



villages in partnership

*Thriving* During Difficult Times

2021 Annual Report



“ I am so incredibly excited to be a part of VIP. VIP empowers the people in the villages we serve to lift themselves out of poverty by giving them the tools they need to make the most of their own intelligence and initiative. This type of work is what makes me happiest and most fulfilled – serving God’s people in a way that teaches them to help themselves.”

- *Betsy Yates*

USA Board Member





“  
 The approach of VIP to development within each village is perfect... They meet the village where they are and move at the rate the village and VIP can manage sustainably. Every village is moving at a different rate and with each village we determine the needs and wishes of that community and we support them accordingly.”  
 - Tom Goeke  
 Construction Committee



# Impact Area

## 29 PARTNER VILLAGES

1	Machilika	2009	16	Mkumbira	2012
2	Mtambo	2009	17	Liti	2012
3	Kalupe	2009	18	Nkagula	2012
4	Kalino	2009	19	Muluwira	2012
5	Chikabwereza	2009	20	Chumba	2014
6	Mbuka	2009	21	Mgwalangwa	2014
7	Nambabada	2009	22	Mpoola	2014
8	Robeni	2009	23	Pahuwa	2014
9	Ngomano	2009	24	Mphero	2014
10	Teputepu	2009	25	Chidule	2014
11	Mtengowautali	2009	26	Libwalo	2016
12	Mkwezaziya	2009	27	Phetembe	2021
13	Situbi	2009	28	Samani	2021
14	Chilimani	2012	29	Khanda	2021
15	Disi	2012			

*\* Dates of Partnership*

MALAWI

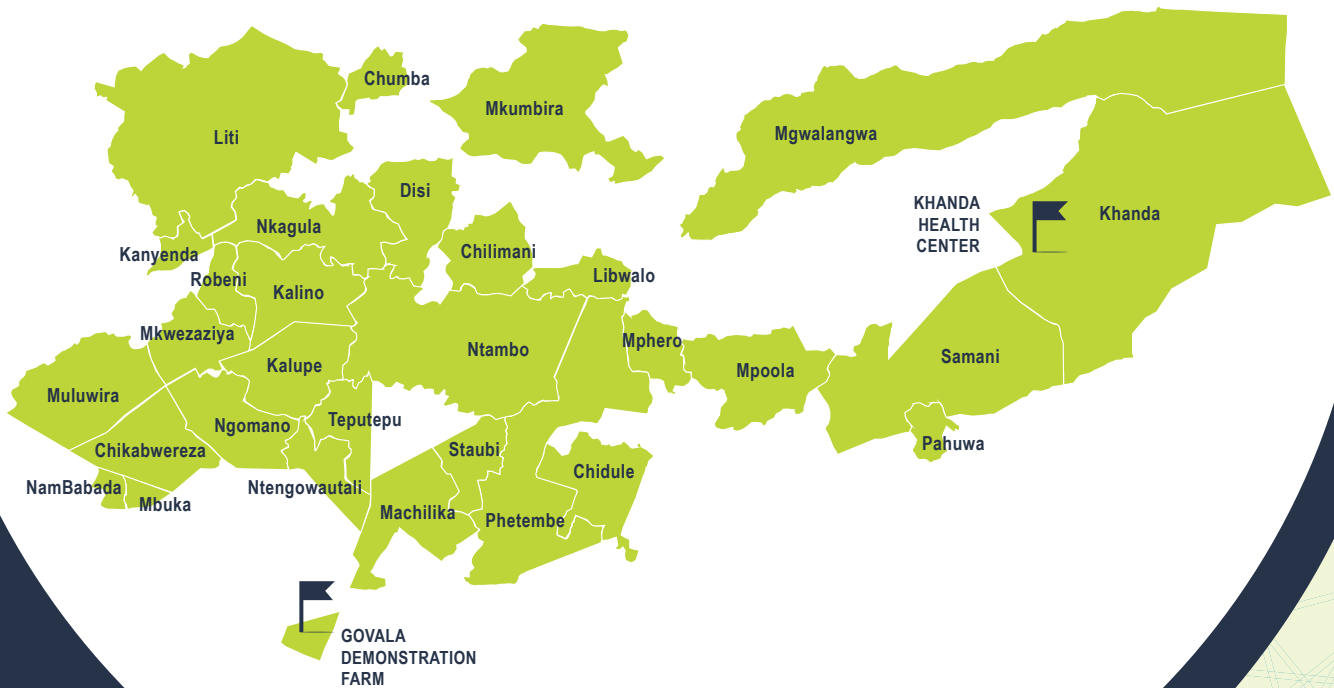


**5,612**  
HOUSEHOLDS



**24,606**  
INDIVIDUALS

*Changing lives,  
one village at a time.*



 **NEW PROJECTS**

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“

*I see God most clearly working when I am involved with Villages in Partnership. I have seen God change me from the inside out and the ripples that have gone out from my life since then are real and life-giving.”*

*- Randa Nelson*

USA Board Member



# A Letter from the President

*Dear Friends,*



**Our friends and  
partners in Malawi  
are incredibly  
grateful for your  
love and support,  
as are we for theirs.**

When I wrote last year about how VIP managed to overcome the extraordinary challenges we all faced in 2020, I couldn't have imagined that the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic would continue throughout 2021 as well. But just like last year, **you and our devoted staff stepped up to that challenge and enabled VIP to thrive during these difficult times.**

Because of COVID-related travel restrictions, none of us here in the US were able to travel to Malawi (we can't wait to get back!), but the pictures and stories we've received about the ways your support of our work is transforming lives brings tears to my eyes. The steadfastness of the love and support you pour into our partner communities is truly inspiring and incredibly impactful. I thank God for each and every one of you.

This Annual Report highlights the fruits of your generosity and includes just a few of the pictures and stories that have brought those tears to my eyes. There are many more pictures and stories of the impact you're having that we couldn't fit within the confines of this Report. Your support is making a tangible difference in the lives of more than 24,000 people whose futures are looking brighter than ever. Our friends and partners in Malawi are incredibly grateful for your love and support, as are we for theirs.

As I look forward to 2022, I can't wait to witness the new fruit of our labors and am especially looking forward to the completed construction of the new rural health center. As our biggest project ever, it will provide life-saving medical care to the remote village of Khanda and the surrounding communities. **Lives are changing. Lives are being saved. We are blessed. Thank you.**

With enduring hope and love,

*Bob Rhoad*

President, Villages in Partnership

# *Our Mission*

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



# *Our Vision*

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 Values

## Love

All of our actions are motivated by our love for God and for all of His children, no matter where they may live. We love our neighbors all over the globe, as we love ourselves.

## Relationship

We strive to know and value all of our partners, including our staff, the chiefs and village elders, grassroots leaders, government agents, donors, and members of our partner communities. We honor the existing village leadership structures and systems already established in our partner communities. We listen to the voices of our partners.

## Integrity

We will live our word. We shall act at all times with the highest degree of ethics and accountability which builds trust. We will use the resources entrusted to VIP wisely, in ways that will have a significant impact on the lives of our partners.



## Reciprocity

We expect our partners to invest themselves and their resources in the development of their communities. All beneficiaries are expected to give back to the best of their abilities; every project requires investment and response.

## Sustainability

The goal of every VIP project is to empower our partner villages to become self-sustaining communities. We want to equip our communities to thrive without the need for ongoing assistance from VIP or others.

## Holistic Care

We are concerned not only about the physical well-being of our partners, but also about their emotional, spiritual, and educational needs.

## Faithfulness

We understand that making transformational changes in the lives of those living in extreme poverty requires patience, persistence, trust, and time. We are committed to being there for our partners for a long time.



## Adaptability

Within the context of our core values, we are a learning and creative organization. We are flexible and innovative with our partners. We will learn from our mistakes, adapt, and move on.

# Our Approach



*Our approach is based on an enduring collaborative partnership with the people of Sakata, Malawi, our VIP Malawi staff, the Malawian Government and the VIP USA family.*

# Sustainable Development Goals



VIP's projects support 16 of the International Sustainable Development Goals developed by the UN to eradicate extreme poverty.

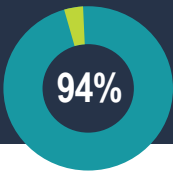
- 1 No Poverty ✓
- 2 Zero Hunger ✓
- 3 Good Health and Well-being ✓
- 4 Quality Education ✓
- 5 Gender Equality ✓
- 6 Clean Water and Sanitation ✓
- 7 Affordable and Clean Energy ✓
- 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth ✓
- 9 *Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure* ✓
- 10 Reduced Inequalities ✓
- 11 Sustainable *Cities and Communities* ✓
- 12 Responsible Consumption and Production ✓
- 13 Climate Action ✓
- 14 *Life Below Water*
- 15 Life on Land ✓
- 16 Peace and Justice Strong Institutions ✓
- 17 Partnerships to Achieve the Goal ✓



**5,262**

**HOUSEHOLDS**

access a safe water source due to the work VIP has done to build boreholes, rehabilitate dysfunctional wells and communal taps



*of households in  
VIP's Impact area*



**392**

**FARMERS**

practice conservation agriculture to better support the environment and improve crop production

## *2021 Impact at a Glance*

**20,553**

**CHICKENS**

vaccinated against the deadly Newcastle disease, increasing the overall nutrition and health of the villages in our impact area



**\$1,733.25**

*(MWK 1,779,000)*

**IN INCOME**

from honey sold at market by the Beekeepers of the Katambasula Honey Cooperative



**128** GOATS

passed on to families in need due to a successful animal management training program



**100** SECONDARY STUDENTS *and* **17** COLLEGE STUDENTS

received scholarships, ensuring a brighter future for both them and their families

**2** MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS BROKE GROUND:

- THE KHANDA HEALTH CENTER
- THE GOVALA DEMONSTRATION FARM

which will support all of the six critical needs of human development



**2,200** TREES

planted in schools to create woodlots protecting against harsh winds and helping to combat deforestation



**\$29,970.81** SAVED

by Village Savings and Loan groups, allowing women to start small businesses and gain financial freedom

**4,328** PATIENTS

received free medical care through outreach clinics

*and*

**1,404**

received free dental care



**128** CONCRETE SANITATION PLATFORM COVERS

were installed over latrine pits throughout our impact area to further promote health and sanitation



# A Sustainable Lifestyle

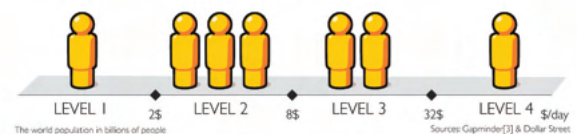
VIP'S APPROACH TO ERADICATING POVERTY was founded on the realization that ending poverty would take a comprehensive strategy. Due to the complex and complicated nature of extreme poverty, we developed a multi-faceted approach based on the six critical needs of human development: water, food security, economic development, education, infrastructure, and healthcare. Even more so, we believe individuals who participate in multiple VIP programs are more likely to move up the economic ladder.

Since the release of *Factfulness*, where Hans Rosling examines how people live and how their lives change as they earn more money, we have investigated the VIP approach against the book's findings. Rosling defines people's well-being by four levels of development, looking at drinking water, transportation, cooking methods, diet and sleeping conditions (see table, right). Our initial findings confirm that the people of Sakata, Malawi are located at Level 1, extreme poverty, and it is our hope that through VIP programs they are able to move toward a more sustainable lifestyle.

In December, 2021, we conducted a survey of every household in our impact area to better understand how people's lives were changing as a result of participating in VIP initiatives. The goal of the survey is to test our core belief that individuals who participate in multiple VIP programs - not just one - will show improved economic well-being. Although we successfully conducted the survey in 2021, we were not able to fully study the results this year. We plan to release our findings in next year's annual report. However, we've seen first-hand countless stories like the one below that support that lives are changed when you create long-term partnerships and work together to create custom solutions!



LIFE ON THE FOUR INCOME LEVELS





“VIP is really helping the people of Malawi. Our friends in America should continue to help Malawi so that the help we are getting from you can also go to others. VIP is a wonderful organization!”

*- John Basai*

**JOHN BAISI FROM DISI VILLAGE** has been involved in a number of VIP programs since 2014. As a lead farmer for his village, an early adopter of conservation agriculture, a paraveterinary worker, and a seed multiplication farmer, John represents all that is possible when people are given the tools to lift themselves out of poverty.

In his early seventies, John is proudly married with 11 children — five boys and six girls. Even though most of his children are married, Caroline, the youngest, is still in school and requires his financial support. She attends the Katamba Community Day Secondary School and is in Form 3 (grade 11). In addition, John and his wife also live with three other children and four grandchildren.

VIP first introduced seed multipliers to the impact area in 2018 and John was a member of the inaugural group. He and 14 other members were taught to grow basic seed

of CG7 groundnuts (a certified seed type) in order to sell to Village Implementation Committees and other area farmers whose revolving seed had lost its vigor.

Today, John Baisi has grown CG7 seed (in the multiplication program) for the past three years. During the 2019/2020 harvest season, he made MWK 300,000 (approximately \$292) from the sale of groundnut seed. The following season, he made MWK 392,250 (over \$380) by selling 35 bags. With the proceeds, he has been able to purchase the necessary materials to construct his house including bricks, a door, window frames, and iron sheets to replace his thatched roof. No more rainy leakage!

John plans to continue to plant more CG7 groundnut seed in his upcoming harvests so he can continue to take care of his family and build his house. He is thankful for the support he has received from his VIP family and urges other farmers to participate in VIP programs and adopt the practices so they too can experience the same life transformation!

# Water

*Madzi Ndi Moyo... Water is Life!*

**Water is consistently identified as the top priority by our partners in Malawi. With the work we accomplished in 2021, we are excited to say over 23,000 people or 94% of families in our partner villages, now have access to clean water, less than a 10 minute walk! Investment in water resources is crucial not only for drinking purposes, but it also plays a critical role in food security, health, and education.**

## ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

In 2021 VIP rehabilitated 15 community water taps in six villages allowing an additional 299 households to have access to clean water. Originally we were planning to only rehabilitate ten taps but were able to do 15 due to savings for the materials. These water points have a compounding effect. Not only do they provide water that is safe to drink and use for cooking and washing, but they also reduce the distance needed to travel to water. This enables girls to go to school and provides women with the time to start small businesses and improve the lives of their families and communities. Since its inception, VIP projects have provided clean and accessible water to over 24,000 of our Malawian brothers and sisters with over 100 clean water sources, improving health, economic, and educational outcomes.

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

To help ensure local control and long-term sustainability of wells and boreholes, four new area mechanics received intensive training in conjunction with the Zomba Water Department. These mechanics serviced 71 boreholes and dozens of other water points starting in September of 2020. They have each been supplied with a bicycle and backpacks by VIP. Their services are paid for by community contributions to their local village water committees, who have themselves received training in leadership and data collection methodologies. To date over \$800 has been set aside by the villagers to pay for the repair services of their water source.

## WATER HYGIENE AND SANITATION

VIP organized Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) training for our communities. This training led to increased hygiene and sanitation practices in 16 villages. These workers targeted the construction of better pit latrines and the installation of hand washing stations in 16 of our partner villages thus reducing diarrhea and other water borne diseases due to poor sanitation. Additionally, in an effort to have durable toilets, the project facilitated the installation of 133 sanitation platforms in four targeted villages. These concrete slabs cover the opening of the pit latrines, and improve the durability and sanitation of the latrines.





Water is consistently identified as the top priority by our partners in Malawi.





# Food Security

**Nearly all of the people in the villages we serve are subsistence farmers who grow the food they need to survive.**

**As a result, they are highly dependent on weather and environmental conditions, and hence vulnerable to drought, increasing temperatures, severe flooding, high winds, and pests.**

**VIP is committed to improving access to sustainable food sources that can shield our farmers from the damaging effects of climate change. VIP focuses on teaching and implementing sustainable farming and livestock practices, including solar irrigation, conservation-based farming practices, and crop and livestock diversification, which enable farmers to thrive through their own hard work and dedication without ongoing support from VIP.**

## **FARMING**

Agriculture is the main source of food production in our partner villages. Villagers grow the food they need to survive in household gardens or on small plots of land. VIP focuses on improving farming techniques through training, sharing innovative technologies, and implementing more sustainable practices. This year farming initiatives included the following:

- 38 farmers participated in the Samani Solar Irrigation Project, cultivating a wide variety of different cash crops (onions, watermelon, maize, and tomatoes) during the dry season. This is a big change compared with last year when the farmers only wanted to grow maize to supplement household needs. Through VIP business training and experience, they learned quickly that growing cash crops brings in much more disposable income. Many of the participants sold their crops, bringing in MWK1,297,560 (\$1,264) in income, a nearly three-fold increase from 2020.
- As part of our revolving seed loan program, 685 farmers are now growing improved varieties of maize, with 500 kg of maize seeds distributed amongst 100 new farmers this year. Our pass-on program resulted in 444 prior beneficiaries distributing 2,028 kg of recycled seeds to 144 new farmers.



- As part of our seed multiplication and crop diversification program, 900 kg of groundnuts were purchased from the Sakata Seed Multiplication cooperative and distributed to 64 farmers. 2,184 kg of recycled seeds was passed on by 300 members to 324 new farmers; and 96 cassava farmers passed on 164 bundles of recycled seed to 87 new farmers in 13 different villages.
- VIP trained 60 new farmers in advanced, environmentally-friendly conservation farming techniques with 392 farmers in 26 villages now practicing these techniques, enabling them to make better use of land resources and rely less costly fertilizer and increase harvest yields.
- VIP trained 20 lead farmers and health promoters in Biochar production, an innovative technology that provides inexpensive, but effective means of reducing the effects of climate change on people and the environment, retaining moisture and returning nutrients to the soils. The training provided was a Training of Trainers (TOT), whereby the student participants were to go out and train other farmers in their respective villages, empowering local leaders.



VIP focuses on teaching and implementing sustainable farming and livestock practices





### **GRAIN STORAGE BANKS**

Grain storage banks offer a way for communities to combine and store food yielded from their harvests. VIP promotes and oversees 19 village grain banks. In 2021, 179 households brought together 1,075 bags of maize, 93 bags of rice, and 44 bags of groundnuts, which were kept in the storerooms from June to February, when most households are running out of food and maize becomes very expensive to buy at the markets. During the “hungry” season, when food is scarce and prices are high, the farmers withdraw their grain to sell or use in their households.

### **LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS**

Livestock represents an important source of nutrition and income for villagers. To support healthy livestock and to protect against disease, VIP dewormed 2,446 goats from 769 families, and vaccinated 20,553 chickens against Newcastle disease. VIP’s Livestock Officer, Charles Sokosa, along with VIP-trained para-vets, provided additional curative and preventative treatments to goats, pigs, chickens, and cattle throughout our partner villages and trained numerous villagers in healthy goat and chicken maintenance techniques. VIP also distributed 60 female goats and 15 male Boer goats to 45 new households, increasing livestock ownership and production and thereby improving both the economic status and nutritional health of the households. This is a pass-on program whereby each household beneficiary is expected to pass on the first female kid from their goat to the next beneficiary. This year, past beneficiaries passed on 128 goats to new families.

### **GOVALA DEMONSTRATION FARM**

VIP continued to develop the 50+ acres of land it acquired in 2020 as a learning and demonstration farm where local farmers will come to see and be trained in advanced agriculture techniques, so that they can take that learning and spread it throughout their villages. See page 24 for more details.



# Economic Development



VIP is committed to creating economic opportunities so that 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.

**VIP works to train and equip individuals in our impact area through the following:**

## **SMALL BUSINESS CREATION**

2021 saw increased numbers of small businesses thriving as hundreds of people continued to move from extreme poverty to a sustainable lifestyle through entrepreneurship and training. Villagers, through a variety of VIP-initiated programs, were trained in many areas of business such as beekeeping, tailoring, metalworking, agribusiness, and hairstyling. In particular, beekeeping continued to flourish in 2021 with the Katambasula Beekeepers Cooperative buying 353 kgs of honey from the club consisting of 25 beekeepers and selling it for a significant profit; almost doubling their output from 2020. The Co-op sent three members to the Malawi National Agricultural fair where they displayed and sold their honey.

## **VILLAGE SAVING AND LOAN PROGRAMS**

Village Savings and Loan programs (VSLs) continue to transform the lives of their members. VSLs teach those involved how to save money and combine their resources to make loans to other members. 95% of all loans were repaid on time. In 2021 there were 52 VSLs with 875 members as compared to 845 members in 2020. During the year, club members were trained in business management and financial assessment. Over \$38,000 dollars was saved by the 52 VSLs. The members used their money to start small businesses, pay for their children's school fees, buy school uniforms, buy livestock, purchase metal sheet roofing to replace their leaky thatched roofs, and even build brand new houses! This involves no outside institution, only VIP trainings and the members' commitment to saving and repaying loans.



### SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

VIP also provided loans to farmers through the Seed Producer Revolving Loan program. Here, farmers use funds to buy seed, and then after the harvest, they sell surplus seeds to the local communities and repay the loans. These “seed multipliers” generate thousands of Malawian Kwacha (MWK) in income as well as helping the local economy by allowing farmers to purchase seed from their neighbors at better prices. Three new clubs were added in 2021 in addition to the 28 existing clubs. This year, VIP loaned over MWK 18,000,000 (over \$17,000) to members and 78% (22 clubs) of the clubs repaid at least half of their loan. Loan repayment is a measure that shows the effectiveness of this type of program and that farmers are earning enough to become self-reliant.

### IRRIGATION FARMING

38 Farmers participated in the Samani Solar Irrigation Scheme where they grow cash crops in the dry season, thanks to VIP’s solar-powered irrigation pump. Farmers experienced exceptional results through the sale of watermelons, corn, onions and tomatoes and an average revenue of the farmers made over \$150. See page 16 for more details.



### TRANSPORTATION

One of the ways we measure success is by observing markers of improved livelihoods, like modes of transportation. Bicycles can be used to transport goods to market or as a taxi, and represent one of the most successful enterprises a villager can establish. Now, we are happy to see hundreds of bicycles in VIP’s impact area. Some of the VSL participants have even been able to purchase motorcycles which they use a village taxi! This is an extraordinary development for people who just a few years ago could only get around on foot.



# Education

**Because of the importance of education in a child's ultimate success, VIP focuses significant resources on strengthening local capacity to support local schools.**

## **ONE HEART SECONDARY SCHOOL**

After opening its doors in September 2020, the first class of incoming students at the newly-constructed One Heart Secondary School continued to thrive despite the pandemic, and we welcomed a second class to the school this Fall. Each year, we continue to add new buildings to provide additional services to our students. For many households in the surrounding community, there was no secondary school within walking distance, causing many students to end their education after primary school (equivalent to 8th grade). These students will now have the tools to advance their education and prepare for university.

## **SAKATA AND CHIMPENI PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

We continue to hear the joyful noise of students benefiting from our Sakata and Chimpeni Primary Schools since they opened their doors. This year, we enhanced the learning environment with additional facilities and programs, adding a reconstructed classroom at the Mafuwa Primary School. The community is required to help collect resources toward the construction which supports sustainability, one of our core values. These enhanced facilities will directly impact the lives of thousands of children who will now have access to an education.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS - SECONDARY AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

VIP provided school fees, school uniforms, and other financial support to 100 students from vulnerable households in 2021, allowing them to attend government-supported secondary schools. VIP also provided these students with life skills, including goal-setting, self-esteem and self-control, reproductive health awareness, HIV and AIDS, essay-writing, self-awareness, and spiritual development. We encourage all the students to "give-back" through serving their communities.

VIP provided scholarships, laptops, and counseling sessions to 18 university students, allowing them to go to college and thrive during the pandemic. By removing the financial boundary

to higher education, VIP ensures that more Malawian students have the tools and opportunities to lift themselves out of poverty. In 2021, we rejoiced with Jonas Matiya (Machilika village), Ishmael Chimenya (Kalupe village) and Chimwemwe Mpando (Chidule Village), as they graduated from Domasi College of Education and are moving on to teach the next generation of secondary school students.

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

VIP supported vocational training for 16 students at various vocational training centers in Malawi, with training provided in plumbing, tailoring, and bricklaying to help provide employment opportunities for these youth. VIP also supplied the students with safety clothes and boots. The vocational training will create employment opportunities for the targeted youths.

## **TEACHER TRAINING**

VIP trained 52 caregivers from 18 Community-Based Childcare Centers (CBCCs), as well as 5 community leaders (Chiefs and CBCC Cluster Leaders) to enhance their knowledge and skills in Early Childhood Development. The training covered the value of play in children's growth and development and ways to improve the indoor and outdoor learning environments. VIP also trained 180 members of CBCC Parent Oversight Committees, and 10 CBCC Cluster Leaders, in resource mobilization and school administration. The CBCCs and Parent Committees working together grounds the centers in the community and enables long-term success and sustainability. Altogether, 993 children are benefitting from these training sessions!

Better education leads to more stable, sustainable livelihoods and better outcomes for the youth in our communities. By supporting education within the villages, VIP contributes to the national growth of literacy, higher education, and the future development of a new Malawian workforce.



**Better education leads to more stable, sustainable livelihoods and better outcomes for the youth in our communities.**

*Coming Full Circle*

Jonas Matiya, Ishmael Chimenya, and Chimwemwe Mpando were some of the first students to receive educational support from VIP. In 2021, they each received a Bachelor's of Education from the Domasi College of Education. Jonas was able to teach in our One Heart Secondary School as a part of his training—the same school he attended! Because of their degrees, they are guaranteed jobs in government secondary schools and will continue to ensure others have access to a quality education.



# Infrastructure



In 2021 infrastructure projects played a central role in VIP's overall strategy to fight extreme poverty.

Projects included two primary school additions, a learning and training farm, a new health center, the reconstruction of the Machilika/Govala Bridge and a building for a clinic for children under five in Liti village.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

With the help of the communities, VIP constructed a new school block containing two classrooms at Mafuwa Primary School. In 2021 the school opened its classrooms to welcome students in grades seven and eight. VIP also constructed toilets and handwashing stations to provide better hygiene for the students. See page 22 for more details.

## GOVALA DEMONSTRATION FARM

The vision for the Govala Demonstration and Training Farm is to provide a place where multiple VIP agricultural programs can be demonstrated in tandem to a larger audience. The Farm Committee – made up of key agricultural experts and our staff in Malawi – oversees planning and executing the development of the farm. Through a generous partnership with Michael Graves Architects and Design (MGA&D), we have been able to dream and envision a place that will be beautiful, functional and sustainable. The farm



will contain an office space for staff, a warehouse for storage, a learning and teaching space, a laboratory, a cleanroom/sanitation area, a kitchen and cultural space. In addition there will be housing for on-site staff and visiting guests.

While a significant portion of the year was spent developing plans for the farm, we were also able to assess and secure the land this year. The soil has been tested and a hydrological survey was completed to determine the best place for water access. Our Malawi staff oversaw the construction of fencing and the main entrance to provide security and prevent theft. The team employed local workers from surrounding communities to participate in the project and develop ties with bordering villages. We hope that in five to ten years, the farm will be a self-sustaining business and a broad demonstration of VIP programs and their benefits.



“

*VIP is doing amazing work to support the people in Malawi. Even through the pandemic, we have seen the secondary school completed and construction initiated on the medical clinic. Funding comes from people and partners outside of Malawi, but all of the work is prioritized and led by Malawian development experts who are the VIP staff. Sustainability and reciprocity are core values and it shows in the way the community engages and supports all activities.”*

*- Eileen Gradwell*

USA Board Member



**Because of the rehabilitated bridge, community members will have access to schools, health centers, churches and markets.**



### **KHANDA HEALTH CENTER**

In 2021, VIP had the privilege to break ground on the Khanda Health Center. For years, the 3,300 people of Khanda Village plus the surrounding villages have to walk five miles to access medical care and often died from very preventable diseases. To help address this, we hosted bi-annual medical clinics in partnership with visiting American doctors and local physicians. However, we recognized this was a stop gap measure at best and endeavored to create a more sustainable solution to address the high infant and maternal mortality rates. We knew a medical center was our ultimate solution. The new Khanda Health Center will not only address these dominant issues, but will also have outpatient, maternity, eye, and dental wards. To date, the shell of the clinic has been built and the roof installed. Our VIP staff also hosted a ribbon ceremony with local officials and the community in attendance. We will continue to oversee the construction of the Khanda Health Center over the next several years and, once it is operational, we will work in partnership with the Malawian government to manage, staff and provide medications and supplies to the health center. We are thrilled to see this project come to fruition and know it will impact the people of Khanda for years to come.

### **A CHILD CLINIC IN LITI VILLAGE**

VIP partnered with the people of Liti Village to construct a building to house the new health clinic to serve young children. Children under age five are particularly vulnerable to common diseases and without access to proper medical care, can die. The villagers and VIP worked together to establish a working agreement and distribution of responsibilities. VIP agreed to supervise the entire construction process, including selection and oversight of the contractor, and the procurement of materials. The community was tasked with supplying water for the builders, hauling river sand and supporting the oversight of the project. They also were responsible

to take care of the facility and any maintenance needed. Not only will the shelter help ensure for the health of children under five but will serve as meeting space for important community meetings.

### **MACHILIKA-GOVALA BRIDGE**

Machilika-Govala Bridge is accessed by Machilika, Teputepu, Staubi, Mtengowautali, Kambuma and Mtambo villages. This critical bridge had deteriorated due to weather conditions and neglect. VIP was able to partner with all the impacted villages and the Malawi Prison Services to demolish and rebuild the bridge. The villages brought the critical supplies of river sand, stone, rocks and water for the builders. VIP hired the contractor, purchased building materials and oversaw the building process. The Malawi Prison Services supplied the very critical source of labor for the project. Various community members and prisoners lent their skills of carpentry, bricklaying and building in this project. Now, the bridge is built to code and can accommodate a variety of vehicles and is amenable to people with disabilities and the elderly. Because of the rehabilitated bridge, community members will have access to schools, health centers, churches and markets. It is a prime example of how infrastructure is a vital component of the fight against extreme poverty.

### **TREE PLANTING IN SCHOOLS**

VIP supported schools by purchasing and distributing tree seedlings to establish school woodlots, with a total of 2,200 seedlings distributed among 5 primary schools. Students are required to care for these trees, teaching responsibility and the importance of maintaining their environment. Since many in Malawi rely on wood fires for cooking, deforestation is a widespread issue. Increasing the number of trees in the ecosystem has a broad community impact, improving river erosion, oxygen levels, pollination and reducing water pollution.

# Healthcare



VIP is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Malawians and improving their access to quality health care. This is accomplished through two strategic approaches: prevention and direct patient care.

## PREVENTATIVE HEALTH INITIATIVES

Health and nutrition education continues to be delivered through a “Care Group” model, where identified community “Cluster leaders and health promoters” train village community members on various topics. This year the topics included proper hygiene, maternal health, community management of acute malnutrition, optimal breastfeeding, and safe family planning. 276 Cluster Leaders, 16 Health Promoters, and 8 Community Workers trained the 30 Care Groups, reaching over 4,800 households.

VIP partners closely with the Ministry of Health to address emerging health issues. This year additional training was provided on the prevention of scabies and COVID-19. These trainings were held in targeted villages with over 2,300 community members in attendance.

Proper nutrition is a critical element of health prevention. Project Leaders continue to teach community members about the importance of diversifying their food intake. To support this, 300 bundles of sweet potato vines were distributed in 20 different villages to lactating or pregnant mothers and households with children under the age of five. In addition, 60 rabbits and 90 chickens were distributed across multiple vulnerable households.

## KALUPE AND KHANDA MEDICAL CLINICS

Weekly medical clinics were conducted through a successful partnership with H-Parker Hospital. These clinics provide valuable services directly in the community to assist in their access to affordable medical care. In 2021, total attendance at the clinics reached 4,328, a 12% increase since 2020. The majority of attendees were children under the age of 5. Malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrhea, and skin infections were the most common diseases treated. 20 patients were referred to Zomba Central Hospital who were identified as having more critical health care needs.

## HOME VISITS

Not all vulnerable patients are able to make the journey to VIP’s clinics or to a Government health center for care. In 2021, 62 patients were registered as home care clients. Our VIP Health and Nutrition Nurse, Madalitso Chakani, working in partnership with government clinicians, made routine home visits to provide treatment, care, education, and support to these clients. They were not only assisted medically but were provided blankets, food, and other resources to help support their nutritional and home care needs.

## KALINO DENTAL CLINIC

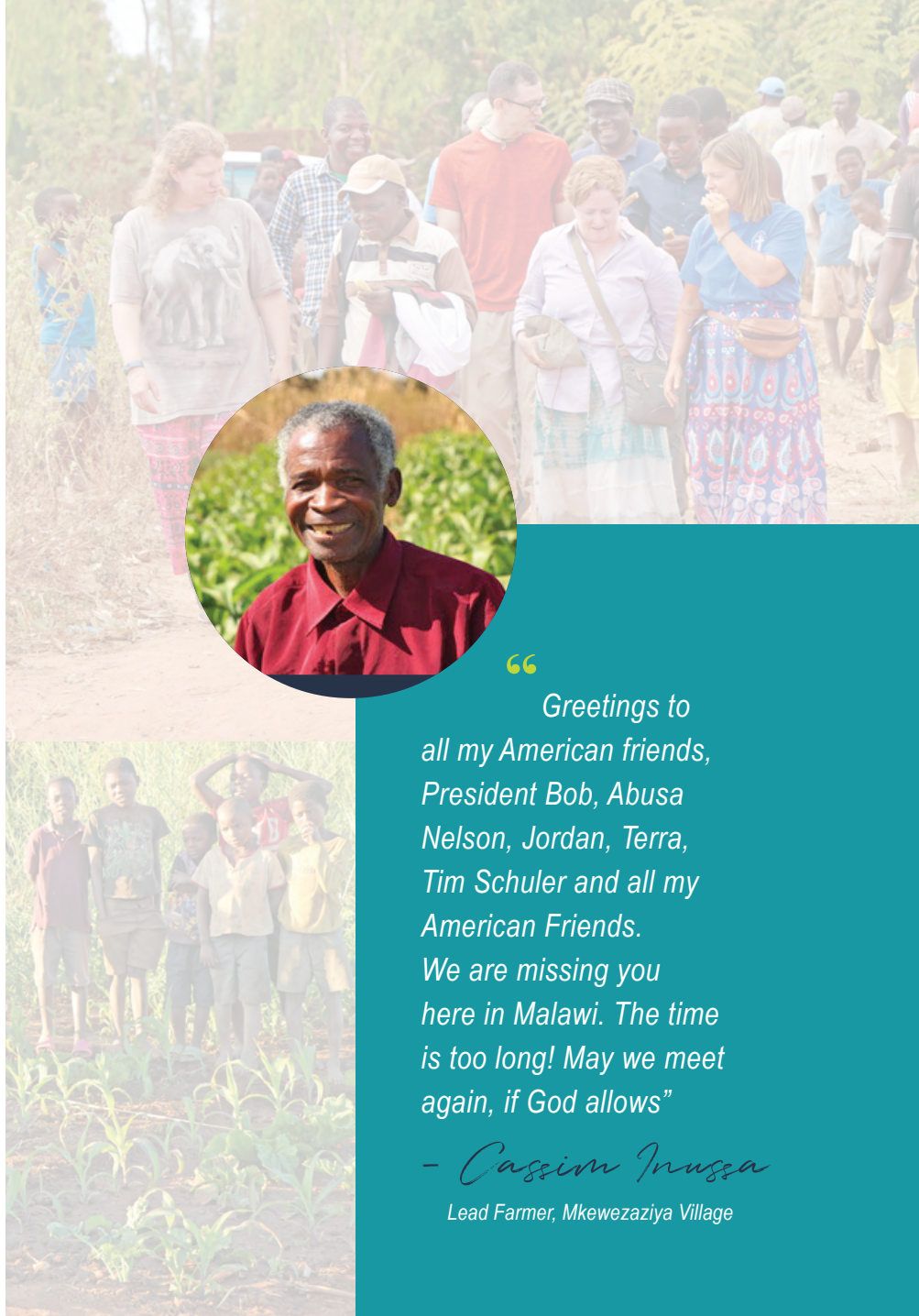
Dental clinics were conducted monthly through a partnership with the Ministry of Health Dental Staff. The clinicians were able to treat 1,404 patients with dental extractions or dental fillings, a 29% increase in the number of patients from the previous year. The clinics also provided education on oral hygiene and proper dental care.



# Friendship & Medical Trips

VIP Friendship and Medical trips offer the opportunity for people from different backgrounds to come together and form lasting relationships as they work side-by-side to bring healing.

Lives are changed when people share in one another's burdens and blessings. However, not one team could leave the USA due to border closures and travel restrictions like the year before, because of the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. We missed the opportunity to see our friends face-to-face, share in laughter and conversation. This year was a reminder to us all to value one another particularly our brothers and sisters in Malawi. God has blessed us all through this very important work and we remain grateful that we are privileged to take part in it.



“

*Greetings to all my American friends, President Bob, Abusa Nelson, Jordan, Terra, Tim Schuler and all my American Friends. We are missing you here in Malawi. The time is too long! May we meet again, if God allows”*

*- Cassim Inussa*  
Lead Farmer, Mkewezaziya Village

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we did not host any trips in 2021**



# Governance & Staff

**TWO ORGANIZATIONS, ONE MISSION:** to share challenges, solutions and resources to equip people to lift themselves from extreme poverty. Villages in Partnership and its Board of Trustees are responsible for all U.S. operations, partner development, fundraising, and strategic planning collaboratively with Villages in Partnership International, a separate NGO headquartered in Zomba, Malawi, who along with its own Board of Trustees, oversees program operations in Malawi, partner development in Malawi, and adherence to government regulations and procedures. The two boards work collaboratively, sharing vision, ideas, resources as three of the board members serve on both boards.

## USA BOARD

### Officers

**Bob Rhoad**

*President/Chairman of the Board*

**Eileen Gradwell**

*Vice President*

**Liz Heinz-Nelson**

*Vice President/Founder/Executive Director*

**Stephen Heinz-Nelson**

*Founder/Chaplain*

**Tim Golden**

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*Secretary*

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**Paul Huchro**

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**Randa Nelson**

**Stephanie Patterson**

**David Shipman**

**Chris Woodard**

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**Lucy Goeke\***

**Liz Heinz-Nelson\***

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**Steven Mauluka**

**Bob Rhoad\***

**Jonathan Thorneycroft**

\*USA and International Board Member

## STAFF

### USA



**Liz Heinz-Nelson**

*Executive Director*



**Aaron Shaver**

*Office Administrator*



**Ashley Blok**

*Special Events & Communications Coordinator*

### MALAWI



**Wellings Mwalabu**

*Country Director*

**Kefa Kasakula**

*Finance and Administrative Manager*

**Ernesto Makoka**

*Coordinator for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition*

**Mwayi Sonkhanani**

*Monitoring and Evaluation Officer*

**Hasley Chavala**

*Project Accountant*

**Frank Mwenjemeka**

*Food Security Officer*

**Joe Majamanda**

*Construction and Logistics Officer*

**Stuart Gonani**

*Education Officer*

**David Forpenz**

*Farm Manager*

**Charles Sokoso**

*Livestock Technician*

**Paul Bilayi**

*Irrigation Technician*

**Adrian Kamwendo**

*WASH Water and Economic Development Facilitator*

**Madalitso Chakani**

*Health and Nutrition Facilitator*

**Ruth Machelamba**

*Accounts Clerk*

**Violet Matimati**

*Health and Nutrition Assistant*

**Chrispin Lungu**

*Farm Assistant*



*Congratulations to VIP's Country Director, Wellings Mwalabu, who graduated from Share World Open University, with a BA in Disaster Management and Sustainable Development.*

### Malawi Support Staff

**Stain Namwera**  
*Office Assistant*

**Kondwani Mhowa**  
*Transportation Officer*

**Witman Nsonkho**  
*Driver*



### Community Workers

**Memory Dama**  
**Patricia Namtongwe**  
**Laston Kassimu**  
**Ganizani Matope**  
**Chimwemwe Khaula**  
**Wilson Nalivata**  
**Bertha Chitanda**  
**Nduzani Maluwa**



## *Tribute to Our Sister*

In March 2021, the VIP family lost our dear sister, Kim Daly. Kim served on the founding Board of Trustees, acting as first Treasurer for twelve years. She was one of the first Board members to come to Malawi, visiting the Heinz-Nelson family while they lived there in 2008. Her loss is deeply felt. Her spirit of compassion, care for the poor, generosity and tender heart for the most vulnerable lives on. The Daly family is honoring her legacy by raising funds for a new library at One Heart Secondary School, to begin construction in 2022.



# Shared Expertise

In addition to our Board of Trustees, many of our VIP projects are led by committees made up of talented and dedicated volunteers. Our VIP staff both in the USA and Malawi participate in committees and work in partnership to ensure that the project reflects the needs of Malawi and to provide oversight. Some of our most critical projects like the Govala Demonstration Farm and the Khanda Health Center are planned and executed by these important groups. This year we want to especially highlight and thank our committees for their expertise and commitment to the people of Sakata, Malawi.

### FARM COMMITTEE

*To advise and consult with the VIP Staff and Farm Manager in Malawi in order to develop and operate a Demonstration/ Training Farm for sustainable and profitable food production technologies and practices.*

- Dave Specca, *Chair, Rutgers University Assistant Director for Bioenergy and Controlled Environment Agriculture & Farmer*
- Dave Beppler, *retired Agricultural Engineer and Teacher at Penn State University*
- David Forpenz, *VIP Farm Manager*
- Chris Ebling, *B.S. in Forestry and a Texas Master Naturalist*
- Wesley Flach, *Organic Farmer & Minister*
- Frank Mwenjemeka, *VIP Food Security Officer*
- Tim Schuler, *retired NJ State Apiarist*
- Dr. Manoel Tamassia, *NJ State Veterinarian*
- Bob Wells, *University of Pennsylvania Consulting Arborist and retired Administrator of the School of Arboriculture*



## CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

**To ensure Building & Construction Projects have budgets, timelines, deliverables and project management; and to review bids and monitor progress of construction projects**

- Tom Goeke, *Chair, retired President and CEO of Milacron, LLC*
- Al Chech, *Electrical Instructor, retired Electrical Contractor, Retired State Electrical and Building Inspector*
- Matt Csik, *Senior Director, Operational Compliance at American Water*
- Tom Doherty, *President of Dynatec Systems, Inc., providing solutions to wastewater projects*
- Joe Majamanda, *VIP Construction and Logistics Officer*
- Henry Meyers, *President of Anselmi & DeCicco, Heavy Civil/ Bridge Contractor*
- Jim Obermier, *President and CEO of CYMA Builders and Construction Managers*
- Theresa Sweeney, *Director of Engineering at Givepower, Solar Photovoltaic Design Engineer*

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

**To provide enriching cultural and medical experiences for medical expats during short term medical trips. In addition, to engage with medical clinicians and the District Health and Social Services of the Malawian government to provide preventative and clinical outreach services in Malawi.**

- Lucy Goeke, CRNP, Co-Chair
- Eileen Gradwell, RN, Co-Chair
- Jyn Albano, CRNP
- Madalitso Chakani, *VIP Health and Nutrition Facilitator*
- Carol Golden, RN
- Lauren Gradwell, PA-C
- Ernesto Makoka, *VIP Coordinator for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition*
- Violet Matimati, *VIP Health and Nutrition Assistant*
- Adriane Neumeister, RN
- Shawna Whitford, RN



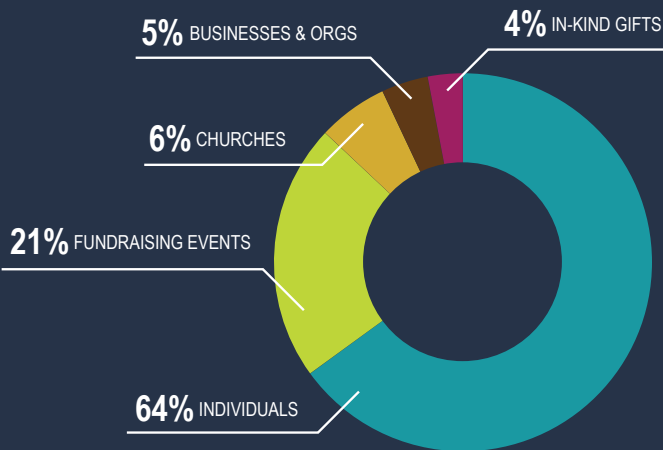
**ALTHOUGH OUR FRIENDSHIP AND MEDICAL TRIPS DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN 2021, members from our Farm and Healthcare Committees were able to travel to Malawi to assist with the development of the Govala Demonstration Farm and to support important medical projects.**

**Dave Specca and Frank and Jynn Albano were able to take advantage of a few border openings and met Liz in Malawi. Dave Specca arrived in October to work with VIP staff on the Govala Demonstration Farm to map out where buildings will be located based on the plans developed by Michael Graves Architects and Design and presented to the Farm committee.**

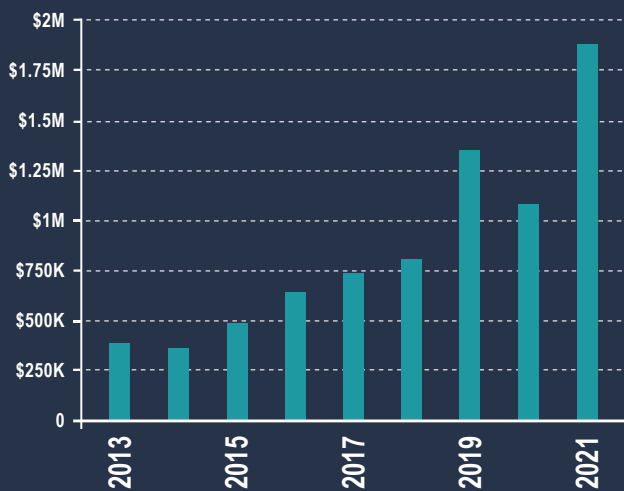
**Usually attending the medical team trips, Jynn and Frank Albano came to Malawi despite the risks and served the villages with much needed medical care. Along with Fred Namalima, Malawian clinician and long time partner with VIP, Jynn, Frank and Fred made home visits to the most sick, those who cannot walk and are unable to access medical care.**

# Financials

## 2021 REVENUE SOURCES



## 2021 REVENUE GROWTH



*Thank You* to all our volunteers who give countless hours and so generously donate their time and expertise to help eradicate extreme poverty in rural Malawi. Our brothers and sisters in Malawi are incredibly blessed!

## In 2021 we continued to navigate the uncertainty

brought on by the ongoing pandemic with the emergence of new COVID-19 variants, closed borders and the return of restrictive mandates. Our staff and VIP family put our trust in God to lead us and uphold us when things felt unpredictable and chaotic. Our faith was reaffirmed as God multiplied what you offered. Once again, the VIP family - churches, businesses, and individuals - were generous beyond measure. We hosted our second virtual Water Walk, which included more teams and more gifts than ever before. Together, our participants raised over \$375,000, far surpassing the fundraising goal. You continue to show that joining hands across an ocean is possible, even in the midst of a pandemic.



Like last year we held true to our fiscal policies. We understand the importance of responsibly stewarding the resources you entrust to us. Malawi projects will always be our number one priority. Relying heavily on direction from our Malawian staff and International Board members, we spent 81.24% of your gifts on life-changing programs impacting over 5,600 families.

# Our Donors

## \$100,000+

The Clippinger Family  
The Goeke Family  
Trudi Veldman & Robert Kamen

## \$40,000 - \$100,000

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The Doherty Family  
Bob & Audrey Rhoad  
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Worldwide Logistics Inc.  
Chris & Betsy Yates  
Anonymous

## \$20,000 - \$40,000

Allentown Presbyterian Church  
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Paul & Kim Huchro  
Henry & Lois Meyers  
Joseph & Anita Monaghan  
Valley Presbyterian Church

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# Our Donors

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J David Waldman  
Ann Marie Wiedemann  
Josh Wieder  
Melissa & Merritt Wikle  
Dr. Bradford Young

*Thank you* to the hundreds of other supporters whose names are not listed here.

# Our Monthly Donors



*Thank you*

## to our 2021 Sustainable Donors

Frank & Jynnifer Albano  
Molly Babb  
Kymberlaine Banks  
John & Sandra Blackburn  
Hal & Jamie Boston  
Paul Chew  
Karen Brown & James Takasugi  
Jackie & Carl Clippinger

Trish & Mike De Ieso  
Dr. Josephine Duh  
Chris & Karen Ebling  
Dr. Barbara Edwards  
& Thomas Christensen  
Ann Ervin  
Michael Goeke & Macy Carman-Goeke  
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Dr. Manoel & Claudia Tamassia  
Bobby & Christine Teahan  
Cleveland Timmons  
Diana Trepesowsky  
Carla Tuan  
Dr. Sarah Vick  
Joe & Sharon Vito  
Bob & Loretta Wells  
Margaret Wright  
Fadi Zanayed

“

*Our army of monthly donors is really growing. The reliable funding provides us not only with financial support, but also with moral support for the work we are doing. We are strengthened in our efforts to assist our sisters and brothers in Malawi. Thank you for your response. It means so much.”*

*- Tim Golden*

USA Board Member, VIP Treasurer

# Our Partners

**THROUGH A GENEROUS PARTNERSHIP** with Worldwide Logistics Group, VIP was able to ship critical medical, educational and beekeeping and farming items in 2021. These items will supply the VIP Govala Demonstration Farm, the Khanda Health Center and our schools! Thank You!

## Malawi Partners

- Blantyre Rotary
- Chimpeni Estates Limited
- Churches Action in Relief and Development
- The Civil Society Network
- Government of Malawi
  - Department of Agriculture
  - Department of Forestry
  - Ministry of Education
  - Ministry of Health
  - Ministry of Trade
  - Zomba District Council

## USA Partners

### Church Partners

- Allentown Presbyterian Church (Allentown, NJ)
- Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church (Richardson, TX)
- Cape Charles Baptist Church (Cape Charles, VA)
- Christ Church of Oak Brook (Oak Brook, IL)
- Church of the Covenant (Boston, MA)
- Cornerstone Presbyterian Church (Jackson, NJ)
- Covenant Presbyterian Church (Malvern, PA)
- First Presbyterian Church of Allentown (Allentown, PA)
- Jacksonville Presbyterian Church (Bordentown, NJ)
- United Methodist Church (Morristown, NJ)
- Nassau Presbyterian Church (Princeton, NJ)
- Oak Grove Presbyterian Church (Southampton, NJ)
- Presbyterian Church of Toms River (Toms River, NJ)
- Swift Creek Presbyterian Church (Moseley, VA)
- United Presbyterian Church (Yardville, NJ)
- Valley Presbyterian Church (Paradise Valley, AZ)
- Westminster Presbyterian Church (Trenton, NJ)

### Non-profit Partners & Organizations

- A to Z Literacy Movement
- Americares
- Barnstable County Beekeepers
- Bucks County Beekeepers Association
- Days for Girls
- Engineers Without Borders
- Essex County Beekeepers
- Global Vision 2020
- Heart to Heart
- Jersey Cape Beekeepers Association
- Knights of Columbus St. John the Baptist
- MAP International
- Monroe County Beekeepers Association
- Northeast NJ Beekeepers
- Northwest Jersey Beekeepers Association
- Texas Presbyterian Foundation
- Vitamin Angels
- Rotary Club of Downers Grove
- Sussex County Beekeepers Association
- Texas Presbyterian Foundation
- Virginia State Beekeepers Association
- Vitamin Angels



“Worldwide Logistics is delighted that our specific skill set allows us to provide a resource to move much needed items to the Villages of Malawi. Indeed we see this as a calling”

*- Joe Monaghan*

President & CEO

### Academic Institutions

- Allentown High School students
- Convent of the Sacred Heart
- Doane Academy
- University of Delaware
- Upper Freehold Regional School District

### Businesses & Employee Matching Donors

- AbbVie
- Allentown Auto Body
- Altria Group
- Anselmi and DeCicco, Inc.
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- CCL Label
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- Joe's Allentown Barbershop
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- The Moth Coffeehouse
- Mill Pond Arts
- Network for Good
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- Peppler Funeral Home
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- Stiles Apiaries
- TransUnion
- UBS
- Uticom Systems, Inc.
- Village Pharmacy
- The Wireless Zone Foundation for Giving, Inc.
- Worldwide Logistics Group
- W. Thomas Watkinson Engineering LLC
- Walker & Dunlop, LLC





# Looking Forward

## Dear Friends,

I never thought in a million years VIP would become what it is today! When Stephen and I took the initial leap of faith to take a year's unpaid leave and use our savings to go to Malawi in 2008 we had no idea where God would lead. God took what little we had and blessed us through the opportunity to partner with all of you to build God's kingdom here on earth.

Every year, I am privileged to work with ordinary people whom God calls to do extraordinary things through faith, generosity, compassion and love. God calls people from different walks of life who share in the belief that the chains of extreme poverty can be broken, systems can change, and one day, VIP will no longer be needed because of the vision we share today. Extreme poverty will be wiped out, but the bonds of brother and sisterhood will remain across oceans. As we combine our skills and resources, we see what is possible and how lives can truly be changed. Thank you for your continued commitment and partnership. None of this would be possible without you.

This year we saw the continued uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff both here and in Malawi met each obstacle with tenacity and faith. Again they pulled off a virtual Water Walk, Giving Tuesday and Year-End appeal strategy along with our staff in Malawi who broke ground on Khanda

Health Center, and added a new class of students at One Heart Secondary School. I'm grateful for each member of the staff, in the USA and Malawi and what they contribute to VIP.

As I look ahead, I am confident that we will continue to expand VIP's reach as villages are seeking our partnership through the development of new projects and the people that come into the VIP family. With the support of Worldwide Logistics Group, we will be able to continue to bring supplies to Malawi each year. I am also excited that due to the survey we will be able to improve our programs and our impact. I am hopeful we will be able to resume Friendship and Medical trips as travel restrictions are lifted. I miss witnessing the transformation that happens when people go to Malawi, build genuine connections and participate in the work first-hand! Thank you all! I look forward to all that God has for VIP in the next year.

With never-ending hope,

Liz Heinzl-Nelson





“

VIP thoughtfully approaches all the root causes of extreme poverty together, with a long-term perspective. The best part of VIP is how they treat the villagers they serve with respect, love, and dignity. They provide expertise, education, and resources to help the villagers lift themselves out of poverty - a hand up, not a hand out.”

- Trisha De Jeso

Volunteer



[villagesinpartnership.org](http://villagesinpartnership.org)

