

Village Partners International



Winter Newsletter 2025



HIGHLIGHTING THE HOMELESS

Housing insecurity has become an increasing reality in our country, with data showing an increase of 18% from 2023 or that 1 in every 500 Americans were homeless in 2024.

Each week in Tampa, Florida, a group walks downtown seeing the often invisible who live on the streets. Carrying food, coffee, clothing, books, toiletries and other needed supplies, a hand up is offered as a bridge is built to help individuals pass through this difficult time.



Currently, an average of 70 people are reached weekly, as volunteers connect with each person individually, offering dignity and respect. The generous donations given by so many allow those often unseen to feel the mercy and love of the community, and they know they are not alone.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US HELP OTHERS

Village Partners International

Summer Newsletter 2024



HAITI HIGHLIGHTS

The political situation in Haiti has continued to produce significant problems throughout the country, causing incredible suffering. In spite of great difficulties, in the mountains surrounding Mombin Crochu, work continues as the dedicated doctors, nurses and personnel care for those who are sick, those who are hurting, those who are hungry, and those who are vulnerable.

During the 1st 2 quarters of 2024, 1182 patient encounters occurred at the hospital, 476 encounters at the Mobile Clinics, and 57 deliveries were performed. During this time, 4958 children were screened for Malnutrition, 93 were treated, and 994 received Albendazole for deworming. With the unrest in the cities, many families traveled to the mountains for safety. 150 family units received food to sustain them during this vulnerable time. In addition, needed repairs were made at the guest house, and clean water cisterns were maintained.



A second VPI sponsored Haitian Medical Team Mission Trip to the hospital occurred April 5-13, 2024, delivering needed specialty care and surgery to patients in the area. The team consisted of 15 health professionals, including 7 MD's, 1 dentist and 6 nurses. During this week 52 surgeries were performed and 120 patients were screened at the Mobile Clinic .

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UGANDA UPDATES



Ongoing services at the Papoli Community Health Center include medical clinics, pediatric clinics, a day care for at risk children, maternity care, and community outreach, serving 11 villages in the Papoli Parish.

During the first 2 quarters of 2024, 2424 outpatient visits were recorded, 1835 immunizations were given to children, and screening for malnutrition is done daily.



The Robert H. Cooley Pediatric Daycare serves 35 at risk children each day, ensuring nutrition and hygiene care.

At the Jay and Janice Jester Maternity Clinic, prenatal and ante-natal care is given, and safe deliveries are overseen by midwives. During the first 2 quarters of the year, 88 deliveries occurred with no infant mortality.

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SEEING THE INVISIBLE

Kindness Matters continues weekly walks throughout the streets of Tampa, seeing those frequently invisible, who often, through no fault of their own, are homeless. Acting as a bridge during times of crisis, we work to restore hope. Nearly 1500 encounters have occurred in the first 2 quarters of 2024, as the numbers continue to rise.



Each week, Publix gift cards are given to at least 40 individuals, giving them autonomy and independence to choose their own purchases. Coffee and food are given, specifically requested clothing, shoes, books, and other needed items are distributed, and stories are shared.



Monthly, carts are filled with coffee, food, clothing, toiletries, books, glasses, shoes, blankets, and other items essential for daily life. These are then shared with those in need, on an individual basis as each person encountered is treated with dignity and respect.

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A Story of Hope

Each person helped through the work of Village Partners International has a story, unique yet in many ways the same, as all share the love given by those who reach out a hand to one in need. Sometimes the story is individual, sometimes it involves an entire community. This is a story of hope.

With the political unrest that exists in Haiti at this time, families have been forced to leave their homes, crops have failed, and food insecurity is reality for many who have travelled to the NW mountains to escape the violence of the cities. In response to the need for food, VPI, with the help of generous donors, has sent and continues to send funds to help relieve this. A program for distribution of food kits, run by Dr Miles and the dedicated personnel of the Health Center in Mombin Crochu, was developed. Those families most vulnerable are given the kits, overall health is improved, and malnutrition is lessened. Purchasing the items from local groups contributes to the village economy, involving the entire community in the support effort.

This effort not only strengthens the Health Center's capacity to respond to the urgent needs of the community, but also gives hope to those who so often feel hopeless, as someone, somewhere, sees their need and reaches out a hand to help.

