



Village Partners International
partnering to help people help themselves

MAY 2016

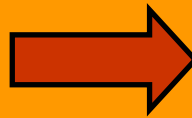
BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT WALLS

How do you go about building bridges between cultures? First, make trust and meaningful dialogue your foundation and secondly provide the support necessary to improve the lives of those in need. Village Partners International works to build bridges by following the Three Cs: Connect, Commit and Continue. As Reverend Dr. John T. DeBevoise believes, each one of these stages is important in order to create a sustainable change for a community in need. First, we create a connection with the community leaders to find out what the needs are and where they are most dire. Next, we commit to raise both funds and awareness of the problems people are facing. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we continue to facilitate sustained improvement. True sustainability can only come through partnership and this is why, ultimately, our goal is to give members of a community the tools they need to move forward toward ownership, pride and independence.

OUR MISSION:

VILLAGE PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL STRIVES TO DEVELOP AND ENHANCE COMMUNITIES WITH PROFOUND NEED. THROUGH PARTNERSHIP, WE SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING THE WORLD A STRONGER COMMUNITY, ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME.

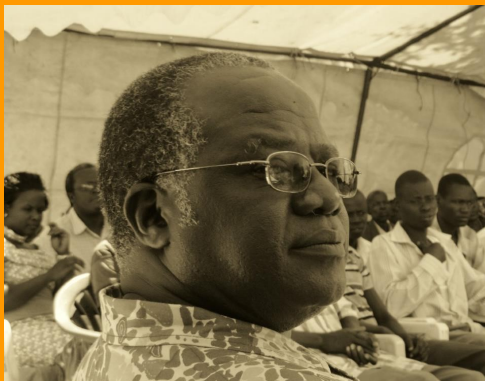
CONNECT



COMMIT



CONTINUE



"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

Moringa Makes Sense in Papoli!

The growing and complementary use of nutritional supplements derived from dried leaves of Moringa has led to the great improvements both at the Child Wellness Centre and in the outlying communities near Papoli. This is primarily because Moringa production incurs no cost and the knowledge and skills for growing and using it are passed on to the people who are sharing experiences. The good news is that Moringa use is now spread across the District of Tororo and beyond. This is a shining example of sustainable improvements to health and well being.



Our Mite Was Mighty!

By Linda Brown Boza

Gathering Pennies for Papoli has become an annual tradition at St. Mary's Episcopal Day School in Tampa. Typically, the seventh graders run this service project. Over the last two years it has been joined with the mite box collection during Lent.

In keeping with the school's theme of Learn-Love- Lead, students learn about the situation in Papoli, feel compassion toward the need, and lead a penny drive to help.

After the seventh graders make a school-wide presentation about Papoli and the penny drive, they visit classes to encourage participation. When the collection is over, they put on a fun Papoli Play Time for the grade which raises the most money. The fun time might involve playing soccer with the ball the children in Papoli made or having water jug raises so they can feel the weight of the water children in Uganda typically carry.



The seventh grade students running the campaign this year began participating when they were only in first grade. Their enthusiasm helped St. Mary's break their record with a Pennies for Papoli collection of \$3982.33. This will provide food for the children's clinic in Papoli, Uganda, for FIVE WEEKS! The clinic feeds 40 to 80 children each day. That means children will be strengthened with nourishment and be able to go back to school where they can learn and eventually help others.

THANK YOU, St. Mary's!

PAPOLI TAILORING SCHOOL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

By: Emmanuel Ofambi



In an effort to empower Papoli women and youth to become economically self-reliant, a new tailoring school building is now under construction. Giving Ugandans skills they can use to create income is one of the new strategies community leaders are advocating for the youth and women who are often demoralized due to lack of employment opportunities in the country. Planning and Reflection sessions last year prioritized tailoring as one of the projects that may address and contribute directly to socio-economic transformation among the community members of Papoli. Providing tailoring training and sewing machines on loan is one way to make this change. A majority of women have now moved from the old mentality of waiting for their spouses to provide all the household necessities to an empowerment where women now partly provide, save and plan for their family development and for a better future for the children. The money these women are now able to make can mean the difference between their children having an opportunity to attend school or not. This is not only good for families, it also benefits the community and the nation.



“Giving Ugandans skills they can use to create income is one of the new strategies community leaders are advocating ...” Emmanuel Ofambi

VPI VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Adicia Bathon



"I have volunteered for VPI as an RN on 2 medical mission trips to Haiti, where I have worked in the hospital clinic, mobile clinic and in the OR. For 4-5 years, I volunteered at the annual fundraiser tending bar and raising tip donations. Last year I chaired the fundraising committee and planned the annual fundraiser evening and silent auction event, where we raised about \$40,000 for VPI. I also organized the 1st and now the 2nd Kids Helping Kids free community and family event in Tampa. We aim to engage local kids in the cultures of kids in Haiti, Uganda and migrant farm workers and inspire them to help in VPI's projects or do good works on their own. We collected almost 100 bottles of children's vitamins, dozens of boxes of bandages, and over \$1000 in cash donations for VPI last year! I am also a very proud member of the Board of Directors."

Adicia's selfless dedication to those in need, her infectious smile and her seemingly tireless energy to work for others is why we gratefully honor her as a representative of the essence of VPI.

We are very excited to be planning our second annual 'Kids Helping Kids!' free community event. The exact date is to be determined, but the event will be coming soon on a sunny Saturday in July perfect for snow cones and popcorn. We look forward to engaging kids in education, inspiration and of course fun through a variety of activities, crafts and games! We will gratefully be accepting donations of Children's Vitamins (not gummy) for the hospital in Haiti and new kid's sneakers of any size for the farm workers in Wimauma, FL.