they can raise healthy ones (most chickens are “free-range” and can contract diseases from neighboring yards) and protect chicks from high predator losses.

In the Pakamalung area of Papoli parish, PACODEF Community Volunteer, Omuse John, showed us the results of a project being led by a young man named Okongo. Okongo, with various community members from different age groups, has developed an area of previously unusable wetland into a rice “plantation”. As reported by David (PACODEF community health worker), “we hail PACODEF for the support they give to strengthen community efforts in agricultural production and marketing”. Okongo is hoping that the use of this land will provide future work for the youth of Papoli as crops expand - possibly to also include the growing of yams and sugar cane in addition to the rice.

Awori Miriam is a pupil of the Sylvia Campbell Primary School. She writes, “Sometimes, it seems as if I am dreaming because of what has been done in my village. We used to walk miles to seek medical services but now

you walk a few meters and you are already there.”

## Future needs



In the event you think all this means that Papoli no longer needs our assistance, please read this account made by David, the community health worker.

*“Putting into account the geographical position of Papoli parish, where most of the area is water-logged within tropical forests, with this year’s rainy season, the mosquitoes have taken the opportunity to breed. For a couple of months now, from March to the end of May 2013, there has been very heavy rainfall leaving Papoli community in misery due to consistent bites by the mosquitoes. Malaria has become the most common disease affecting the community members and, most especially, the more marginalized groups (i.e children, expectant mothers, and the elderly).*

*Looking at our meager resources, most of the community members cannot afford to mitigate this without support given by providers and well-wishers. Even so, there are only a few (mosquito) nets given and a large population of 4800. What is our desire then? We call upon all service providers and well-wishers to come and join us in the effort to relieve people.”*

*(continued...)*

## What now?

I witnessed a community of people working hard to get themselves organized...to get organized in order to best use the resources being provided to them from caring individuals on the other side of the world.

I witnessed people giving their time and efforts in the hope that some day the village of Papoli will be self-sustaining.

I witnessed both young and old who were so very grateful for the clean water, food, shelter, and medical care provided by those in a position to help with the "basics" of life.

There are still very basic needs in Papoli. The two medical clinics go a long way in providing available care but still must be supported in order to supply the daily needs for medicine, equipment/supplies, and staff.

The children that come to the Pediatric Clinic need to be cared for each day.

This means that the ingredients for porridge must be purchased and trained staff provided. There is still no running water into the Pediatric Clinic so baths are taken in a concrete enclosure with soap, a bucket and a jerrycan full of water that was drawn from the borehole (well).

So, the bottom line (as I see it) is that support of Papoli is still needed for basic living needs. With each year, improvements are seen and steps are made toward a self-sustaining population. I hope that, in the years to come, we will see children from Papoli who have witnessed the changes that can be made through the love of one people for another. They will be aware of opportunities that they never

thought possible. They will be successful and will be able to be the ones in partnership with other villages struggling to meet the basic needs for their own people.

## ROBERT H. COOLEY PAEDIATRIC CENTRE. PAPOLI



### **From The Heart**

Have you thought about what troubles you have this day?  
Have you thought about how caught up you are in the things around you, and how important you have made them?

We received a request to help build a home...a simple home... a home for \$680 dollars...for a family suffering from the atrocities of leprosy...today...in 2013...in this world of iPhones and computers and Starbucks...

It is hard sometimes to remember that, in this world, there are those who suffer from the ravages of life we cannot imagine...but it is also beautiful to see that in this world, where we sometimes only see what is wrong with mankind, that there is hope, and light, and healing...and that people truly do reach out to others in need... for the light shall overcome the darkness... for, ultimately, we believe that man's love will overcome ... always.....

*Dr. Sylvia Campbell*



### **Story about Titus Odoi of Papoli “The Leper”**

It was a beautiful Monday morning, when my family and I were having breakfast, a 73 years old woman called Catherine showed up at our doorway; she looked so emotionally disturbed, looked hungry and quite drained. As per our traditional culture, my wife, Eunice welcomed her into our house gave her a mat to sit on and asked Esther our university going daughter to get her a cup of tea. As the culture dictates, when people are eating, greetings are not allowed, so the visitor just sat down. Catherine hesitated to pick the cup of tea and join the rest of us, she looked surprised that she was warmly welcomed to our house, given a cup of tea despite her health status that most people resent. Catherine's fear was grounded on traditional fear, for she is from a family that has been hit hard by leprosy, a disease that almost all fear to associate with persons inflicted by it.

After breakfast, Catherine, still in a humble way, greeted all around but carefully avoiding handshakes which are so common in our community. She moved near Eunice humbly and briefly put forward her request for a possibility of building for her family a small house. Esther our daughter sort of eavesdropped into their conversation and immediately brought out the issue in a candid manner, not wanting to embarrass the woman but also putting the important issue on table. We were all so sympathetic to the situation of Catherine's family and I hinted to her that there may be opportunity for her family to get assistance in house construction. Eunice and Esther disappeared in the house and came out with some assorted clothes, soap, cream and salt. I promised to send PACODEF staff to check on them and see what may be possible.

In the afternoon, Samali and David, PACODEF community development facilitators visited the family of Titus Odoi and Catherine. Titus at the age of 78 narrated his health stories; that a part from leprosy, he has been diagnosed with Tuberculosis. According to his wife Catherine who got married to him in 1961, says that Titus started suffering from leprosy since childhood.

Making the bad situation worse, in local belief and practice, anybody who suffers from such a disease is left to live in isolation by the community members on fear that they can easily contract the same disease.

God blessed Titus and Catherine with 10 children:- 7 boys and 3 girls respectively. It is sad to note that among the 10 children only one girl is alive to date but also barren. Of the seven children who passed on, two were married and they left behind four grand children under their care and protection.

Considering the above conditions, PACODEF is currently supporting the situation through offering family basics like mattresses, beddings, water cans, food stuffs, medical treatment and intangible services such as psychosocial support and counseling.

Whenever a PACODEF team visits Titu's family, they feel compassionated and always pray for PACODEF and her development partners who are supporting their family to ensure that they have hope for the future.

Titus is now bed ridden and experiences difficulty in breathing. Titus Odoi further says that his house made of mud and wattle, has a poor roof, is very weak and always suffers the cold at night besides his rather usual sickness.

Titus concludes by saying that he is living and surviving by the mercy of God and his sincere thanks go to PACODEF staff for the effort in nursing, counseling and their provision of all basic care and attention to him.

*Emmanuel Ofumbi, Papoli Village Leader*

## REGRET

Yellow Dress. That is what I call her for I never heard her name.

I saw her tender face, an adorable child with a belly protruding like a giant watermelon.

She must be five years old, barefoot and dying in her yellow dress.

Her parents walked three hours to the clinic to be told that their little girl could not be helped. She needs an operation to save her life; an operation that must be performed in a hospital. It will be very expensive, they were told, and without this operation, she will die very soon.

Regret.

The parents took their daughter home. They turned to walk three hours, barefoot in the mountains, on a rough and rocky road. Three hours to the clinic to be told, and three hours home with their dying child.

They carried no water.

Regret; Yellow Dress.

Terry Leigh Deal

## VPI's Mobile Clinic: Moving Health Care to Those Most in Need

Terry Leigh Deal



Village Partners International is launching a new project this year to raise funds to bring much needed health care, health education and preventative measures to remote and difficult to access mountain communities on the outskirts of Mombin Crochu. Although this is a densely populated area with close to 35,000 inhabitants spread out over approximately 25 square miles, the majority of the people living here have no means of transportation and are literally cut off from both emergency and preventative medical care. Only a very small percentage of the population has access to clean drinking water or latrines which results in serious outbreaks of Typhoid Fever, Cholera and gastro-intestinal parasites. An alarming percentage of the children are malnourished and the estimated life expectancy is 53 years with HIV/Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis cited as the primary causes of adult death.

VPI Mobile Clinic will serve the villagers who cannot come to the clinic in town and will establish a consistent vaccination program, an active HIV/AIDS screening, and a public health program addressing: nutrition, hygiene, pre and post-natal care and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. The clinic will utilize the already established staff of two doctors, one nurse, a laboratory technician, a pharmacist, a driver and two aides from the hospital in Mombin Crochu and will operate twice monthly at a cost of \$500 per trip. This means that for only \$1,000 dollars a month or \$12,000 for the entire year, children and families who are in desperate need of medical attention and care will be served.

Fundraising for the VPI Mobile Clinic was begun after a request from the Haitian doctors. In their words, "Human health in this area is in a precarious situation with a very high mortality rate for all ages of the population." Village Partners International is partnering with the Jubilee Community in North Carolina and other interested donors to answer this plea for help and to make the Mobile Clinic a reality. This year, the focus will be to raise \$12,000 – enough to run 24 Mobile Clinics and serve those who are most in need.

What if your dream was to simply be able to feed your child, vaccinate her against measles, polio and meningitis, or even to offer her clean water to drink? What if this dream could be made possible for so many people for such a nominal amount of money? Please consider helping VPI make this dream come true.

When we work together toward a common dream, we can do wonders.

# A LIFELINE FOR MOMBIN CROCHU



The Mombin Crochu Hospital is the only health care facility within many rugged miles of Mombin Crochu, Haiti and represents a vital life line to the 35,000+ population in and around that poor village. The hospital is owned and operated by the Haitian Government, however, due to the extremely depressed economy of the country, sufficient funds are not provided to adequately staff or maintain that facility. Without the help of VPI and a few other organizations, many necessary services and doctors would not be available and the villagers would suffer greatly.

Thanks to VPI and some other outside assistance, the hospital has dedicated doctors and staff

committed to providing quality health care to the villagers. The staff not only provides professional medical care but are also involved at the community level in providing health education in the village and schools; family planning; HIV/AIDS & STDs treatment, awareness and screening; pre and post natal care; and other community services. With a little extra assistance they hope to initiate a mobile health clinic for those in outlying areas. Dr. Miles has undertaken the moringa project which includes establishing and operating moringa nurseries, distribution of the trees and education on moringa use and nutrition in the schools, churches and to the villagers.

Dr. Miles stated that without the help of VPI many of the services would not be available including doctors on staff, food for the patients, many drugs, community outreach programs as well as dental, surgical, and other specialized services made available through VPI visits to the village. With God's guidance and your help Village Partners will continue to provide these much needed services, monitor and encourage additional government assistance and seek help from other organizations.

*Dr. Miles  
Mombin Crochu Hospital*



Long before the advent of farming, God blessed the people in the tropical regions of the world with the amazing Moringa tree. The leaves, flowers, seeds and roots of this tree supply most of the vitamins, minerals, amino acids and protein that our bodies need to survive. The tree is draught tolerant and can grow in the poorest of soils. It can be found growing in the wild throughout the tropical regions of the world. It is believed that people relied heavily on this tree for nutrition and other uses long before farming became a way of life. However as other sources of nutrition became available, especially through farming and raising livestock, the valuable properties of the Moringa tree were not passed down to other generations and was eventually forgotten in most parts of the world.

Now, where parts of the world suffer greatly from erratic climate, natural disasters, human conflict, and famine, the amazing properties of the Moringa tree are once again vital to survival and are slowly being recognized throughout the world.

Village Partners International introduced Moringa projects in Mombin Crochu, Haiti and Papoli Uganda less than two years ago. Our representatives did such a great job with education and introduction of Moringa trees to these communities that the enthusiasm for the future prospects of the Moringa tree spread throughout the villagers in both communities. Moringa project teams were established, nurseries were built, thousands of trees planted and villagers educated.

In Papoli, the small Moringa trees are being planted everywhere – along the paths and roads, around the clinic, in corn fields and in public places. Moringa powder is already being processed from these small trees and fed to the children of the pediatric clinic with their porridge.

Due to the larger geographic area in Mombin Crochu, Moringa trees are not as evident. Over 3,000 trees have been given to people within the village and outlying areas. However, with a population of over 35,000 in the greater Mombin area many more trees must be planted and distributed.

The Moringa Projects are great examples of helping villages help themselves. A little effort on our part resulted in communities banding together for a common worthy cause resulting in a positive impact over the long term.



# Urgent Need: Running Water



Water...the staple of life.

Water...that which fills our bodies,cleanses our souls, unites us as one.

Water...life giving...life changing.

Running water...something we take so for granted, but which, for much of the world, is unknown, unrealized.

We at VPI have dreamed of placing running water in Papoli, Uganda, to supply the Pediatric Clinic, which cares for children with HIV and Malaria, and the soon to open OutPatient Clinic, which will care for the elderly and pregnant women.

But the cost is high, and the funds are not there.

Some dreams do become reality, though, and, with your help, and God's grace, this may be such a dream.

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**A GENEROUS DONOR HAS OFFERED A MATCHING GRANT TO COVER THIS PROJECT. IF WE ARE ABLE TO RAISE \$7,000, WE WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE RUNNING WATER FOR THE CHILDREN, FOR THE ELDERLY, FOR THOSE WHO SOON WILL DELIVER NEW LIFE.**

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With your help, with your love and support, we will see this happen.

With your dollars, this dream will become reality.

With your prayers, we will share the gift of water---a gift that can never be replaced.

One dollar, five dollars, ten dollars....these all add up to help us as we reach for this goal.

Won't you please partner with VPI as God's love rains down upon us all, one drop at a time.

If you are so called, please visit [www.villagepartnersinternational.org](http://www.villagepartnersinternational.org) to make a donation.

## Wine Tasting Event

We want you to join with us in our second annual celebration of the wonderful things that have come about through VPI because of the generosity of many whose hearts have been touched by those works. The focus of our celebration this year is the opening of the outpatient and maternity clinic in the village of Papoli, Uganda and the wonderful things this clinic will provide the villagers in the area where health care, for many, was unobtainable in the past. The celebration will also include what this clinic and pediatric clinic in Papoli Uganda and Hospital in Mombin Crochu, Haiti are accomplishing now and hope to accomplish in the future.

The lives of many are being enriched by these facilities and hope abounds where there was once despair.

We envision an even brighter future for villagers that have suffered so long from poverty, little or no access to health care and lack of hope.



COME JOIN US FOR A WINE TASTING EVENT ON OCTOBER 19TH FROM 6-9PM  
TO CONTINUE EMPOWERING THE GREAT PEOPLE OF HAITI AND UGANDA.

We raise our glasses together and celebrate what has been accomplished in these needy communities and our vision of what is to come with God's guidance and support from those who share this dream.

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.

Come join the celebration and take part in the healing for those in such desperate need or see how you may play an active role in VPI and its missions.

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!!!**