



villages in partnership



**2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## OUR BOARD

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**Liz Heinzl-Nelson**

*Vice President/Founder/Executive Director*

**Stephen Heinzl-Nelson**

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## villages in partnership

### Dear VIP Friends and Partners,

2018 was an extraordinary year, as my whole family was able to join me in Malawi, some of them for the first time! It was a true blessing to be able to introduce them to the people I've met and grown to love over the years, and show them first-hand what VIP has been doing there. It drew us closer together as a family and strengthened the bonds I've developed with our brothers and sisters in Malawi.



**“Thank you for helping us to fulfill our and their dreams.”**

As detailed throughout this Annual Report, your generous contributions are having dramatic impacts in each of the six critical areas of development that are essential to lifting entire villages out of poverty. We continue to face significant challenges, but the future is bright. VIP is poised to build on the successes of the past by embarking on our two biggest projects yet – the construction of a secondary school (high school) that will allow hundreds of students to continue their education beyond

primary school, and the building of a health clinic that will bring medical care to the remote village of Khanda, one of the most medically-underserved areas in Malawi. These ambitious projects reflect the next step in the growth of VIP and are possible only because of the continued steadfast support we've received from each of you.

It is impossible to overstate the impact you are having on the lives of our friends in Malawi. Just knowing that people halfway across the globe in the most prosperous

country in the world care about them and are thinking of them is life-changing. Your hope brings hope. Your faith inspires faith. Your love breeds love. Thank you for helping us to fulfill our and their dreams.

*Bob Rhoad*

PRESIDENT, VILLAGES IN PARTNERSHIP

## 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.

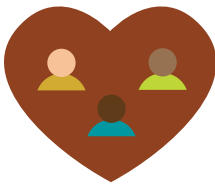
## OUR MOTIVATION

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 21,000 people.

## OUR CORE 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.



### INDEPENDENCE

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



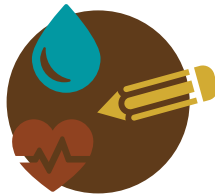
### RECIPROCITY

We expect our partners to invest themselves and their resources in the development of their communities. There are no free handouts—all beneficiaries are expected to give back to the best of their abilities; every project requires investment and response.



### TRANSPARENCY

We must use the resources entrusted to VIP wisely, in ways that will have a significant impact on the lives of our partners. Everything we do must be done with excellence and openness to our partners in the US and Malawi.



### HOLISTIC

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, and time. We are committed to being there for our partners for the long-haul.



### RELATIONAL

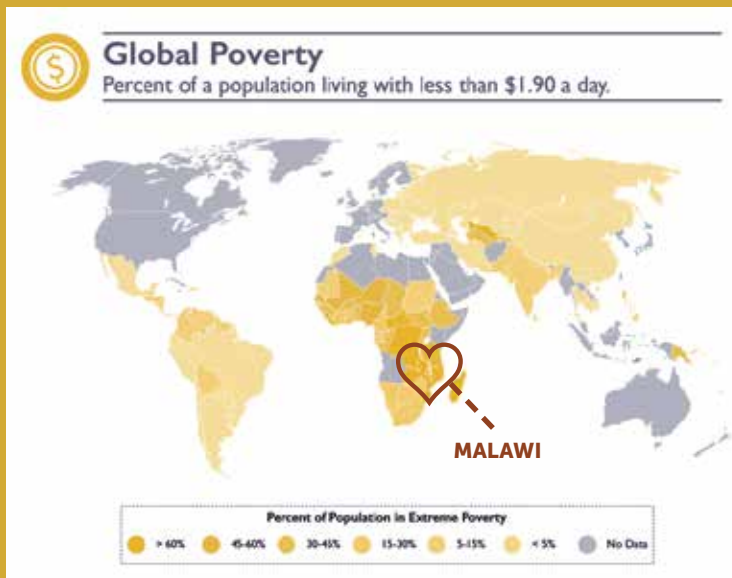
We strive to know and value all our partners, including our staff, the chiefs and village elders, grassroots leaders, government agents, donors, and members of our partner communities. We honor the existing village leadership structures and systems already established in our partner communities. We listen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



### INTEGRITY

We shall act at all times with the highest degree of ethics and integrity. We are committed to doing the right thing, even when no one is looking.

# GLIMPSE INTO EXTREME POVERTY



Malawi is a land-locked country in southern Africa with a population of 17.5 million where more than 70% of the population lives on less than \$1.90 per day, the threshold used by World Vision to demarcate those living in extreme poverty. Most households within VIP's target areas earn well below that threshold. The country's economy is based primarily on agricultural output, which makes it highly vulnerable to changes in the weather, pest infestation, and market fluctuations. Economic growth and stability has been stagnant due to a lack of agricultural diversity, lack of climate resiliency, government corruption issues,

and high population growth. Malawi also depends heavily on aid from international organizations and countries. Its GDP growth decreased from 4% to 3.5% in 2018, due to poor agricultural output and lack of product to export (World Bank, 2018). About 80% of the population is employed in the agriculture sector, and most of the population relies on subsistence farming for survival.

Life expectancy in Malawi is 61 for males and 67 for females. Malawi has one of the highest fertility rates in the world, with women giving birth to an average of 5.4 children in their lifetime. While most Malawians have access to improved water sources, nearly 60% of the population does not have access to improved sanitation facilities. Within the VIP's targets areas, access to improved sanitation is more prevalent and continues to increase.

Only 11% of Malawians have access to electricity, and most of that is concentrated in urban areas. According to the UNDP Human Development Index (HDI)--which is based on three dimensions of development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living, Malawi falls into the low human development category, ranked at 171st out of 189 countries.

Though Malawi faces many challenges to continued development, the country has consistently improved on many developmental metrics and measurements, including education, literacy, access to healthcare, food security, and HDI. The targeted efforts of VIP contribute to those steady rises over time and support villages and people to make sustainable changes to improve their lives.

VIP's projects focus on achieving **7 OUT OF THE 17**  
International Sustainable Development Goals  
developed by the UN to eradicate extreme poverty



**NO POVERTY**

Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.

**ZERO HUNGER**

End hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

**GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

Efforts to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different persistent and emerging health issues.

**QUALITY EDUCATION**

Access to technical and vocational education and training and higher education; training throughout life; and the knowledge, skills and values needed to contribute to society.

**CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

Expanding international cooperation and garnering the support of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

**RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

Promote sustainable patterns through specific policies and international agreements on the management of materials toxic to the environment.

**CLIMATE ACTION**

Action is needed to combat climate change, its impacts, and to build resilience in responding to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.



Sources: **World Bank, 2018:** <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/malawi/overview> and <http://povertydata.worldbank.org/poverty/country/MWI> **IFAD, 2019:** <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/country/id/malawi>  
**CIA World Factbook, 2019:** <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mi.html> **WHO, 2019:** <https://www.who.int/countries/mwi/en/> **UNDP, 2018:** [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/MWI.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/MWI.pdf)  
**UNAIDS, 2018:** <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/malawi> **IMF, 2018:** <file:///Users/matthewneighbour/Downloads/cr17184.pdf>

# What Does Extreme Poverty Look Like for a Little Girl?

Triza is a 14 year old girl from Chikabweleza Village. She lives with her grandmother but currently stays alone because her grandmother is in the hospital from a stroke. Her older cousin, Wanangwa, watches after her. Both Triza and Wanangwa are orphans. Triza's daily routine looks very different from the life of a teenager in America.



**4:00 AM Triza Wakes:** Triza sleeps on a bamboo mat with a blanket. She sleeps in the same clothes she wore to school. She has no bed, no pillow. Her day begins before sunrise.



**3:00 PM Gathering Food:** Today, Triza walks to a stand on the roadside where a woman and her children sell Triza fish, onions, oil, and flour.

**4:30 AM Collecting Water:** Triza collects water with a bucket from the neighbor who shares his well with Triza and her grandmother. No other villager has this privilege. If it were not for his generosity, Triza would be forced to walk a long distance for their daily water needs which would take her out of school.



**4:00 PM Cooking:** Triza gathers firewood and cooks in front of her home. She uses three bricks that act as a tripod for a stove. Triza makes nsima which is maize flour mixed with water. They all eat from one plate using their fingers.



**5:30 AM Cooking:** Triza boils water over an open fire and begins to prepare breakfast before leaving for school. It is customary for girls to do the cooking for their families.



**6:30 PM Washing Dishes and Clothes:** Triza uses a bar of soap for washing dishes and her clothing. Sometimes she scoops sand into her hand to scrub the sticky food off the metal pots.

**7:00 AM Cleaning:** One of Triza's chores is to sweep the house and yard. In order to keep the dust from flying, she splashes water on the dirt floor inside and sweeps any garbage out.



**7:00 PM Cleaning:** Triza sweeps once again before going to sleep. There is little sunlight peering through the window, creating a very dark atmosphere in the small mud hut.



**7:30 AM Walking to School:** It's a 30-minute walk to school. Triza had to repeat First Grade because of a foot injury which prevented her from walking. Despite challenges, she ranked

3 out of 52 students in her class this year. She hopes to be a nurse, but uncertainty looms due to the school fees needed to attend high school.



**7:30 PM Sunset:** Triza tiredly spends the last 20 minutes of her day working on homework using a LuminAid solar lantern provided by VIP since there is no electricity.

## 2018 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- ✓ **First college student supported by VIP graduated from the University of Malawi**
- ✓ **Established 3 new Community Based Child Care Centers (Preschools) in three different villages**
- ✓ **De-wormed 2,552 goats to prevent internal parasites**
- ✓ **Treated 4,600 patients during the Medical Outreach Mission Trip**
- ✓ **Provided 100 farmers from 6 different villages with seeds**
- ✓ **Planted 950 tree seedlings at 3 different primary schools to improve reforestation**
- ✓ **Served 490 Patients at the Dental Outreach Clinic as VIP partners with the government to provide staff and medics**
- ✓ **Installed solar lighting in 9 teacher houses on primary school campuses**
- ✓ **18 beehives successfully occupied from VIP's continued beekeeping trainings**



“When I go to Malawi, I am given gifts of gratitude from the people with whom we work: live chickens, bags of peanuts, homemade mandassis and potato stuffed samosas. I remind them, it is not me, it is the VIP family back in the USA who need to be thanked. They tell me they understand, but they need to express their appreciation, and I happen to be blessed to be there as the recipient. I wish I could bring back to you the live chickens, samosas and bags of peanuts I have received on your behalf. I can only say thank you. We are all so grateful and cannot express deeply enough how you are changing lives, including mine! *Zikomo kwam biri!*”

— Liz Heinzl-Nelson, VIP Executive Director



# YOU MAKE

**YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE** VIP's partnership with our brothers and sisters in Malawi would not be possible without your generous support. Every gift received is viewed as a tool to further our work and make a greater impact. Through the hand of God in the villages, we use our resources gained from our donors to transform the lives of thousands. Every year, VIP offers various opportunities to join our mission through our annual Water Walk, Giving Tuesday campaign, and Year End giving. We also have individuals like Ed & Kathy Dean who implement outside-the-box fundraisers through events like the 1,000 Goat Wedding. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who come alongside our mission to end extreme poverty in our villages.

“After traveling to Malawi, you can no longer blindly turn an eye on the need. I had the opportunity to visit Malawi on a Friendship Trip, to see first-hand the poverty, the projects VIP was initiating and tremendous impact felt by each village we visited. Hope was restored. Faith flowed. I returned home a changed person. I may have left Malawi, but Malawi will never leave me. From the Water Walk to volunteering, my heart always becomes full knowing that however small my part, I am helping to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable people on the planet.”

— Megan Smith, Volunteer and Friendship Trip Participant





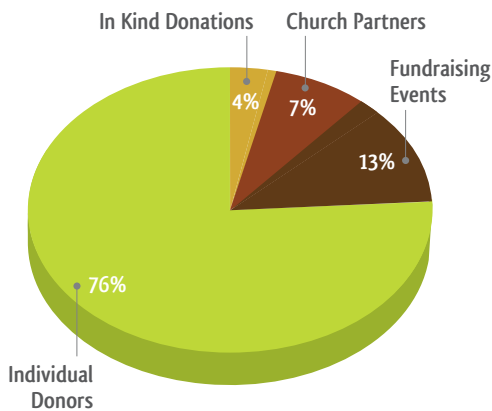
## THIS POSSIBLE

**Water Walk** VIP's annual Water Walk raises funds for various development projects, including water projects, in Malawi. Team Leaders and their teams raise money from sponsors, with 100% of the donations going towards funding our goals for the year. They also participate in the walk to illustrate the reality of life in Malawi. Villagers, mostly women and children, carry buckets for miles to collect water. It's a strenuous journey, and those who participate in the Water Walk get to experience a tiny bit of what it's like for those whose daily chores include this walk. The Walk begins at the Allentown Presbyterian Church, goes through town, and then heads to the Allentown High School track, where members of the teams walk legs around the track, symbolic of the villager's walk to collect water. At the end of the night, paper lanterns are sent out into Conine's Millpond, creating a beautiful sight representing the vulnerable families for whom we walk--we walk, because they walk.

**1,000 Goat Wedding** Ed and Kathy Dean had a vision to direct gifts for their wedding to be a blessing for others, rather than themselves, with a goal of donating 1,000 goats to families in need in Malawi. They requested that their guests donate goats instead of wedding gifts to make this goal a reality. Goats provide protein, a source of fertilizer, and economic prosperity. Providing goats helps combat hunger and poverty. In addition to distributing goats, VIP has had 2,500+ goats vaccinated, trained 100+ goat farmers in best practices for raising goats, and hired six Animal Health Workers. The first kid of each goat is passed to a new vulnerable family. The Deans raised funds for over 700 goats -- although short of their goal, there is still time to make additional gifts to help their dream become a reality!

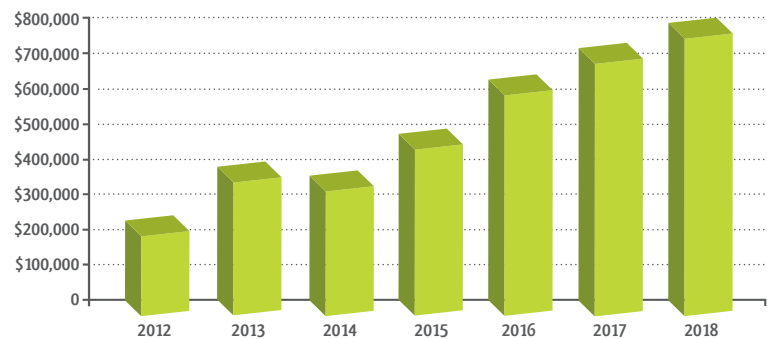
# Chipping Away at Extreme Poverty

## Sources of Revenue



## Revenue Growth

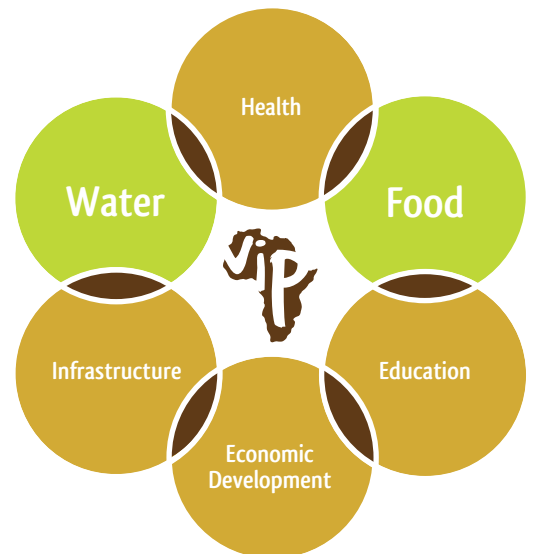
Revenue has grown rapidly, driven by church partners, individual donations, and fundraisers.



**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 development and infrastructure. In 2018 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 21,000 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.



**READ ABOUT ALL THE PROGRESS YOU'RE MAKING...**

# SINCE OUR BEGINNING...

50+

wells drilled  
or rehabilitated,  
bringing clean  
water to  
entire villages

48

classrooms  
& teacher  
houses solarized  
for electricity

691

farmers trained  
in agricultural  
best practices  
& livestock  
management

1,071

goats  
distributed  
to vulnerable  
families

3,500+

students supported in  
preschool, primary,  
secondary, college and  
vocational training

25,000+

patients cared  
for in rural  
medical clinics

\$2M+

invested in  
sustainable  
development  
projects

21,000+

VILLAGE LIVES IMPACTED

by

2,900+

VIP FAMILY MEMBERS

# Staff Members

## VIP Malawian Staff Members



**Wellings Mwalabu**

*Project Manager*

**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*

**Emmanuel Gendah**

*Monitoring & Evaluation Officer*

**Madalisto Chakani**

*Health & Nutrition Facilitator*

**Aubrey Kamwendo**

*Finance Assistant*

**Stain Namwera**

*Office Assistance*

**Kondwani Mihowa**

*Driver*

## Community Workers



**Bertha Chitanda**

**Patricia Namtongwe**

**Ganizani Matope**

**Tisunge Kandulu**

**Wilson Nalivata**

**Laston Peter Kassimu**

## VIP US Staff Members



**Liz Heinzl-Nelson**

*Executive Director*

**Carissa Joyce**

*Development Coordinator*

**Aaron Shaver**

*Administrative Assistant*

# 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 development. Without adequate resources in each, extreme poverty traps its victims in a vicious cycle from which they cannot break free on their own.

## Water and Sanitation



## Food Security



## Education



## Health Care



## Infrastructure



## Economic Development





# WATER

**Clean Water is Universally Identified as the Number One Priority** when VIP first approaches a village to explore a partnership. During the year, two water holes were drilled and installed in Chilimani village by Engineers Without Borders (EWB) from the University of Delaware. This adds up to 30 water holes drilled by VIP since 2012. These wells provide clean, accessible water for the 21,900 people living throughout our impact area of 26 villages. This has drastically reduced the workload for girls and women who used to collect 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.

In addition to providing clean water, VIP teaches good sanitation practices. In collaboration with the Malawian Department of Health, VIP trained many 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 constructed by VIP also has pit latrines and that all teachers and staff are trained in best practices concerning sanitation and hygiene.

By supporting villages to improve and maintain sanitation, VIP increases the ability of villagers to live healthy lifestyles free from illness and disease with better opportunities to grow and thrive.





# FOOD SECURITY

**VIP is Dedicated to Enhancing Access to Sustainable Sources of Food** that can serve to insulate our partner villages and farmers from the ravaging effects of Malawi's changing climate. In 2018, we continued to focus on the need to establish sustainable practices that will allow our farmers to continue to thrive even without further inputs from VIP. We implemented our pilot solar irrigation farming project, taught enhanced conservation farming techniques, promoted crop diversification, and implemented a variety of livestock programs.

This work is of critical importance as many Malawians are unable to meet their food needs due to vulnerability to drought and pests. VIP seeks to support partner villages and local farmers to improve resilience to climate change and food instability through diversification.

## **AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS WERE:**

- **Distribution of 360 bundles of sweet potato vines and 200 bundles of cassava cuttings to nearly 300 vulnerable households in 18 villages, to enhance crop diversification and combat impacts of climate change;**
- **Initiation of pilot program to distribute early-pollinated varieties of maize seed (OPV) to vulnerable households to improve crop yields;**



- **Vaccination of 16,431 chickens against Newcastle disease to improve communities' access to healthy poultry and a healthier diet;**
- **De-worming of 2,552 goats to prevent the spread of internal parasites, which are the principal cause of premature deaths of goats in Malawi;**
- **Purchase and distribution of sturdy goat varieties in 10 partner villages;**
- **Training of 6 lead farmers as Community Animal Health Workers (para-vets) to assist fellow farmers in providing first treatment of livestock when the need arises, and supplied them with bicycles to make them available throughout the community;**
- **Training of 3 new village grain bank committees, bringing the total number of villages that have implemented grain banks that help vulnerable families survive the "hungry season"**

By supporting food security measures, VIP helps villages diversify their agricultural holdings and improve resiliency to the effects of climate change, thereby allowing villagers to live beyond subsistence farming.

“Cooking is one of those things that unites cultures. It’s something we all do with our own unique dishes and flair. I loved having the chance to learn from the Malawian women in the village how to prepare local dishes. I even found it amusing when a Gogo would come up and correct my stirring or chopping techniques. Food truly unites people.”

— Brianna Maxwell, July 2018 Friendship Trip Participant





## The Story of Mr. James Laison in Conservation Agriculture Farming

Conservation Farming is a cost-effective, farming technique that Frank Mwenjemeka, VIP's Agricultural Officer, has been teaching farmers in our Impact Area for years. It has been challenging because it involves behavior change which often comes slowly. But this year, conservation agricultural is catching on! Conservation farming uses natural farming techniques that conserve soil moisture and improve soil quality to combat prolonged dry spells, increase crop yield, and reduce dependence on fertilizers. James Laison from Mkwezaziya village started practicing conservation farming in the Fall of 2016 season, after being provided practical, hands-on training in those techniques by Frank Mwenjemeka over the course of three days.

Mr. Laison practiced the technology for two seasons on a small plot of land, conducting his own experiment, comparing traditional farming techniques with the new technique taught by VIP. He discovered that the experimental plot yielded more than twice what he was able to harvest from a similarly-sized plot using traditional techniques. James explains that "Looking at these scenarios I decided to increase the area under conservation agriculture to the rest of my field." He has become a lead farmer, training others now to follow his example. His land borders a major thorough fare in the village and many passerby's admire his crops, especially during the drought. He is now influencing and teaching others! VIP is proud of his example and thankful to Frank Mwenjemeka for persisting, even when it takes years!



# 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. In particular, beekeeping took. These areas of focus allow Malawians to contribute to their communities in a practical way while developing their own skill sets. As just one example, beekeepers in Mpoola village realized over 100,000 MWK (Malawi Kwacha) in profits.

In addition, Village Savings and Loan Association programs (VSLs) continue to transform the lives of their members. VSLs teach those involved how to save money and combine their resources together to make loans to other members. Over 25 groups met on a regular basis in 2017, experiencing many benefits, including the purchase of household assets and food. Collectively, the VSL groups in 2018 saved over \$28,000. The members used their money to start small businesses, pay for their children's school fees, buy livestock, purchase metal sheet roofing to replace their leaky thatched roofs, and even build brand new houses! One of the most successful businesses in 2018 was the purchase of bicycles to be used as village taxis and to transport goods to markets.

Improving economic development allows villages to diversify their income streams and pursue livelihoods beyond monocrop and subsistence farming. It also creates more opportunity for growth and expansion as villagers learn alternative livelihoods.



## 2018 Beekeeping Team

CHRIS EBLING  
ERIC HANAN  
MARY HANAN  
KEVIN INGLIN  
BOB KLOSS  
GARY SCHEMPP  
TIM SCHULER  
WILLIAM WATKINSON, III  
VIRGINIA WIND



“In March 2018, I led a group of 8 beekeepers and a forester on a Beekeeping Trip to Malawi. Our focus was to learn what VIP is doing in the villages and to improve beekeeping practices. Frank Mwenjemeka, the VIP honey bee specialist, had a rigorous program for the US beekeepers to participate in. Mwenjemeka and village beekeepers trained new beekeepers and the US trip members on how they keep bees, including the preparation of beehives to attract bees, where to locate the hives, bee handling, and harvesting honey. The US beekeepers and forester worked

together to develop a lesson for high school students on basic bee biology and the importance of trees to bees. The trees provide food for the bees, for the people, and also climate stabilization. One of the highlights was when we taught a large group of village beekeepers how to make beeswax candles using materials at hand in the villages. This was a great exercise since they do not have electricity in their homes. Their local candles only burn for an hour, while a beeswax candle will burn for up to 3 hours. Honey bees bridge many gaps including political, economic, language, color, conservative and liberal. Honey bees bring people together.”

— Tim Schuler



# EDUCATION

## **VIP is Committed to the Importance of Education and Early Childhood Development,**

and accordingly, significant focus is placed on strengthening local capacity to support these aims. This year, VIP increased the number of preschools or Community Based Childcare Centers (CBCC) to 18 total throughout a number of villages. All caregivers working at the CBCCs are trained in early childhood development theory and best teaching practices. The CBCCs are managed by a parent oversight committee that is trained in resource mobilization and school administration. The CBCCs and Parent Committees, working together, ground the centers in the community and enable long term success and sustainability. VIP continuously supports the CBCCs through the construction of new or improved shelters. This past year, three were upgraded to better standards.

VIP also supports students to pursue their education at higher levels, through external support, including scholarships. In 2018, VIP directly supported 60 students at the secondary level, and 12 students at the university level. VIP took responsibility for paying school fees for these students and also provided uniforms for the secondary school students. 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 addition, college students are also provided laptops to complete their school work.

Education is key to improving livelihoods. By supporting education within the villages, VIP contributes to the national growth of literacy, secondary and tertiary education, and the future development of a new Malawian workforce.



**In 2018, our first supported college student, Lucius Phiri, graduated from The University of Malawi. We met Lucius after his family exhausted their resources trying to pay college tuition for him to continue his education. He dropped out for a semester when he heard about Villages in Partnership. After seeing his struggle, we provided the funding needed with the John Nathan Anderson Scholarship to complete his degree in agricultural studies thanks to Gayle Anderson and her family.**





# INFRASTRUCTURE

**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 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. VIP continues to utilize conservative agricultural technologies and encourages the adoption of positive practices for climate change adaptation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

**Planting Trees in Schools:** This project in February 2018 supported 3 primary schools (Sakata, Nyambwe and Makumba) with a total of 950 tree seedlings to plant around the schools. The objective of this exercise is for students to learn at a young age adaptive measures to help combat the effects of climate change, so that they implement those measures in their homes.

**Training of New Forest Committees:** In 2018, VIP trained new committees from the Mkumbira, Sitaubi and Mkwezaziya villages regarding environmental conservation. The members trained included Forestry Committee members, Village Heads, Village Implementation Committee representatives, Governmental Forestry, Agriculture extension agents, Community workers and Project Staff.

**Solarization of Schools:** In 2018, VIP solarized nine teacher houses at two schools. Solarized housing serves to attract more qualified teachers to our rural schools. The new United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services for all as Goal No. 7 to be achieved by 2030. This is consistent with the UN agenda of Sustainable Energy for ALL by 2030, pursued by VIP since 2011. Significantly, most primary school teacher houses and classrooms in Malawi do not have access to electricity, according to the United



Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 2012 only 10% of primary schools and 52% of lower secondary schools have electricity access.

**School and Training Center Construction:** During 2018, one teacher house, one school block, a library, and a staff office were constructed at Sakata Primary School. Two sets of toilet blocks (for girls and boys) were also built there. In addition, VIP built a teacher house at Chimpeni School and an office block at Taomboledwa Centre to act as a satellite office where staff can meet field staff, community workers, and lead farmers for discussions and trainings.

Supporting infrastructure development is an important part to ensuring project sustainability and contributes not only to the growth of village partners, but to the growth of Malawi as a whole.

“I was impressed that in each village there were residents in charge of each project who could explain to us its purpose, process and expected outcomes.”

— John Deisinger,  
July 2018 Friendship Trip





# HEALTHCARE

**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 development. The healthcare services we provide are accessible to the poorest and most vulnerable families.

**MEDICAL AND DENTAL CLINICS** We have conducted yearly medical and dental mission trips since 2010. The VIP-sponsored Medical Teams travel to the remote Sakata region to provide free healthcare to thousands. Our teams partner with Malawian medical personnel to serve the sick, including those who are too weak to walk to the clinics (see page 26 for the 2018 report).

**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 2018, the outreach clinics reached an average of 56 patients every week and approximately 221 patients per month. The addition of a bicycle ambulance and regular access to the H-Parker Sharp ambulance has allowed us to transfer patients, including all the maternity patients, to Zomba Central Hospital as needed. All pregnant mothers and children under the age of 5 receive free medical care

**KALINO DENTAL CLINIC** VIP continued its partnership with the Zomba District Health Office to provide free monthly dental clinics at Kalino Center. On average, the clinic treats 45 patients per month, with an increasing number of them receiving restorative care, rather than extractions -- a sign of ongoing improvements. The government's lack of access to anesthesia medications created some constraints to conducting the clinics but VIP was able to source and supply the medications in order to continue services.

# KALUPE DEVELOPMENT



“In 2017 I went on my first Medical Mission with VIP to Malawi. The number of patients we saw each day was overwhelming. I wondered could we make a difference? The answer is YES! On my second mission trip in 2018 I was able to confirm that the patients we treated the year before had recovered from some devastating medical issues. VIP medical missions is a life saver to villages it serves. Thank God.”

— Carol Golden, RN  
and 2018 Trip Participant



**PREVENTATIVE HEALTH INITIATIVES** Madalitso Chakani, VIP’s Health & Nutrition Facilitator, was joined by a new associate, Violet Matimati this year. Together, they led our preventative health initiatives, including promotion of maternal and child health interventions using the Care Group Model. The project identified 17 Promoters who work in the impact area to deliver training on a variety of topics including personal and household hygiene, and creating awareness of the importance of immunizations. Another initiative involved training on food diversification and preparing locally sourced food from all food groups. In order to aid the Promoters in their work, the project bought and distributed 17 bicycles and backpacks.

Improving healthcare is a key tenet to VIP’s mission because it supports people to pursue healthier lifestyles and livelihoods free from the tyranny of preventable disease and illness.



# MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION TRIPS



## Medical/ Dental Trip Participants

SCOTT BATTERSON, RN  
JACQUELINE CLIPPINGER, RN  
JEFF CLIPPINGER  
MEGHAN DUCEY  
KAITLIN DUNCAN, RN  
AMANDA ELSEN  
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MADELINE MCGRAW  
DANIEL MILBERGER  
RANDA NELSON  
LUCIA ROMOZZI  
ALLISON SCHUMACHER  
ALEXA SENGSTACK  
GABRIELLE WHITFORD  
SHAWNA WHITFORD, RN  
ALEXIS YIRAK-COSBY

**In July 2018**, a medical and dental team from the USA, comprised of 28 advanced practitioners, dentists, nurses, nursing students, and support staff traveled to Malawi to serve the sick and vulnerable. Together with over 50 Malawian medical personnel, our teams offered medical, dental, and vision care at multiple remote clinics. Malawian community workers also identified at-risk families who are unable to attend the clinics and needed to receive medical care at their homes.

VIP staff members, volunteers and Malawian medical personnel worked side-by-side to treat the needs of the patients. They treated many villagers suffering from diseases and conditions unseen in America, such as malaria and parasites, in addition to treating musculoskeletal problems, wounds, and respiratory 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 4,522 patients.



# FRIENDSHIP TRIPS



**VIP Sponsors “Friendship” Trips, Not “Mission” Trips.** They allow for the development of real connections that bring together people who are physically distant and come from widely different cultures, but who are one and the same in all things that matter. During their time in Malawi, trip participants and our Malawian brothers and sisters break bread together, worship with one another, and share both their blessings and their burdens. As we are invited into the lives of the most poor and vulnerable, our views on our lives are completely altered.

**2018’s Friendship Trips** brought a diverse group of people—including students, homemakers, a research scientist, a lawyer, and retired pastors—halfway across the globe to step a bit outside their comfort zone and see or hear things that most visitors to Africa never get to experience. Yet, it is those things that make VIP’s friendship trips so rich and rewarding. As time is spent together and lives are shared, relationships are built. Blessings flow both ways, as we receive more than we give.

“Traveling to Malawi is an eye-opening experience. Meeting the people, working alongside them, and breaking bread with them changed my view completely. They have so little yet they are willing to share with you anyway they can. I’ve traveled twice to Malawi and I can’t wait until I can be with my Malawian friends again.”

— Tamzin Slont, July 2018 Friendship Trip Participant



## Friendship Trip Participants

BRANDON BAJZATH  
KAREN BROWN  
JOHN DEISINGER  
ANNE DIEBEL  
ELIZABETH FORD  
JORDAN HEINZEL-NELSON  
BART HUBBARD  
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We also extend our heartfelt thanks to more than 1,000 donors whose names are not listed here. Your generosity is having a profound impact in transforming the lives of thousands of our friends in Malawi.

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University of Delaware, Engineers Without Borders  
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## Other Non-Profits

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Special Thanks to Emmanuel International, Malawi - our partners on the ground who provide VIP with human resources, financial accounting, management of staff and other administrative services. We are grateful to Paul & Helen Jones for their collaboration, guidance and friendship.

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“Although most of the joy in my life has been provided by my family, I have associated the concept of joy with having a certain amount of comfort and security. After spending some time with people in Malawi, I realize that joy can be quite independent of the possession of even basic comfort and security. People in Malawi have very little in the way of physical possessions but they express joy much more frequently than do we. I believe my life is better for having spent a little time with them.”

— Kent McCully, July 2018 Friendship Trip



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