



Village Partners International
partnering to help people help themselves

DECEMBER, 2013

Christmas in Africa

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. WE ARE SEEKING TO HELP MAKE THE WORLD A STRONGER COMMUNITY BY SHARING GOD'S LOVE, ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME.

Something is changing in the air... can you feel it? It is a subtle, gentle change, but it's there. The days are shortening, and there is a cool, crispness that means something new is coming. It is in this time that our hearts begin to open and we can feel the magic of the season deep within. Christmas is coming. Not the Christmas that began to appear in stores in September this year. Not the Christmas that is forced upon us even before we put out our pumpkins. This is the Christmas that represents the greatest gift given to man...the gift of unconditional love.

Christmas in Africa is a way to give a gift of life in honor of another to the poorest of those in the village of Papoli, Uganda. You can pick an item, and you will receive a card to send to them so they will know that this Christmas their gift from you is something that will change the life of another. And if you give a goat, a sheep or



a cow, the first born of that animal is given to another in the village in need. If you give food, education, or healthcare to a child, then you have changed their life forever. This is a gift that truly keeps on giving.

There are a large variety of gifts, each unique and special. Imagine what a change you have made in a life if you help with education. Imagine the difference you make

in a life when you give the gift of clean water, or nutrition. All recipients of the gifts are selected by the village elders, ensuring that the poorest and most needy are helped. A ceremony is held, each item is shared, and those so very far away know that somewhere, someone cares about them and their need.

Village Partners International is offering an easy way to help others by offering these gifts on line at

www.villagepartnersinternational.org. Simply go to: *Christmas in Africa*, select from the list of items, print your card and send it to your loved one. In the hustle and bustle of this most wonderful time of the year, please think of sharing with our brothers and sisters in such need. We are all bound together through God's unconditional love.

Dr. Sylvia Campbell

It is hard for us to imagine a life of such poverty.
It is hard for us to imagine a life of such pain or loss.
It is hard for us to imagine the hunger, the sickness, the despair.
But it is possible for us to try and change it.
www.villagepartnersinternational.org.



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

“...children and families who are in need of medical attention and care will be served.”

If you are interested in participating in one of these mission trips or feel moved to help with the expenses, please go onto the VPI webpage and let us know via “contact us” or “make a donation”

WATER IS A REALITY in Papoli Village

Running water is something that we often take for granted, but for the people of Papoli village and the health clinics in Uganda, running water was nearly a dream. Some dreams do come true! At the VPI fundraiser **“Pay it Forward”** in October, through God's grace and with many wonderful friends contributing funds to match the grant given by Dr. Carolyn Cooley, we

reached our goal to bring running water to the medical clinics in Papoli, Uganda. Papoli Village will get the first rural, community owned and controlled piped-in water for the Tororo District. The much needed water project will soon become a reality.

VPI has been at the forefront to source for funds to install running water first at the Robert Cooley

Pediatric Clinic in Papoli and next to the Jay and Janice Health Center and Maternity Hospital. An electric driven water pumping system will fill a 10,000 liter tank and pipe water to the daycare centre, kitchen and other water points. Village Partners International and the grateful people of Papoli, say, “Thank you” to all the people who have contributed to making this dream a reality!
Nancy Calfee

Let's Keep the Wheels Rolling on the Mombin Mobile Clinic Here's H.O.W. !

The much needed Mombin mobile clinic, **Hope On Wheels**, (H.O.W.) that will bring health care, health education and preventative measures to remote and difficult to access mountain communities on the outskirts of Mombin Crochu will begin operation in 2014. This is wonderful news for the thousands of desperate people in the mountains of Haiti where access to medical care is difficult to impossible.

VPI Mobile Clinic will serve the villagers who cannot travel 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 need of medical attention and care will be served.

Although we are able to launch the H.O.W. program, it is important for those who are counting on medical programs and care that we can sustain the mobile clinic for many years. Please consider a designated gift to help the clinic continue operation and bring “Hope On Wheels” to those who most need it.

Terry L. Deal

Repair and Maintenance Teams Proposed For Mombin Crochu Hospital

Imagine receiving medical care in a hospital that has torn curtains, rickety beds and lack of privacy, medical equipment and metal fixtures that are rusting, a leaking roof, many rooms without working electricity, water that could be contaminated, plumbing that doesn't work and windows without screens that remain open for ventilation allowing mosquitoes to come and go at will. Doesn't sound

too pleasant does it? Can you imagine what it would be like to perform surgical procedures under these conditions? Dr. Sylvia Campbell does every time she takes a surgical team to Mombin Crochu, Haiti. Due to lack of government assistance, the physical condition of Covenant Hospital has declined drastically over the years and is now in desperate need of repair and maintenance. The

hospital serves over 30,000 people and is always busy. Dr. Campbell is now working with Village Partners International and Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church of Tampa to recruit mission teams to work alongside qualified Haitian locals to perform the much needed repairs and maintenance to the hospital. All that is needed is sufficient funding and willing volunteers. Dennis Bratt

Pay It Forward 2013 A Huge Success!

Village Partners International recently held its fall fundraiser "Pay it Forward" on Saturday, October 19th. It was a magical evening at the home of Dr. Ron and Blair O'Neal. The event raised funds to support the hospital in Mobin Crochu, Haiti and the clinics in Papoli, Uganda for over half of the upcoming year. This year, invitations were sent out and participants were charged a nominal fee to attend. "Pay it Forward" was catered by Jim Larkin and his lovely wife Mary. The food was delicious and the wine flowed all through the night. There were a variety of ways to contribute. With the help of our vol-



unteers, we were able to collect wonderful items for our live and silent auctions. Among the donations we received were not one, but two beach house vacations — one

on Anna Maria Island and another on Longboat Key. Also donated were a pizza party, a tour of WFLA studios, a suite at a Tampa Bay Lightning game for six, multiple dinners and paintings. Ron Saltzman was once again was the emcee and auctioneer. Dr. Sylvia Campbell spoke on behalf of VPI, as well as: Dr. Ron O'Neal, Dr. Dan Chan and Reverend John DeBevoise. Throughout the night, a DVD continuously played videos of VPI's work in Haiti and Uganda. VPI volunteers also helped at the many booths at the event. At "Buy a Brick, Save a Village, One Brick at a Time", bricks were sold by the month, week, day and hour. Moringa trees and seeds were sold as well as

"Each and every person who contributed their time, talent and energy is greatly appreciated."

Buy A Brick, Save A Village . . .

VPI tee shirts. A 50/50 raffle was held along with raffles for a bucket of beer and a wall of wine. There were lovely hand-painted sand art and batiks from Uganda and the very popular hand-painted wine glasses were also on hand. In addition, there were "The Wheel" to spin and a Village Market. With the WATER CYLINDER, VPI was able to raise cup-by-cup the funds needed to match a generous donation given by Dr. Carolyn Cooley.

"Pay it Forward" was a tremendous success. We wish to thank all of our sponsors, donors and volunteers. Each and every person who contributed their time, talent and energy is greatly appreciated. With God's grace, we look forward to working with you again next year!

Nancy Calfee



For me, being a part of this mission, is to be a part of something that is bigger than myself. It is working alongside and collaboratively with others to make a difference and to be an extension of the Father's love. There are so many stories I could share, but the one that comes to mind at the moment is the reality of life in Haiti. Late one night, when we had just wrapped up, we could hear a child screaming at the nurses' station. After further investigation, we found that this child's finger had been brutally lacerated. He and his friend had just been sent to get water from the well for his family. He was a very young boy, maybe 5, if that. He had put his finger in the faucet to see if the well had water but as he did, his friend simultaneously started to pump the well which

lacerated his finger.

The boy was brought to the hospital for help. We went back and re-opened the OR, made a plan for how we were going to get the child ready for repair, and we all worked collaboratively together. No one complained about the fact that it was late or that they had not eaten. The focus was on this young boy who simply was going for water for his family and now he needed our help. Yes, this is what it means to be part of a mission. It means meeting the needs of others, whether expected or unexpected, and being the hands and feet of Jesus to a world who may or may not have the conveniences that we know. I absolutely love being a part of this! God is love

and we were created to love. That is the ultimate mission: to love others as yourself.
Karen Muniz, RN





Health Care Update Papoli, Uganda

This year's "good news" from Papoli is the opening of the Jay and Janice Jester Maternity and Out-Patient Clinic. Open since July, this combined clinic addresses the health problems faced by many people in Papoli and beyond. Previously, the type of health care provided by this clinic was difficult to obtain due to transportation problems, poverty and lack of information related to medical issues.

Since its official opening, patients have arrived in impressive numbers. The importance of this new facility cannot easily be described to those outside the area of Papoli. Costs of treatment are kept at a reasonable level as compared to clinics in Tororo town (about 10 miles away). Services are offered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is possible for some patients to get treatment on credit and pay later. Health care is being provided to many who would not be able to receive care without the clinic and its associated health care workers.

The Director of PACODEF (Papoli Community Development Foundation), Ofumbi Emmanuel, recently stated, "We are also developing a health insurance policy that may come in operation next year. Families may get treatment and pay later, or deposit some money in bits which will accumulate to wait for sickness."

From July until the 25th of November, 2013, the Out-Patient Clinic has seen 352 male and 555 female patients. Of these, 4 males and 12 females were referred on to the hospital in Tororo. This is a staggering number for a community the size of Papoli. Common illnesses (in order of occurrence) were malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea, sexually-transmitted diseases and fungal infections.

"What would you do if that Clinic or Hospital was over 10 miles away and you had no transportation?"

The numbers for the Maternity portion of the clinic are also impressive. During this same period, 79 visits were made to the Maternity Clinic. Over 20 women were first-time mothers. Of deliveries, 25 baby girls and 16 baby boys were born. The clinic also handled one stillbirth and two miscarriages as well as making 15 maternity referrals on to the hospital in Tororo.

Before the Robert H. Cooley Pediatric Health Center and the Jay & Janice Jester Maternity and Out-Patient Clinic, the people of Papoli had no local health care.

What would you do if you found out your wife or husband needed emergency medical help or, your child spiked a high fever in the middle of the night? You would head to the nearest Emergency Clinic or Hospital, right? Now, what would you do if that Clinic or Hospital was over 10 miles away and you had no transportation? This was the plight of most people in Papoli prior to the construction of the two health care clinics.

Malinda Pope