



villages in partnership



**2017** ANNUAL REPORT

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From the President .....	1
Our Mission .....	2
How We Work.....	3
Financial Information .....	4
Impact at a Glance .....	5
Staff Members .....	6
The Six Critical Needs .....	7
WATER .....	8
FOOD SECURITY .....	10
EDUCATION .....	14
HEALTHCARE .....	16
Medical and Dental Mission .....	18
INFRASTRUCTURE .....	20
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .....	22
Friendship Trips .....	24
Our Donors .....	26
Our Partners .....	28





## villages in partnership

### DEAR VIP FRIENDS AND PARTNERS,

This year has demonstrated the tremendous impact your generosity is having and reinforced the critical need for us to focus on sustainable, long-term solutions to the food security issues facing our friends in Malawi. Although steady rains led to a plentiful harvest in the spring of 2017, the ravages of climate change and uncertain rains returned. After a good beginning to this year's growing season, the rains suddenly stopped, and much of the maize withered on the stalks.

But, you are making a difference! Farmers who implemented the advanced, conservation farming techniques we are teaching did significantly better than those using traditional planting methods, notwithstanding the difficult growing conditions. In addition, we launched our pilot large-scale irrigation project, which promises to provide a significant additional weapon for combating the impact of changing weather patterns. We are making progress towards our goal of equipping our friends with the means to insulate themselves from the vagaries of climate change.

And as detailed throughout this Annual Report, you are having a dramatic impact in other areas as well. For me, one of the most exciting reports coming back from Malawi was the news that Lucius Phiri, one of the students whom we have supported with scholarships, became the first person from his village to graduate from university. I met Lucius on my last visit to Malawi, and heard first-hand about the sacrifices his mother had made to support his education. His story is an inspirational one indeed. Thank you for bringing hope and making a real difference in the lives of more than 19,000 of our neighbors on the other side of the globe.

*Bob Rhoad*

PRESIDENT, VILLAGES IN PARTNERSHIP



**“You are making a difference.”**

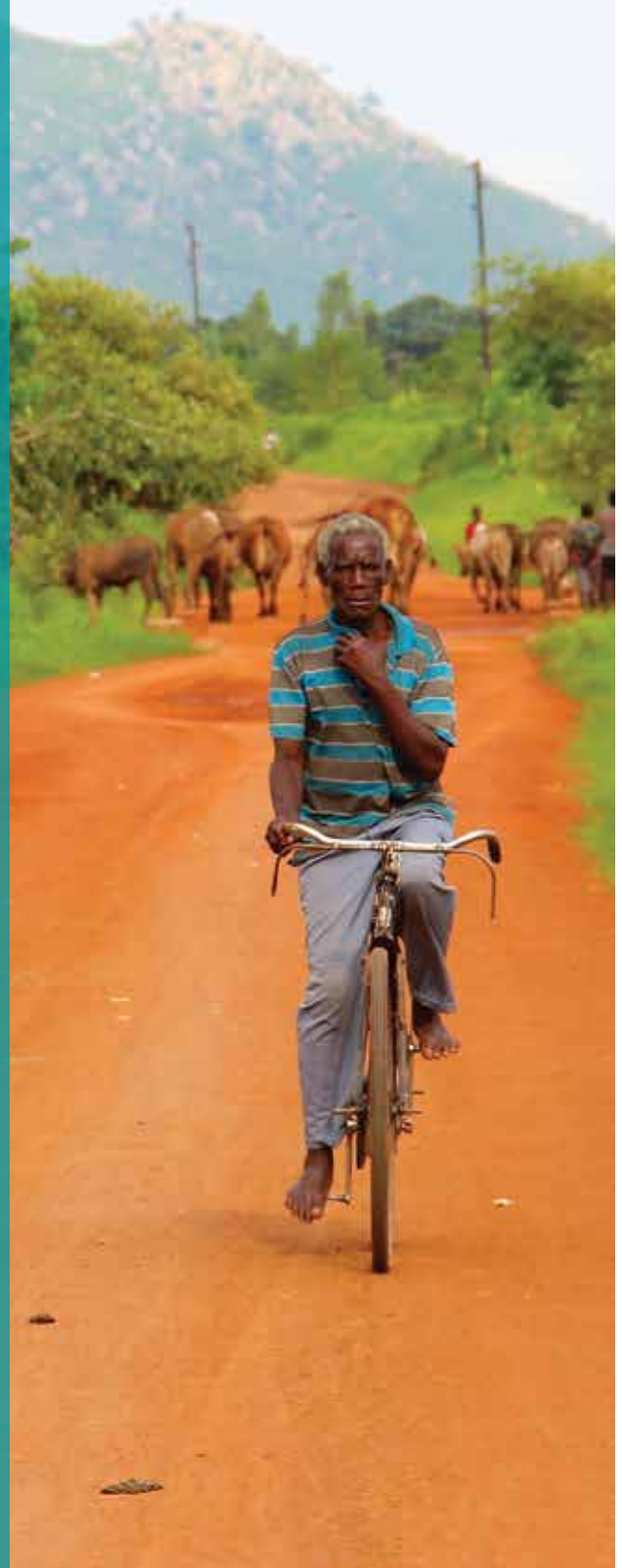
**OUR VISION** is a world in which communities from across the globe work together in partnership to transform each other's lives, so that people are relieved from suffering and can begin to achieve their full potential.

**OUR BELIEF** is that we can empower people to raise themselves from extreme poverty by coming alongside them as partners to share each other's burdens, resources and solutions.

**OUR MISSION** is to build partnerships between villages in the developed world and villages in Malawi to bring about life-changing development for all.

**OUR METHOD** is to work with local development experts in Malawi to implement programs designed to simultaneously address the interconnected web of root causes of extreme poverty: lack of access to clean water, food insecurity, poor health care, inadequate education, insufficient infrastructure, and lack of economic opportunities.

**OUR MOTIVATION** is to respond to the call of Jesus Christ to love and serve the poor, the hungry, the widowed and the orphaned.



# HOW WE WORK

Villages in Partnership is working in 26 rural villages in the Sakata region of Malawi. Our approach to development is based on an enduring collaborative partnership with the people of Malawi. Through the design and implementation of sustainable development projects we transform the lives of over 19,000 people.

## THE POWER OF VIP'S APPROACH



### Commitment to Our Villages

We have a personal relationship with every one of our partner villages and will remain in those villages until they have been lifted out of extreme poverty.



### Our Values

Walking in the path of Jesus, we love our neighbor as ourselves.



### Targeting Root Causes

We simultaneously address the six critical needs of human development to break the vicious cycle of extreme poverty.



### A Hand up Not a Hand Out

VIP programs empower local communities to be part of the solution so that villagers are able to meet their own needs.



### Local Leadership

Real change comes from the grassroots. That's why 100% of our development staff is Malawian.



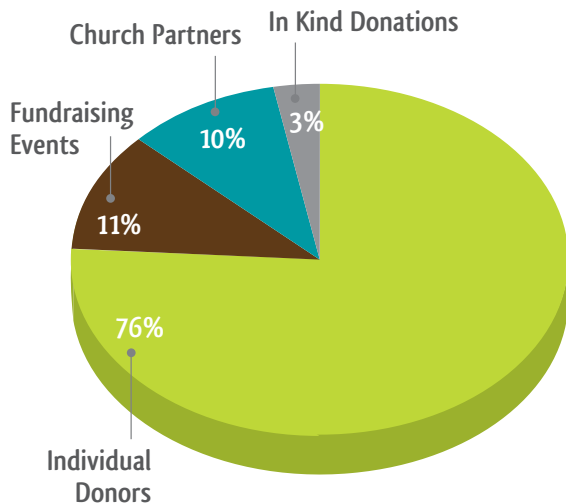
### Our Personal Connection

We are not distant benefactors, but true partners. Many of our supporters travel to Malawi to break bread with and work alongside our Malawian brothers and sisters.

**By working together, in true partnership,  
we create lasting change.**

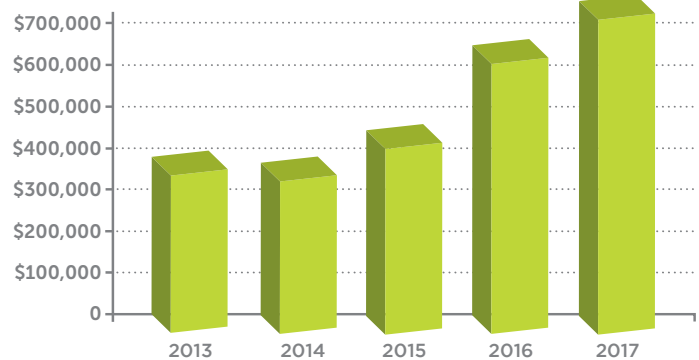
# YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

## Sources of Revenue



## Revenue Growth

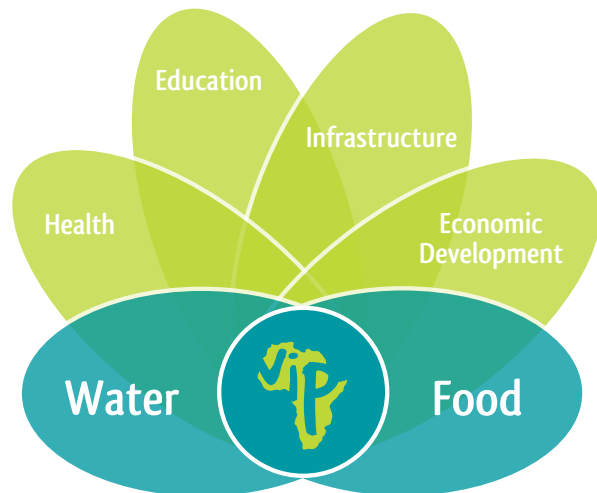
Revenue has grown rapidly, driven by church partners, individual donations, and fundraisers.



Thank you to all our volunteers who give countless hours and freely offer their expertise, working behind the scenes and oftentimes into late hours. Your dedication to our brothers and sisters in the remote villages of Malawi is having an incredible impact and is greatly appreciated—both by them and by us. God is good, all the time!

## Expenditures

The path from **Extreme Poverty** to **Sustainable Living** involves addressing simultaneously the six interconnected areas needed for humans to thrive—food, water, education, health, economic opportunity and infrastructure. In 2017 VIP allocated the resources provided by our donors and by implementing dozens of projects across each of these six areas, saw dramatic changes in the lives of the 19,000 people living in our 26 villages. By ensuring that the people who live in rural Malawi have **access to the most fundamental needs of clean water and sufficient food**, we are able to make sure children are attending school, medical care is closer than ever, small businesses are opening at astonishing rates and homes, roads and the environment are improving dramatically.



# IMPACT AT A GLANCE

## IN 2017 WE:

- ✓ Drilled 7 new wells for 7 villages
- ✓ Constructed 8 new classrooms serving over 900 students
- ✓ Installed solar lighting in 9 teacher houses and 12 classrooms
- ✓ Trained 13 villages, and over 1,000 people in WASH (water sanitation and hygiene) practices
- ✓ Provided scholarships to 44 vulnerable high school students
- ✓ Sent 8 students to the University of Malawi and private colleges
- ✓ Treated 5,730 patients during the Medical Outreach Mission
- ✓ Organized Village Savings and Loan Associations who saved \$30,370
- ✓ Provided over 200 farmers with conservation agriculture training to mitigate climate change
- ✓ Built a bridge connecting the Liti and Kadya villages to markets, clinics, and schools
- ✓ Initiated a monthly Dental Clinic serving an average of 70 patients each day



**"IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO THAT MY FAMILY WAS CALLED TO LIVE IN MALAWI, AFRICA.** We landed at Chileka airport on January 1, 2008. When I think about how God has moved and changed so many lives, I am brought to my knees in gratitude. This New Year's, as we reflected on that year with Terra and Jordan, Terra, who was only 12 at the time we left, said, "It was the year everything changed." Indeed it was, for the Heinzelnelson family and for so many, many others because of the VIP family. I give thanks to God for all who have given so freely and selflessly to come alongside the poorest and most vulnerable in the world. Let us persevere to the end!"

— LIZ HEINZEL-NELSON

# STAFF MEMBERS



## VIP Staff Members

- Wellings Mwalabu** *Program Coordinator*
- Frank Mwenjemeka** *Food Security Project Officer*
- Daniel Bonongwe** *Community Mobilizing Officer*
- Vincent Chilombe** *Irrigation Technician*
- Charles Sokoso** *Livestock Technician*
- Joseph Majamanda** *Construction & Logistics Officer*
- Maxwell Muhiwa** *Education Officer*
- Madalitso Chakani** *Health & Nutrition Facilitator*
- Aubrey Kamwendo** *Finance Assistant*
- Stain Namwera** *Office Assistant*
- Kondwani Mihowa** *Driver*

## Community Workers

- Bertha Chitanda**
- Patricia Namtongwe**
- Ganizani Matope**
- Tisunge Kandulu**
- Wilson Nalivata**
- Laston Peter Kassimu**

“I first heard of Villages in Partnership through my church in 2015 and made my first trip to Malawi in March of 2018. Upon reflection, I was particularly impressed by four elements of their mission. First is the passion VIP shows for their ministry. They care deeply about the people they serve in Malawi. Second is the comprehensive nature of their ministry. VIP recognizes that many systemic conditions underlie severe poverty in Malawi. By focusing on six primary factors, VIP provides comprehensive programs to address poverty in a holistic manner. Third is their dedication to the long-term viability of the villages they serve. Addressing poverty holistically requires a commitment over time. When VIP engages with a village they commit themselves to the enduring success of the community. Finally, VIP recognizes that the needs of each village are unique. VIP builds development plans cooperatively with village leadership that reflect the priorities set by village leadership.”



— CHRIS EBLING, VOLUNTEER FORESTRY ADVISOR



# THE SIX CRITICAL NEEDS

## OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

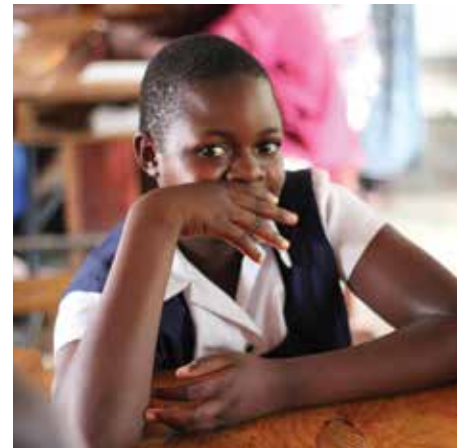
The goal of Villages in Partnership is to eradicate extreme poverty, beginning in the rural villages of the Sakata region in Malawi. Extreme poverty is poverty that leads to hopelessness, despair, and even death. It is caused by a lack of resources in six critical needs of human development: food, water, education, healthcare, infrastructure and economic opportunity. Without adequate resources in each, extreme poverty traps its victims in a vicious cycle from which they cannot break free on their own.



**WATER**



**FOOD SECURITY**



**EDUCATION**



**HEALTH CARE**



**INFRASTRUCTURE**



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



VIP has now drilled 29 boreholes impacting 17,675 people in Malawi since our inception.

**CLEAN WATER IS UNIVERSALLY IDENTIFIED AS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY**

when VIP first approaches a village to explore partnership. In 2017 VIP drilled seven new boreholes bringing us to a total of 29 machine-drilled boreholes since we started drilling wells in 2013. These wells provide clean, accessible water for 17,675 people. This has drastically reduced the workload for girls and women who used to fetch water that was often over a 30-minute walk away. Each community receiving a well participates in intensive maintenance training and fundraising so that the community is equipped to independently purchase parts and maintain their own wells. Several of these new wells were placed in villages where the population is high and the land area is large, including Liti, Kalupe and Mkumbira.



**VIP staff held an award ceremony to identify best performers of WASH practices to motivate others to adopt the practices.**

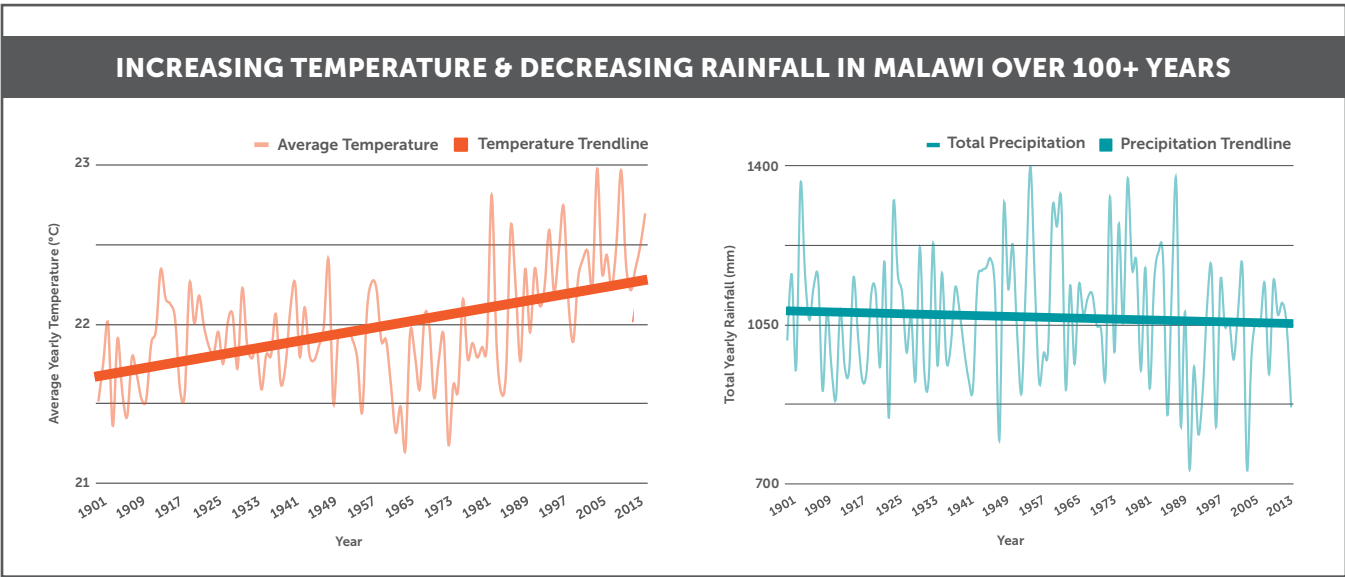


In addition to providing clean water, VIP teaches sanitation. In collaboration with the Malawian Department of Health, VIP trained 13 communities in WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) practices at home and in school. These lessons involved the establishment of hand washing stations next to each pit latrine and teaching adults and children the value of washing hands. VIP insists that each primary school, preschool, and public building built by VIP also has pit latrines and that all teachers and staff are trained in best practices concerning sanitation and hygiene.



**VIP IS DEDICATED TO CREATING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SOURCES.** The climate in Malawi is changing, with drier and hotter seasons preventing farmers from having a bountiful harvest.

To combat these effects, in 2017, we focused on providing more sustainable solutions to villagers. We approached this challenge by introducing solar irrigation farming, teaching conservation farming techniques, and promoting crop diversification. Unfortunately, there was an infestation of fall army worms that have attacked and destroyed many of the maize crops all across Malawi, including in our impact area. That infestation, combined with yet another year of poor rains, had a devastating impact on the upcoming harvest. Less than 20% of households sampled reported having enough food to last until the next harvest.





**Solar Irrigation** To insulate our farmers from fluctuations in rainfall, we began a pilot project that will allow farmers' cooperatives to irrigate fields using solar power to draw water from underground aquifers. The initial solar irrigation system covers 12 acres and will benefit 70 households. VIP is moving towards our goal of having farmers in Malawi become fully self-sufficient.

## Our pilot solar irrigation system covers 12 acres and will benefit 70 households

**Conservation Farming** We teach low cost, natural farming techniques that improve soil moisture and soil quality to combat prolonged dry spells, increase crop yields, and reduce dependence on fertilizers. 170 farmers implemented these strategies in 2017, and they experienced dramatically better crop yields than those who relied on traditional farming techniques. We train lead farmers, who adopt these techniques on demonstration fields and then teach the techniques to their neighbors, expanding the impact we're able to have.

**Crop Diversification** By diversifying the crops they grow, farmers are able to improve nutrition, create potential sources of income, and enhance their resilience by reducing reliance on a single food source. In addition to trainings on the benefits of and methods to implement crop diversification, we provided 200 farmers with sweet potatoes and other planting materials, the fruits of which will be shared and passed along to other sets of farmers in future years.



**Livestock** One of VIP's most successful projects is our goat and dairy cow distribution program, combined with our Pass On requirement. Livestock provides food security, agricultural fertilizer, and a source of income for vulnerable families. VIP distributes a breed of goats that tends to have multiple kids in each litter, and we require that the first offspring of every goat and cow be passed to another vulnerable family to spread the impact of this initiative. Farmers are trained prior to receiving a goat or cow to ensure their proper care. In 2017, 50 farmers were given goats and 863 goats were treated with medications as part of our de-worming campaign, which is designed to help them remain healthy for breeding and sale at the market.



“VIP’s success in training farmers in Malawi to use conservation practices is already showing positive results. By improving the soil and finding ways to need less fertilizer and water, these practices enhance the farmer’s ability to earn money and increase the amount of food going into the community. It is very encouraging to see how VIP has been able to educate farmers on conservation farming.”

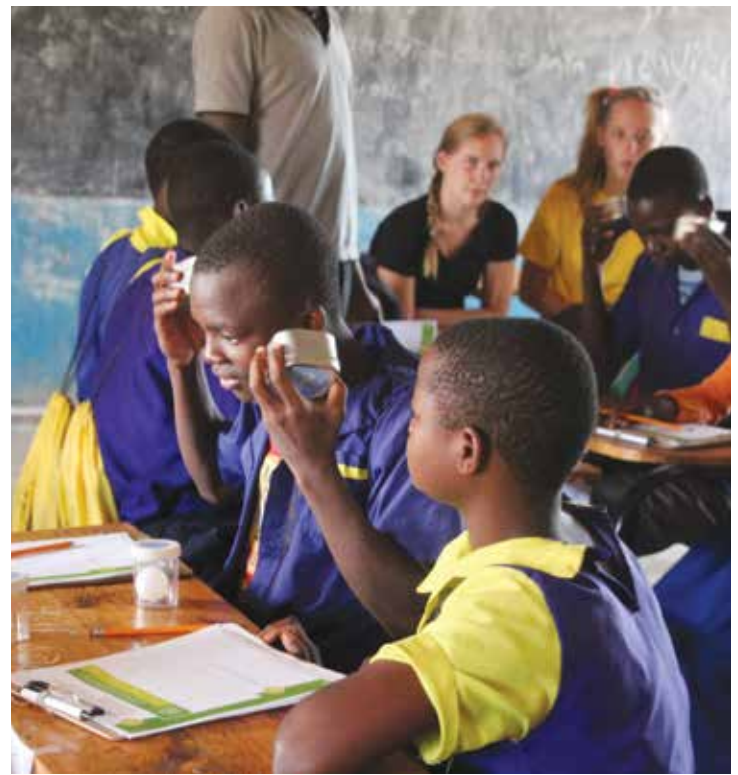
— TOM MARRERO, BOARD MEMBER AND  
2017 FRIENDSHIPTRIP PARTICIPANT



**IN 2012 MRS. CHIMENYA'S HUSBAND SUFFERED FROM A DEBILITATING STROKE**

preventing him from returning to his government job. This suddenly left the family vulnerable. VIP supplied Mrs. Chimenya with seed and fertilizer. She harvested a total of 15 bags of maize this year using VIP's conservation agriculture practices. In previous years she would only gather 8 bags per year. She also runs a produce stand outside of her home since she was able to harvest an abundance of sweet potatoes, maize, cassava, and ground nuts with seeds provided by VIP.



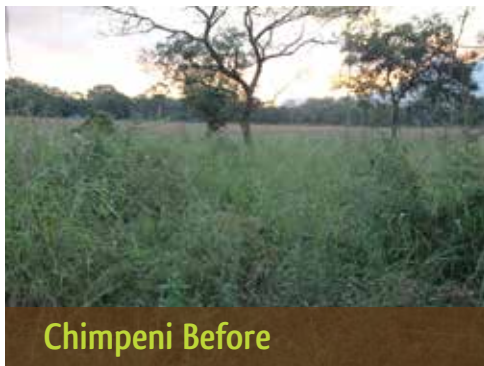


**EDUCATION IS HIGHLY-VALUED AT VIP** because we realize this will ultimately increase economic stability and overall quality of life in Malawi. With this focus in mind, we are paving the way for students from preschool all the way through college to thrive. In 2017 we focused on expanding resources in the Chimpeni Primary School, construction at the Sakata Primary School, and the rebuilding of the Mpoola CBCC Preschool. We also offered college scholarships thanks to the John Nathan Anderson Scholarship Foundation, and paid for secondary school fees for numerous students in our villages (less than 10% of the population completes secondary school).

**Chimpeni Primary School** Through our partnership with Colin and Jane Thorneycroft, owners of the Chimpeni Estate, we built a primary school that now has an enrollment of 654 students with a staff of 17 teachers. In 2017, VIP built a new school block, bringing the total to 12 classrooms since we began constructing the school from the ground up in 2010. The Malawian Government has certified Chimpeni School as a full primary school and for the first time, the school will be administering 8th grade examinations allowing students to be selected for secondary school education.

**Sakata Primary School** A few years ago, this school was a government-run facility that was overcrowded and falling apart. Now, it comfortably holds 920 students along with 19 teachers. VIP completed the construction of one teacher's house along with two new school blocks in 2017. Enrollment and attendance have dramatically increased. Where students used to sit on the floor, amidst puddles in the rainy season, they now enjoy welcoming classrooms where they can sit at desks.





**Chimpeni Before**



**Sakata Before**



**Mpoola Before**



**Chimpeni After**



**Sakata After**



**Mpoola After**

**Early Childhood Development** Studies show that human brain development and growth is most rapid and vulnerable from conception to age 5, making early childhood the most critical period of human development. Unfortunately, Malawi does not have a nationwide pre-school program. That is why VIP is partnering with, providing supplies for, and helping to organize more Community Based Childcare Centers (CBCCs). CBCCs are run by community members and serve as de-facto preschools to help ensure that children develop properly and receive the mental, social and physical stimulation they need to reach their full potential. In 2017 we completed the construction of the Mpoola CBCC building, replacing the prior makeshift grass shelter. Since rebuilding, the structure now holds 52 students and expects an increase in attendance.



**Chimwemwe Frank is an orphaned student supported by VIP for High School. In 2017 he was accepted into Yale University's leadership training symposium in Tanzania.**

### College Students

**Alex Mchosa** | 24 male  
UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Manasseh Luwemba** | 20 male  
UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI  
MEDICINE AND SURGERY

**Miness Chidzanja** | 19 female  
UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI  
GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

**Joseph Chilunga** | 21 male  
UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI  
BIOMEDICINE

**Jonasi Matiya** | 22 male  
DOMASI TEACHERS COLLEGE  
EDUCATION

**Null Kazembe** | 20 male  
CHILADZULU TEACHERS COLLEGE  
EDUCATION

**Ishmael Chimenya** | 21 male  
DOMASI TEACHERS COLLEGE  
EDUCATION

**Chimwemwe Mpando** | 21 male  
DOMASI TEACHERS COLLEGE  
EDUCATION

**Stephano Joshua** | 20 male  
UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI  
PHYSICAL PLANNING

**Emma Chingola** | 40 female  
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
EDUCATION



**VIP IS DEDICATED TO INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE IN MALAWI**

in order to foster a healthier community which is then able to participate in the country's economic development. The healthcare services we provide are accessible to the poorest and most vulnerable families.

**Yearly Medical and Dental Mission** Since 2010, VIP-sponsored Medical Teams travel to the remote Sakata region to provide free healthcare to thousands. Ours teams partner with Malawian medical personnel to serve the sick including those who are too weak to walk to the clinics (see pages 18-19).

**The Kalupe and Khanda Clinics** Our continued partnership with the H. Parker Sharp Health Center in Malawi allows us to run weekly outreach clinics for those in need and who may have limited access to the government run clinics which are often understaffed and under-resourced with needed medications. In 2017, we were able to expand access to care by adding an outreach clinic in Khanda Village, an area that is furthest from any government clinics.



“I have been going to Malawi since 2013 and it is amazing to see the growth in the health initiative from expansion of the medical clinics to the addition of dental services. To maintain sustainability, we need to look ahead to sending more Malawian clinicians to higher education and to building a medical and dental clinic where access to care continues to be a challenge.”

— JYNNIFER ALBANO, NURSE PRACTITIONER



“It’s a miracle how the dental clinic has grown in a few short years! We have two portable dental units that help provide better service to the most vulnerable and needy along with dedicated Malawian dental staff who serve the community every month. Thank you to our Lord and Savior for the gifts of everyone working with VIP.”

—SCOTT GRADWELL, DENTIST

**Kalino Dental Clinic** Starting in 2017, VIP partnered with the Zomba District Health Office to provide a free monthly dental clinic at Kalino Center. On average 70 villagers attended this clinic each day since it started in October receiving tooth extractions, fillings and other dental services. The addition of portable dental equipment allows VIP to save people’s teeth ensuring that dental care is focused on restoration and not just extractions.

**Preventative Health Initiatives** In 2017, Madalitso Chakani joined VIP as the Health & Nutrition Facilitator for VIP. Part of her focus is to incorporate preventative health measures. VIP targets the most vulnerable including pregnant women, children and the elderly by providing training on various forms of health and nutrition practices. One such program focused on 6 villages including 70 women who were identified because their children were malnourished. Madalitso is teaching them how to increase their supply of iron and other minerals through growing vegetables in their gardens. Nursing and pregnant mothers received pre-natal vitamins and iron tablets. Other programs teach prevention of contagious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, proper hand washing, and appropriate sanitation.





## MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION TRIP

**IN MAY 2017, THE LARGEST MEDICAL TEAM IN VIP'S HISTORY** (comprised of 26 doctors, dentists, nurses, nursing students, and medical students) traveled to Malawi to serve the sickest and vulnerable. Together with 58 Malawian medics, our teams offered medical care at multiple remote clinics allowing us to have a greater reach in the villages. The dental clinic, in its fourth year was supplied with portable dental units and chairs thanks to the generous support of Dr. Scott Gradwell and other supporting companies (*see our partners on page 28*).

VIP staff members and volunteers worked side-by-side with the Malawian medics to treat the needs of the patients. They treated many villagers with diseases and conditions unseen in America (including malaria and parasites), in addition to treating other ailments (such as respiratory infections, skin diseases and sexually transmitted infections). Our team stepped up to this challenge providing healing, compassion, and a sense of hope where almost all was lost. Together, the team treated over 5,730 patients.



“Eight years ago we started with a group of 3 volunteers; myself (a new NP), my daughter (a nursing student), and a friend. The team continues to grow and we look forward to planning for two trips in 2019. We are now able to follow up with patients, provide continuity in care and work on preventative health initiatives. Madalitso Chakani, Health & Nutrition Facilitator for VIP, has implemented new programs and coordinated new initiatives. Looking towards the future, our dream is to build a health clinic in conjunction with the Department of Health where there is no health

care and the nearest clinic is a 3 hour walk. The envisioned clinic will serve our villages and our neighbors, bringing another chance to live one more day and to see a future. This would empower these villages.”

– LUCY GOEKE, NURSE PRACTITIONER AND LEAD OF THE MEDICAL MISSION

### Medical Trip Participants

- Frank Albano
- Jyn Albano, NP
- Bryan Clippinger
- Jeff Clippinger
- Jacqueline Clippinger, RN
- Lauren Deddens
- Kaitlin Duncan
- Dr. Barbara R Edwards, MD
- Annie Goeke
- Lucy Goeke, NP
- Carol Golden, RN
- Eileen Gradwell, RN
- Dr. Scott Gradwell, DMD
- Stephanie Graefe, RN
- Maria Hill
- Katie Hulit, RN
- Jenna Ionna
- Maggie Johnson
- Krista G McNeice
- Adrienne Neumeister, RN
- Molly Sheeley
- Ryan Shiverdecker
- Dr. Julia Shor-Zapolskiy, MD
- Shawna Whitford, RN
- Blessy Varughese





**INFRASTRUCTURE IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF EVERY AREA OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT** on which VIP focuses. From the construction of schools and teacher houses to the drilling of boreholes, infrastructure is a part of nearly every VIP project. Additionally, we have infrastructure projects that focus on improving the broader health and connectivity of our entire impact area. One of our biggest infrastructure initiatives is the construction of new bridges and the repairing of old or damaged bridges. During the rainy season, large swaths of Malawi become flooded and normally passable roads are turned into streams, ponds or muddy morasses. Bridges are crucial arteries of communication which allow students to get to school, women to get to wells and sick people to get to clinic, and enable people and goods to move from village to village and market to market.

**Liti-Kadya Bridge** In 2017, VIP completed the construction of the Liti-Kadya bridge connecting the Liti and Kadya Villages. This new bridge allows children to attend primary schools, gives sick villagers the opportunity to seek medical attention at clinics just across the river, and offers business opportunities, thereby providing villagers access to markets.

**Impact of Rural Electrification** VIP continues to make progress introducing electrification to increasingly rural areas. In 2017, an electric powered rice mill was installed for rice shelling. The introduction of electrification enables businesses and shops to open in the areas surrounding VIP rice and maize mills– five grocery shops, a football show room, a barber shop, a hardware shop, an internet café and phone charging services.

**Environmental Conservation** A recent impact study indicated that under the direction of VIP, 100% of the households surveyed in our catchment area planted trees and are now aware of the effects of climate change, a significant first step in educating and facilitating lasting change.



## Bridges are crucial arteries of communication



**Installation of Solar Lights in Schools** Five teacher houses at Chimpeni Primary School and four teacher houses at Sakata Primary School have been installed with solar electricity. This has served to encourage teachers to stay on school campuses providing increased security and lowering teacher absenteeism. Solar kits have been installed in classrooms at both schools which enable 8th grade students and their teachers to work into the night preparing for upcoming examinations.





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

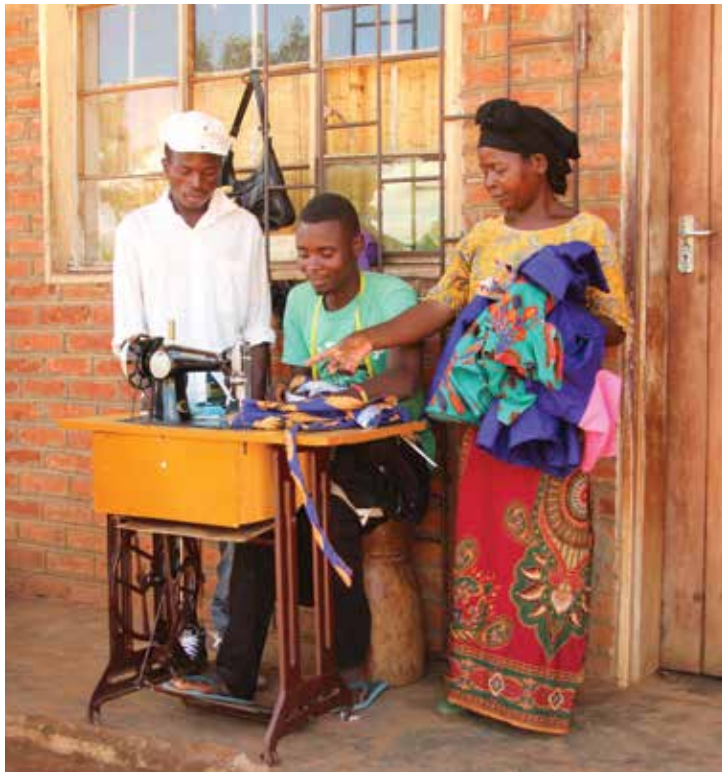


**VIP IS COMMITTED TO CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES** so that, as the other basic necessities of life become more stable, the villagers of Malawi can financially support themselves. Education, water, food security, infrastructure and healthcare are all necessary to break the cycle of extreme poverty, but without ongoing, sustainable means of generating income these resources are not sufficient. What is the use of growing surplus crops if there is no market for them? How will education transform the lives of young people if there are no jobs for recent graduates? There needs to be economic opportunities as well.

Villagers are trained in many areas of business such as beekeeping, tailoring, metal working, conservation agriculture and hairstyling. These areas of focus allow Malawians to contribute to their communities in a practical way while developing their own skill sets. In addition, Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLs) economic development programs were implemented to transform lives of their members. VSLs teach those involved how to save and combine their resources together to make loans for other members. Over 30 groups met on a regular basis in 2017, experiencing many benefits including the purchase of household assets and food. The most successful VSL group this past year collected a total of \$4,200. The members use their money to start small businesses, to pay for their children's school fees, to buy livestock, to purchase metal sheet roofing to replace their leaky thatched roofs and even to build brand new houses!

**VSLs have been very successful in facilitating the creation of new businesses and other forms of economic opportunities**





## 37 farmers attended the beekeeping training



**Beekeeping Clubs** Through the leadership of our Board Member Tim Schuler, New Jersey State Apiarist, VIP introduced beekeeping to villages in Malawi. Under his guidance, three villages received training from VIP: the Liti, Ngomano, and Sitaubi villages. 37 villagers attended the beekeeping trainings and half the hives received were occupied by the end of 2017. To ensure sustainability of the honey collected, VIP conducted a meeting of all 84 beekeepers to assist with future marketing practices and theft prevention.





## FRIENDSHIP TRIPS

**VIP'S FRIENDSHIP TRIPS ALLOW US TO WALK ALONGSIDE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN MALAWI.** During our time spent on these trips, we break bread together, worship with one another, and share our blessings along with our burdens. As we are invited into the lives of the most poor and vulnerable, our views on our lives are completely altered.

**AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE** *(During his fellowship year with VIP, Justin Zelenka had the opportunity to spend 3 weeks in Malawi)* "It is impossible for me to describe in a few short words what my 2017 trip to Malawi with VIP meant to me. I was initially drawn to VIP because I wanted to help people, and to do some good in the world. But I ended up gaining far more from my trip to Malawi than I was ever able to give. I gained a new perspective on the world and on the things that truly matter. I gained an appreciation for simplicity, hard work and the elemental beauty of nature and the human spirit. And I gained friendships that stretch across continents and that will last a lifetime. We often throw out the words 'life-changing trip' when talking about our latest vacation, but for me, my friendship trip to Malawi was truly that. I know that I am a better, kinder and more patient person because of my time there, and I am so grateful for the opportunity that VIP and the people of Malawi extended to me."

— JUSTIN ZELENKA





We receive more than we give.

**THE TRIPS IN 2017 DID NOT DISAPPOINT.** VIP hosted 53 people with diverse backgrounds from across the country, who gave of their time, talents and resources to help people they had never met before, halfway across the globe. 53 people who saw and heard what most people who travel to Africa never have the opportunity to see and hear, and likely try to avoid. It is those experiences, however, that bless the trip participants and enhance their lives. Blessings flow both ways, as we receive more than we give.



### Friendship Team Participants

- Gayle Anderson
- Phil Anderson
- John Anderson
- Nicole Anderson
- Sydney Gantzer
- James Garst
- Jennifer Garst
- Stephen Heinzl-Nelson
- Jordan Heinzl-Nelson
- Terra Heinzl-Nelson
- Kimberly Huchro
- Victoria Huchro
- John Hurlbert
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