

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.

"Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we might find ourselves treading on another's dream. More serious still we may forget that God was there before our arrival."

anonymous



Village Partners International
partnering to help people help themselves

DECEMBER 2014

CHRISTMAS IN AFRICA

Something is changing in the air...
can you feel it?

A subtle, gentle change, but it's there...
the days are shortening, and there is a cool crispness that means something new is coming...

And in this time our hearts begin to open, as we can feel this time, deep within.
for....

Christmas is coming.
I don't mean the Christmas that began to appear in stores in September this year.
I don't mean the Christmas that is swirling around us even before we put out our pumpkins.

I mean 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 to the poorest in the village of Papoli, Uganda, in honor of another. You can pick an item, and we will give you 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---so far away and yet so near.

If you give a goat, a sheep, a cow...the first born of that animal is given to another in need...

and so it all plays forward...
if you give food to a child, or education, or healthcare...you have changed their life forever.
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.



imagine....

The recipients of the gifts are selected by the village elders, insuring that the poorest and most needy are helped. A ceremony is held, each item is shared; and those so far away know that somewhere, someone cares about them and their need.

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.

At Village Partners International we are honored to help with this project, by offering a way to order these gifts on line at www.villagepartnersinternational.org. Go to Christmas in Africa, and you can select from the list of items, then print your card to send to your loved one.

In the hustle bustle of this, the most wonderful time of the year, please think of sharing your love with others across the sea, who are so far, and yet so near. For we are all brothers on this our earth, and we are all bound by God's own unconditional love to us.

Sylvia Campbell, MD

Christmas in Africa is a way to give a gift of life to the poorest in the village of Papoli, Uganda, in honor of another.

"It is said that a seed well planted, nourished and cared for with warmth, light and love, will bear fruit of the most amazing sweetness and beauty. My recent trip to Papoli, Uganda was a demonstration of this. For a seed planted in 2000 had grown into a community effort of support and care, with a commitment to the future for all involved. This is spear-headed by Emmanuel Ofumbi, the leader who had the vision and insight to build a sustainable, inclusive support system here. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of God's work. The following is a summary of some of the work the work being done that I was witnessed on my recent trip in August, 2014."

Sylvia Campbell, MD

Schools/Education:

Currently 86 students are enrolled, with a capacity of 150. A porridge snack is given, with the addition of Moringa and vitamin supplements. Lessons consist of socialization, interaction, numbers and arts and crafts.

Pre-School: The school is considering extending hours until 4 pm, to allow more students to attend. Currently the tuition is \$8/term of \$24/year per student. This would be increased to cover extended hours.

Primary School: Currently 794 students are enrolled in 7 levels, served by 12 teachers. School hours extend from 8-4 PM, during which time porridge, and lunch are served. Based upon last year's test scores, the Papoli School is one of the best in the district. Tuition is not charged, and teachers are paid by the government, although supplies are given on a very limited basis, including text books. The dormitories have been completed. Current capacity is for 80 girls and 48 boys at \$150,000 shillings/term. Campaigns for increasing the number of borders are underway, as this will increase revenue which can be used to improve the schools. PACODEF's participation is in the oversight of the school, encouragement of retainment within the village, cultural activities, and girls' education including sexual and physiologic, as well as supplying sanitary pads so girls can continue classes during their cycle.

Day Care:

Currently 321 children are enrolled in the program at the Robert H. Cooley Pediatric Clinic with an average of 60 attending/day. Those who have graduated are followed closely in the village by the Community Outreach team.

11 employees work at the center to care for the children, who are treated from 8-4 PM or longer if emergencies occur.

Nutritional support consists of morning tea, 10 AM porridge, 12N lunch and 3 PM porridge with eggs or bananas. Moringa powder is added to all food, as are supplements. Every morning each child is showered and treated for skin diseases. Lessons are given in simple education and basics. Play time and nap time are included. Currently the Robert H. Cooley Daycare Center is in the top 10 in the nation of Uganda. Since it opened there has been no mortality

Community Development:

There are currently 4 employees involved in community development. 3 are with community outreach, one is involved in tailoring instruction.

220 volunteers assist in the delivery of services [66 community facilitators:6 in each of 11 zones; 66 water use committee team leaders; 55 health team workers]

Community Development is divided into 3 sections as described below

A. Community Facilitators [66 volunteers]: this includes self help programs such as micro-financing [25 total women's groups in 11 zones, each with a leader and 20-30 members, meeting weekly to offer social, financial and emotional support], widow's homes [currently 135], encouragement of income generating activities; Christmas in Africa oversight; agricultural improvement [seed distribution,ect], and linkage to government extension services

B. Water Usage Committees [66volunteers]: this includes monitoring the water sources in the community. Currently there are 30 water sources including 11 boreholes, 4 protected wells, and 15 spring wells. Each zone has 1 committee with 6 members consisting of a chairman, secretary and treasurer and 3 general members.

Meetings are held to ensure and encourage maintenance of safe water, and cleanliness and proper usage of the water sources. The exact payment for water usage in each zone is determined by the committee of each zone, and the funds are used for maintenance and improvement of the water sources. There has been no recorded water borne disease or mortality in the last 8 years with the availability of clean water. C. Community Health teams: [55]: this consists of trained volunteer leaders who instruct educate and help follow up on public health issues such as sanitation, vaccination, waste management, nutrition, ect. With this education the community is sensitized to the importance of these issues in regards to community health.

In addition to ensuring the functioning of these groups, the Community Development workers participate in networking with other organizations, and local/national government groups. They are involved in the planning process, monitoring, and reporting of each committee, and present new information for distribution. Working through the community volunteers, this information is distributed throughout the 11 zones. Support is given by PACODEF for attending workshops and district meetings to expand the knowledge base and programs within the community.

Health:

The Jay and Janice Jester OPC/Maternity Clinic serves a population of approximately 5100 people in the community as well as those who come from outlying areas. Since opening, the infant and maternal mortality has been 0 with no loss of patients. The average patient visits/day is 40. The average deliveries / week is 4. The average in-pts./week if 8.

In 2013 367 patients were admitted for in patient care. IAs of July 2014 admissions totaled 455, deliveries 67.

In the next few months a laboratory, refrigeration system for vaccinations, and HIV testing-equipment supplies is expected to be supplied by the government. Classes are given in health education and pre-natal care at the health center, and health education if offered at the schools. De-worming is done twice a year in the schools by clinic staff.

Estates and Properties:

Currently 6 full time security guards are employed at the clinic and health center. Since opening in 2009, no major theft has occurred.

Maintenance of the grounds, buildings and the electrical/water systems is also done, as well as supervision/maintenance of construction

Administration:

Over-sight, management, improvement, identification of new funding sources, and allocation of funds are all part of the administrative duties, with involvement in all programs.



PACODEF was established in 2010 in Papoli, Uganda as a NGO to support the community, with a commitment to fighting disease, poverty and ignorance. Currently there are 33 paid employees and 220 volunteers, 35 of whom are team leaders. The village of Papoli is divided into 11 zones. Of the 35 team leaders utilized for community projects, 8 are considered head volunteers. These are supplied bicycles by PACODEF, with payment returned from the recipient to PACODEF on a monthly basis until payment is complete.

“This microcosm of an integrated community support network is an example of how a village, when working together, can grow a great tree which will continue to bear fruit for future generations. VPI is proud to be a partner in this endeavor.”





A letter to our supporters:

Traveling with VPI to Mombin Crochu, Haiti, has forever changed my life.

I have seen your love and donations at work, raising the hopes and lessening the fears of those most in need.

I have seen the empty cholera tent, which once was full, all accomplished with education and tools.

I have seen Moringa seeds sprouted and nurtured.

I have heard about your well, with life sustaining water in the most challenging conditions.

I have seen the children being fed and educated.

I have seen the patients fed.

I have seen doctors who have returned to their hometown and dedicated themselves to caring for their own.

I have seen the love and trust and hope in the faces of those who come for care, knowing we will be back again and again.

I wish you could see the faces of the men and women when they find that perfect pair of glasses that corrects their vision.

Upon departure from our homeland, I have seen the faces of those I travel with--our voices booming and our thoughts filled with love and energy and thankfulness and hope.

Once we arrive in Mombin I have seen that burst of energy where the clinic is readied in record time for our days of work there, knowing we have you behind us, we give our all to our Haiti family.

I have heard the sweet sounds filling the clinic every morning..a local minister leading

devotion and the spirited singing of hymns by the patients and their loved ones in the waiting room

Some of these people have walked for days, some patients have waited from one year to the next And I have been there when the time comes for dismantling of the working clinic as we know it.

Upon departure my face is somber, my gaze is far away, my heart is full, my thoughts are all my own...keeping close in thought, heart and prayers those I will serve again in Mombin.

Standing close by, one of our interpreters sharing a recording of "we are the world"... I am a God chosen vessel overflowing with your love.

Thank YOU for making this possible. Beckie Courtney, RN