



Village Partners International
partnering to help people help themselves

APRIL, 2014

**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.

Colossians 3:12-14

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

A Mission of Mercy



“This trip re-enforced the belief that God is at work in Mombin Crochu, and it is a privilege to be part of this journey. We commend the hard work of those at Mombin Crochu Hospital, and all they are doing for those so in need.” Sylvia Campbell, MD

The February mission trip to Covenant Hospital in Mombin Crochu Haiti allowed a small group of dedicated doctors, nurses and volunteers to serve several hundred people in desperate need of

surgery, dental procedures, orthopedics, and general care. For almost twenty years, Village Partners International has been actively involved in helping this community achieve continuity and



“God has blessed me with the opportunity to serve as a missionary and the rewards have been immeasurable. One adds many new friends, colleagues, acquaintances and experiences along the way.”
Sigsby W. Gayle, MD

sustainability in the health care provided and the administration of the clinic and hospital. For those who have returned year after year, they have seen a gradual improvement both in the facility and the community in general. This is due in part to the younger generation of medically trained Haitians who have chosen to return to their place of birth to help move it forward by giving back to their people.

This improvement is exemplified by the quality of the care given by the physicians, as well as the support provided by the administrator and the financial director. Through partnership with VPI, there is a growing stability to the hospital and a new ability to care for persons within the community and outlying areas.

There is great pride in the success of projects initiated by VPI. The patients are well cared for and the limited resources are used to good advantage. There are now programs in public health and education within the community. The Food for Life program continues to offer nutritional support for the patients, and is ongoing. The Moringa Project will be restarted when the rainy season returns and the newly launched Mobile Clinic is an exceptional outreach that offers basic care to those who would not be able to receive it. The truck is invaluable and serves not only for transportation for the hospital personnel but also to carry sick patients to more advanced facilities. The school at Fred Charley’s church is well run and organized, and funds are being used for that which they were intended. Currently 60 orphaned children are cared for there (an increase from 30 last year). The feeding program offers nutrition to those who would otherwise go hungry.

PROGRESS IN PAPOLI, UGANDA

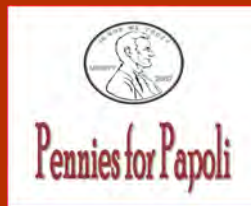
A Letter of Gratitude . . .

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

*The patient number at the clinic is growing and there is demand for overnight services for a number of patients. Most often, it is the children who are brought in fairly bad shape and require constant care to recover. We have become so busy that part of the daycare is now an inpatient ward, accommodating children, women and men. Because of this, we have begun the first phase of construction for more wards. So far, we have made 1,983 building blocks and hope to be able to begin full construction next year. Thank you for the many ways Village Partners International has supported our village and we pray that God continues to bless our works across the seas and beyond.
Emma*



Workers are creating blocks to use for building a much needed expansion for patients needing 24-hour care.



"Little pennies from children can help other children, so they can heal and grow and go out in the world to also make a difference."

Linda Boza



"Shower the people you love with love!"

With the addition of running water to Papoli, a simple shower is now a reality that no one thought possible a few months ago.

www.villagepartnersinternational.org

In rural Uganda, where the AIDS epidemic still flourishes illness can be an overwhelming problem. The children of St. Mary's Episcopal Day School in Tampa, Florida, are determined to make a difference. How do they do it? With pennies! The Pennies for Papoli drive helps support the Cooley Pediatric Clinic that was built by VPI several years ago. Pennies add up to purchase antibiotics and more. The difference is not just made for the patients of the pediatric clinic. The children raising the pennies are also transformed. This year, students at St. Mary's and Morning Star School of Tampa worked to collect pennies. What began as gathering mere pennies has a resulted in a grand total of **\$3,657.21** Pennies do make a difference!

If your organization would like to organize a drive, you may contact linda.boza@smeds.org for instructions.

Mombin Mobile Medical Clinic Is Rolling!



When I jumped into the back of the medical truck with one American and two Haitian doctors, a public health nurse, a pharmacist and a couple of other helpers from our group, I didn't know what to expect. There were tubs of supplies, instruments, reading glasses and medicines piled in the space between our feet; I expected that. I didn't expect the two hour, dusty bronco ride over road conditions even sixteen years of traveling to Mombin Crochu, Haiti couldn't have prepared me for. I didn't expect the beautiful vistas as we climbed the mountainous terrain. I didn't expect to be greeted by a happy mob of curious school children in their blue and white uniforms and I didn't expect to see a large church where we were to set up clinic. When we arrived and walked inside the church, I certainly didn't expect to see hundreds of people waiting for the much needed medical care we were providing. The scene inside the church was loud and chaotic and I remember thinking, "How will we ever see this many people in one day?"



I have to say that when I saw how smoothly and orderly the crowd soon became, I realized that the organization and planning for this clinic was beyond my expectations. In no time, the Haitian/American team had prenatal and primary care "areas" designated as well as a make-shift pharmacy and eye glasses distribution area. Within our 4-hour time frame, we had seen most of the hundreds of children and adults in need of medical attention. It was a testimony to the great need for extending medical care beyond the walls of the clinic and the service such mobile health care can provide.



For me, the Mombin Mobile Clinic is a personal dream come true. When I heard the Haitian doctors speak of the desperation and need in the outlying communities that cannot otherwise be served, I joined with the efforts of Village Partners International to make mobile health care a reality. The mobile clinic has already proved to be a viable and valuable asset to making health care accessible to those who are most in need. I hope that you will join me in supporting this effort so that we can continue to provide "hope on wheels" and touch the lives of so many in need.

Terry Deal

Compassion Without Qualification: A Refreshed Perspective From a Familiar First-timer

By: Taylor Reynolds

Compassion isn't a tangible concept, and is often overlooked or taken for granted in our individualistic and excellence-hungry culture. For me, growing up in a family laden with an accomplished, community-conscious mentality made me jaded to the idea of compassion. Every year for the majority of my adult life, I have watched my aunt (Dr. Sylvia Campbell) and my mother (Ms. Teresa Deal) travel to Mombin Crochu, Haiti, returning with pictures and stories of the remoteness of this village and the staggering level of poverty. I would wish them luck, worry about them while they were away, and applaud them for being courageous and helping others. Until traveling with them and being immersed in this reality, I never fathomed the meaning of true compassion that these women, and the entire group at VPI, possessed.

Living in a city, it is advantageous to adopt a closed-off attitude, avoiding eye contact with strangers to thwart anyone from attacking some perceived weakness. Being in Mombin strips you of this defense mechanism, and I found it impossible to maintain my walls, surrounded by people who only knew how to be raw and honest about needing help. I felt free, a sincerity that I believe was felt by the people we came in contact with. Telling someone that we couldn't change their disease progression with the resources we had available was met with immediate acceptance and even gratitude, sentiments that instead can be replaced with anger and lawsuits in a more modern culture. The incredible beauty, tranquility, and openness of this place is something I would have never associated with the country of Haiti and is difficult to describe, but impossible to ignore. The atmosphere forces you to be your best, unadulterated self and teaches you to care without qualification.

Now I understand why this group keeps coming back to this place. The opportunity to help these people at the most basic level actually ends up creating the opportunity to help yourself. I believe that this reciprocity is the basis of compassion, a cyclic, unexplainable exchange of humility, empathy, and vulnerability that is felt when this community accepts you. I am forever grateful for that acceptance, and hope that both nurture and genetics prevail so that I may express even a quarter of the compassion that my family has portrayed to me.

