



villages in partnership

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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VIP Celebrates 10 Years

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“Since the coming of VIP my life has changed. I am able to provide for myself. Once I was trained in tailoring, I knew that I could earn money. VIP could have given me money, even if it was 100,000 Kwacha, I would have consumed all of it by now. No, instead, they gave me a hidden treasure which is more permanent.”

— BEATRICE MAJOLA

*2019 Ngomano Village  
Business Owner*

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## 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.

## 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.

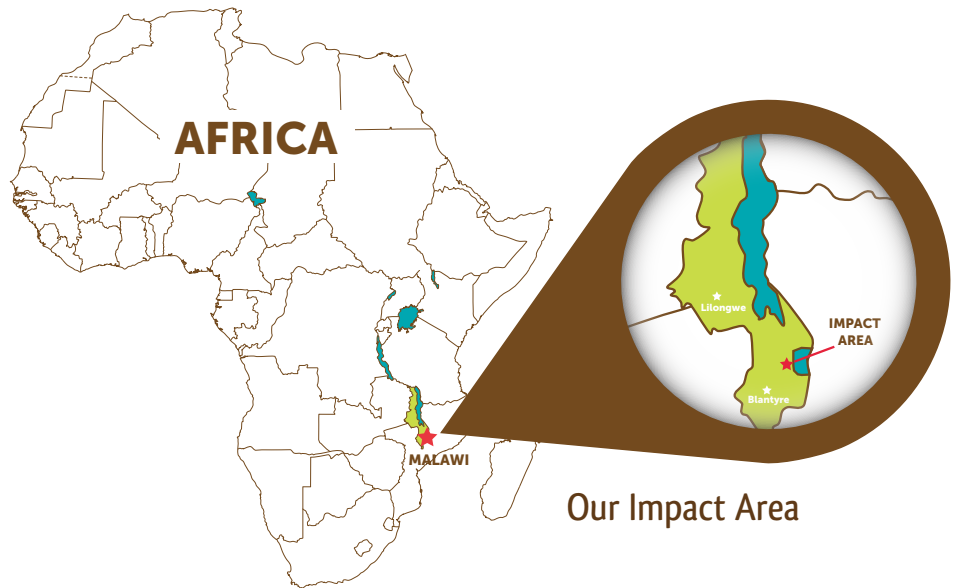
**SUSTAINABILITY //** The goal of every VIP project is to empower our partner villages to become self-sustaining communities. We want to equip our communities to thrive without the need for on-going assistance from VIP or others.

**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.

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Our Impact Area

**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.

**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.

**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.



## villages in partnership

### DEAR VIP FRIENDS AND PARTNERS,

2019 was a special year in the life of VIP. We marked our 10th Anniversary, highlighted by a truly exceptional “Warm Heart of Africa” Gala that brought together VIP supporters from around the country and members of our staff visiting from Malawi to joyfully celebrate all that we’ve been able to accomplish together in 10 short years. It was a night to remember!

The outpouring of love, support, and generosity that you demonstrated throughout the Malawians’ visit, and capped by the Gala, was extraordinary. The Malawians returned home strengthened with a newfound understanding of the depths of the bonds that have been built between us and a renewed sense of purpose. Together, we raised over \$400,000 on the night of the Gala alone, the proceeds of which have laid the foundation for the construction of our first secondary school (which is scheduled to open this September!) and our first medical clinic.

When roots of VIP were first planted during a meeting in 2008 with chiefs and village leaders under two mango trees, none of us could have imagined what we’d be able to accomplish, working together as partners. But, I am reminded, as I have been so many times over the years, that “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). I look forward to continuing to dream beyond our wildest imaginations about what we might be able to achieve in the next 10 years!

Throughout this Annual Report you will see the fruits of your generous contributions, and the dramatic impact you are having in each of the six critical areas of development that are essential to lifting entire villages out of poverty. We couldn’t do what we do without you, and can’t thank you enough.

Please keep our Malawian friends in your prayers, as reports of the spread of COVID-19 in Malawi are becoming more alarming every day, and it will not take much to overwhelm the already inadequate healthcare system that exists in Malawi. Remember that, as I said in last year’s message, your hope brings hope; your faith inspires faith; and your love breeds love. And those things flow in both directions, so know that our friends in Malawi are also praying for us to get through the troubles we are facing here. In the midst of toils and tribulations, we can continue to strengthen one another, to rejoice in praise for the goodness of our God, and to work together to bring about God’s Kingdom here on Earth.



**Your hope brings hope;  
your faith inspires faith;  
and your love breeds love.**

*Bob Rhoad*

President, Villages in Partnership

## OUR BOARD

### Officers

Bob Rhoad

*President/Chairman of the Board*

Liz Heinzl-Nelson

*Vice President/Founder/  
Executive Director*

Stephen Heinzl-Nelson

*Chaplain/Founder*

Kim Daly

*Treasurer*

Eileen Gradwell

*Secretary*

### Trustees

Gayle Anderson

Chris Ebling

Lucy Goeke

Tim Golden

Judy Haas

Paul Huchro

Kimberlynn Kleasen

Tom Marrero

Randa Nelson

Stephanie Patterson

Tim Schuler

Chris Woodard



“Jesus sent us to proclaim release to the captives and to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of Jubilee. The Year of Jubilee has come. I am here to tell you, there is a lot of Jubilee going on in the villages of Malawi as well as the villages within the USA. God is transforming lives here and over there. There is still much work to be done but let us celebrate these past 10 years as Jesus continues to bring good news to the poor.”

— LIZ HEINZEL-NELSON, *VIP Executive Director*



# FACETS OF EXTREME POVERTY IN MALAWI



Malawi is a land-locked country in southern Africa with a population of over 19.1 million, including 1 million orphans. In 2017, VIP conducted a survey in our impact area revealing that 74% of the population earns less than \$1 per day.

## Economy

- Nearly 80% of the population in Malawi live as subsistence farmers in the agriculture sector. In the VIP service area, 53% of household heads' only occupation is farming; 21% are subsistence farmers but also have another small scale family businesses.
- Because the country's economy is based primarily on agricultural output, it is vulnerable to changes in the weather, pest infestation, and market fluctuations.

## Birth and Mortality

- Although child mortality rates have decreased dramatically since VIP began working in Malawi in 2008, they are still quite high: 32.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, and 43.7 deaths per 1,000 live births among children under age 5 (Worldometer, 2020). The chart below compares mortality rates for children under age 5 in Malawi and the United States, 2008 through 2018
- Twenty-three percent of child mortality cases are associated with under-nutrition (UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2020).
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) rates countries based upon four measures for children under age 5: rates of undernourishment (insufficient calorie intake), child-wasting (low weight), child-stunting (low-height), and child mortality (death rate). Malawi's 2018 GHI score of 26 is "serious," significantly improved from the 2000 "alarming" score of 44.7. **This progress is due in large part to non-government organizations' interventions, including VIP's effective partnerships with villages in the Sakata region.**

UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE (per 1000 live births)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>MALAWI</b>	97.8	93.2	88.4	82.3	75.4	68.6	63	59.2	55.7	52.7	49.7
<b>USA</b>	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.1	7	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5



## Basic Development Needs

- While 87% of Malawians have access to clean water, only 40% of the population has access to improved sanitation facilities. **Due to VIP's interventions and focus on clean water, 100% of Sakata region households can access clean water** and 86% of households have pit latrines, shared with neighboring households. However, only 53% of Sakata households have a hand-washing facility at the latrines.
- During the harvest season (May through July) in the VIP impact area, 61.4% of residents eat only two meals and 36.4% eat three meals a day. However, during the months leading up to the harvest (October to January), 39.8% of households have just one meal a day.
- Only 11% of Malawians have access to electricity, and most of that is concentrated in urban areas.
- In the VIP impact area, **68% of adult heads-of-household did not complete primary school** education.



## The Road Forward

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, and food security. **The targeted efforts of VIP contribute to these steady increases over time, and support villagers in making sustainable changes to improve their lives.**

# How We Work

VIP's approach is based on an enduring collaborative partnership with the people of Sakata, Malawi. When entering a village, we work with the community to implement customized programs designed to tackle their specific needs by addressing the interconnected web of root causes of extreme poverty.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

VIP's projects focus on achieving 16 of the International Sustainable Development goals developed by the UN to eradicate extreme poverty, listed below in white.

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 INEQUALITY
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

# THE COMPLEX WEB OF EXTREME POVERTY

Becoming an orphan is one of the most crippling events a child can experience. In Malawi, with few institutions to support orphans, most are left struggling to survive on their own. The homes of these children become classified as child-headed households. These households do not exist in the United States because we have governmental systems in place to care for the most vulnerable. The Malawian government does not have the resources to support the 1.8 million orphans and children (OVCs). With these overwhelming numbers, 1 out of every 6 children lives on the edge of survival. Through our partnerships with the local development committees, we identify these vulnerable orphans and implement interventions designed to allow them to survive and thrive. One example of how this happens is the story of Heswick.



Heswick is one of the 1.8 million OVCs, caught in the web of extreme poverty. Lack of financial resources, healthcare, and education combine to create debilitating obstacles. His parents died when he was just a young child and was sent to live with his grandmother.

When he was ten years old, Heswick was severely burned by a kerosene lamp that tipped over on him, catching him on fire. After that incident, his grandmother reported to the Village Implementation Committee that he stopped talking and dropped out of school.

The Committee mobilized to help the family by providing Heswick and his grandmother with a goat, with the hope of providing them with income through selling the offspring.



In July 2019, VIP's medical team discovered that Heswick was still suffering from his burn wounds and worked every day to debride and clean the wound.

Circumstances continued to work against Heswick. In 2019, his grandmother suffered a stroke, and she died in January, 2020. Since then, he has been living alone, in what is referred to a "Child-headed Household".



VIP and the Committee continued to look after Heswick. In the Spring of 2020, the VIP Beekeeping Friendship Team visited Heswick and brought him homecare supplies through one of VIP's church partners, Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, NJ.

In February 2020, Heswick sought out medical attention from our Malawian clinicians because he was having trouble with his eyesight.



VIP's Malawi staff continues to follow-up with Heswick, and some of VIP's college students from surrounding villages regularly visit him as mentors.

VIP Staff connected him with CURE International Hospital to receive surgery on his leg. The whole community continues to support him throughout his recovery.

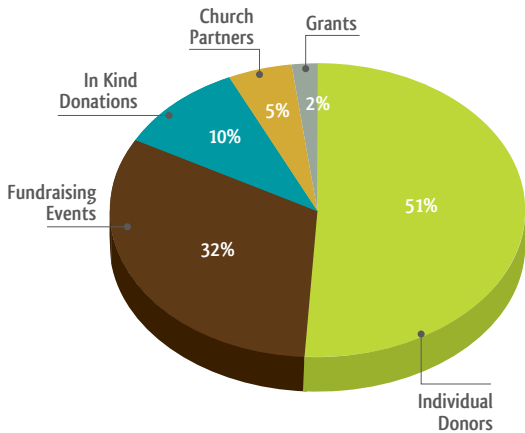


This is a glimpse of the challenges that the web of extreme poverty creates, and how the partnerships between VIP, its donors, its Malawian Staff, its medical and bee keeping teams, the local Village Implementation Committees, and the entire community work hand-in-hand to share burdens and lift each other. Heswick provides a deeper glimpse of what it means to be vulnerable, an orphan, and child-headed household. Not only does the VIP family pray for our brothers and sisters but in a very tangible way we come alongside them with a holistic approach.

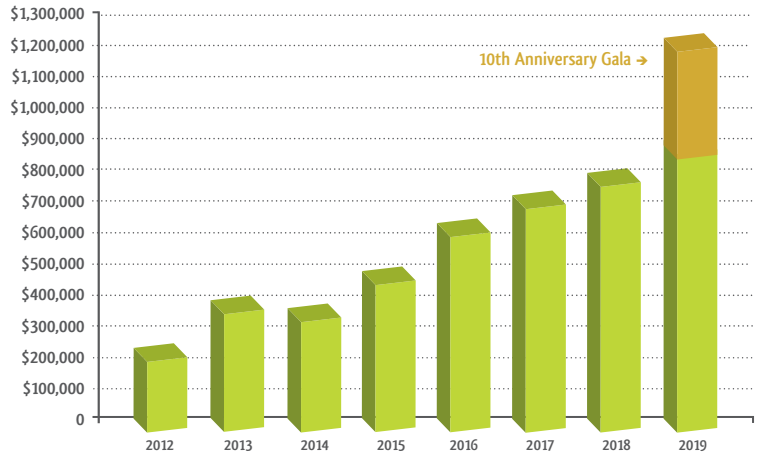
# Financials

## Chipping Away at Extreme Poverty

Sources of Revenue

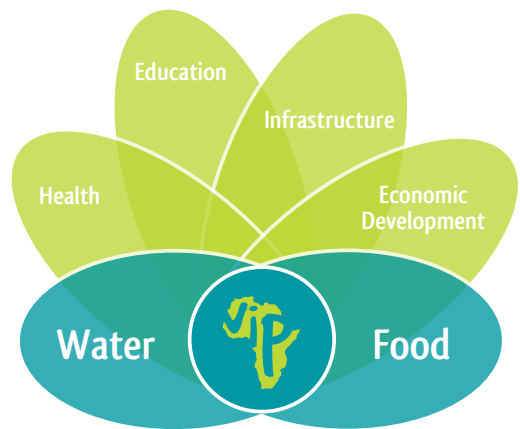


Revenue Growth



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!

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 2019 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 31,000 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 ALL ABOUT THE PROGRESS YOU ARE MAKING**

# Since Our Beginning



**80+**

wells drilled or rehabilitated, bringing clean water to entire villages



**53**

classrooms & teacher houses solarized for electricity



**1,012**

farmers trained in sustainable agriculture & livestock management



**1,232**

goats distributed to vulnerable families



**3,600+**

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



**30,700+**

patients cared for in rural medical & dental clinics

**=**



**\$2M+**

invested in sustainable development projects

**31,000+ VILLAGE LIVES IMPACTED**

**BY 2,900+ VIP FAMILILES**

# Our Staff

## Malawi Staff



**Wellings Mwalabu**  
*Program Manager*

**Gassius Mtemanyama**  
*Program Coordinator*

**Ernesto Makoka**  
*Child Health and Nutrition Coordinator*

**Hasley Chavala**  
*Project Accountant*

**Frank Mwenjemeka**  
*Food Security Officer*

**Joe Majamanda**  
*Construction and Logistics Officer*

**Adrian Kamwendo**  
*Water and Economic Development Officer*

**Maxwell Muhiwa**  
*Education and Vocational Officer*

**Charles Sokoso**  
*Livestock Officer*

**Madalitso Chakani**  
*Health and Nutrition Facilitator*

**Ruth Machelma**  
*Accounts Clerk*

**Violet Matimati**  
*Health and Nutrition Assistant*

## USA Staff



**Liz Heinz-Nelson**  
*Executive Director*

**Carissa Joyce**  
*Development Coordinator*

**Aaron Shaver**  
*Office Administrator*

## Malawi Support Staff

**Stain Namwera**  
*Office Assistant*

**Kondwani Mihowa**  
*Transportation Officer*

## Malawi Community Workers



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

## 2019 IMPACT AT A GLANCE:

- 12,000+ patients treated by 2 teams of Malawian & US caregivers
- 2 libraries built at the Sakata and Chimpeni Primary Schools
- 80 students served by 2 new classrooms at Sakata Primary School
- 732 households given access to clean water with 31 wells drilled or repaired
- 54 community-based preschool caregivers trained
- 40 tons of maize harvested by 100 farmers & redistributed
- 21,477 chickens vaccinated against Newcastle disease
- 20% increase in goat production by deworming 2,475 goats
- \$72,000+ saved by participants in VIP's Village Saving and Loans clubs
- 185 liters of honey harvested for sale at local markets



# TEN YEARS OF VIP

The Heinzl-Nelsons go to Malawi.



The first team from the US, including Bob Rhoad who would become the founding President of VIP, visits. Since then over 270 people from dozens of states have visited VIP projects.



The first Water Walk raises \$45,000. Subsequent walks have raised cumulatively over \$500,000.



The first Medical team of three under the direction of Lucy Goeke sees over 100 patients. To date, medical teams have seen over 30,700 patients.



Wellings Mwalabu and Daniel Bonogwe are hired as the first employees to begin work in 13 villages.

2008

2009

2010



VIP is founded and the logo is designed by Charlie Lyons-Pardue.



Kalupe Clinic is rebuilt. This is the first VIP project.



The first hand-dug well is completed. Since then over 30 boreholes have been drilled and 20 water points rehabilitated.



The first school block of Chimpeni Primary School is completed. VIP has constructed 18 preschools, two primary schools and is currently building a secondary school.





VIP has distributed 1,232 goats as well as chickens, pigs and cows.



Liz Heinzl-Nelson is hired as VIP's first Executive Director at a salary of \$15,000. VIP currently has three full-time staff in the USA and 13 full-time staff in Malawi.



Thanks to a major gift from Goldman Sachs Gives, VIP brings electricity to the villages.



Chimpeni Primary School is officially opened.



## 2011



University of Delaware Engineers Without Borders (EWB) team rebuilds the Mkagula Bridge. UDel EWB continues to send teams every year.



Dr. Dick Fitzpatrick presents desks on behalf of the Upper Freehold Regional School Administration.



## 2012



The Tamboledwa (We are Saved) Maize Mill opens.

To date, VIP has paid school fees for over 103 secondary students and 22 university students who would otherwise be unable to attend school.



## 2013



NorthStar VETS sponsors a Vet Team to work with farmers and livestock. NJ State Veterinarian, Dr. Manoel Tamassia and NJ State Apiarist, Tim Schuler, are among the team.



# TEN YEARS OF VIP

The rebuilding of Sakata Primary School commences.



Andy Odom, Senior Pastor, visits Malawi.

VIP promotes livestock pass-on. President Bob participates in "cattle drive".



Canyon Creek becomes VIP's third formal church partner. VIP now has 15 church partners from 7 states.

EWB brings water to Mphero villages. This is the first sustainable well ever in this village.

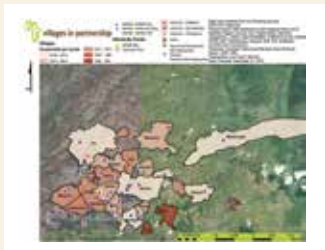


2014

2015

2016

GPS Mapping of impact area conducted.



VIP hosts team from Cornell-Kappa Sigma fraternity.



VIP donates \$75,000 for Hunger Relief. After this, the board decides to only focus on sustainable development.

Dental care offered for the first time. Today dental clinics are open every month.





Xavier University joins the medical team; 24 medics see over 5,200 patients.



Lucius Phiri is VIP's first college graduate.

Ed and Kathy Dean hold the first-ever 1,000 Goat Wedding.



Our first beekeeping team goes to Malawi to work with farmers on honey production.

## 2017

## 2018

## 2019



The solar irrigation project begins.



Students adopt trees at Sakata school. Thousands of trees have been planted to address deforestation.

VIP breaks ground on first secondary school.



Land is identified for a new clinic in the remote village of Khanda.

# Malawi Comes to America



**IN SEPTEMBER OF 2019**, four of VIP's thirteen Malawian staff members came to visit America for the first time, to tell first-hand stories of our impact in the most remote villages, join VIP's 10th Year Anniversary Gala, and get to know us and our culture better. We were blessed to reciprocate the generosity that they have been showing us for years, as we opened our homes to them. While in the US, they visited local schools, partners, and churches to raise awareness about VIP's work in Malawi and gain insight to take back to the villages. At the gala, our Malawian guests spoke on behalf of VIP and continued to educate us about their work throughout their visit. Our visitors were Wellings Mwalabu, VIP Program Manager; Frank Mwenjemeka, VIP Food Security Officer; Joseph Majamanda, VIP Construction & Logistics Officer; and Madalisto Chakani, VIP Health & Nutrition Facilitator.

Our Malawian guests were treated to new experiences and got a glimpse into the depths of the bonds that have been created with our partners over the years. During their three weeks here, they visited Stone Bridge Middle School in Allentown, NJ, Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, St. Luke's Hospital in Allentown, PA, 5 different farms, 3 church partners, the Jersey Shore, and New York City. Their visits typically included presentations about VIP's work in the villages and opportunities for us to share our culture and traditions with them. During these visits, they shared with our partners how they make a tangible difference in Malawi. We are so grateful for their time spent in America!





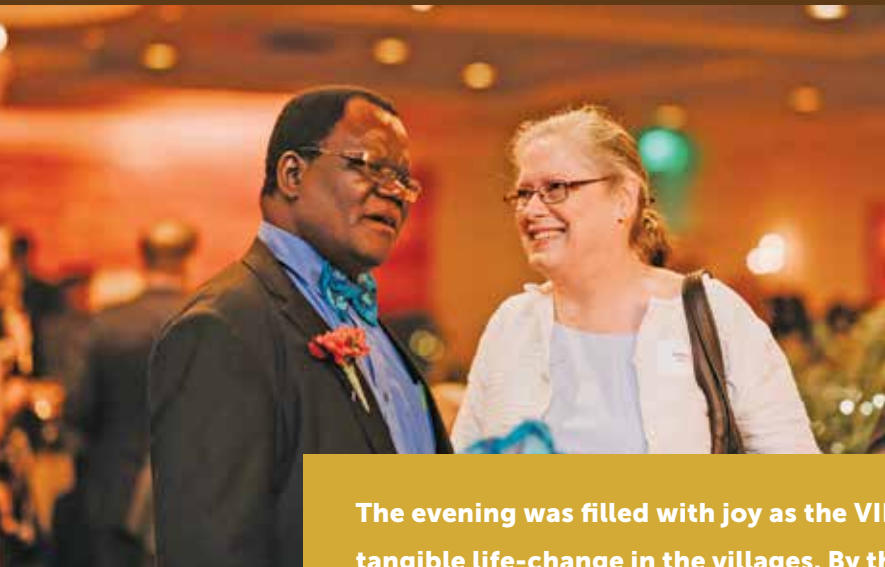
# 10 Year Anniversary Gala



2019 was a milestone year for Villages in Partnership (VIP) and marked our 10 year anniversary. To celebrate, we hosted our very first gala event. Together, we gathered to reflect on a decade of kinship and love that has transformed lives not only in Malawi, but also in our partner communities. Through God, Villages in Partnership has impacted thousands and we can't wait to see what the future holds! Thank you for making our mission in the most remote villages of Malawi possible.



We were awed by the spirit of generosity and compassion shown towards those living in extreme poverty during the night of the gala. The room was filled with God's presence as hearts aligned through His calling to come alongside the poor in the villages of Malawi. The venue was filled to capacity with 310 guests attending from 12 different states, from as far away as CA, TX, and AZ.



The evening was filled with joy as the VIP family came together in fellowship to reflect on tangible life-change in the villages. By the end of the night, our auctions raised enough to double our fundraising goal! It was certainly a night of jubilee. These precious gifts will begin the construction of the Khanda Medical Clinic and continue the construction of the One Heart Secondary School in Malawi. We can't wait to see how God will continue to transform lives through your gifts over the next decade.



# 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



Food Security



Economic Development



Education



Infrastructure



Healthcare





# WATER

## CLEAN WATER IS UNIVERSALLY IDENTIFIED AS THE TOP PRIORITY

when VIP first approaches a village to explore a partnership. During 2019, VIP drilled and installed 13 new bore holes in our impact area, providing easily accessible water for an additional 336 families. This adds up to 43 bore holes drilled by VIP since 2012. These wells provide clean, accessible water for over 21,900 people, drastically reducing 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 extensive 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.



A training was held by government workers and VIP staff for 11 of the existing water committees with a combined total of 110 participants. The purpose was to refresh their understanding of how to maintain the wells. The government was amazed at the knowledge and care our village committees take in maintaining our wells. **In addition to drilling the 13 new wells, VIP rehabilitated 18 pre-existing wells that had fallen into disrepair before VIP began to work in these villages. These rehabilitated wells provide water for an additional 396 families.**

In August, VIP partnered with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) from the University of Delaware in the Nkagula and Liti villages. Together, they worked to test water resistivity and to identify the location of accessible water points to drill wells in 2020.

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

“We are a changed people because of this well. Our bathing and laundry have been improved, because our friends from afar gave us this well. They delivered us from living in, what can I call it, Sahara or Egypt.”

— MAGRIT KANYOZA

*Mphero Water Committee Member*





# 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, with a focus on establishing sustainable practices that will allow our farmers to continue to thrive independent from VIP. We continue to accomplish this through the establishment of solar irrigation farming projects, the teaching and implementation of enhanced conservation farming techniques, the promotion of crop diversification, and the implementation of a variety of livestock programs.

As subsistence farmers, most of the villagers in our impact area grow the crops they need to survive, which makes them vulnerable to droughts, flooding, pests, and the vagaries of other external environmental impacts. VIP seeks to support partner villages and local farmers to improve resilience to climate change and food instability through its diverse set of interventions.





## AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS WERE:

- **Trained 26 lead farmers and 8 community workers in Participatory Integrated Climate Change for Sustainable Agriculture techniques that helps farmers make informed decisions on livelihood options (crops, livestock, businesses) based on weather, climate change and other factors;**
- **Constructed Samani solar irrigation project that will ensure food security of 70 farming households participating in cooperative;**
- **Trained 62 new lead farmers in conservation agriculture techniques, who influenced 260 other farmers to adopt conservation agriculture, with 12% increase in yields obtained by farmers implementing these techniques;**
- **100 farmers harvested over 35 tons of cassava from 200 bundles of cassava cuttings that were bought and distributed to 7 villages—proceeds from the sale of this cassava saved dozens of households from starvation and malnutrition;**
- **40+ tons of maize was harvested by 100 targeted farmers through distribution of 550 kgs of improved maize seeds, making farmers food secure for at least 8 months (and some for all year) and saving 42 children from malnutrition;**



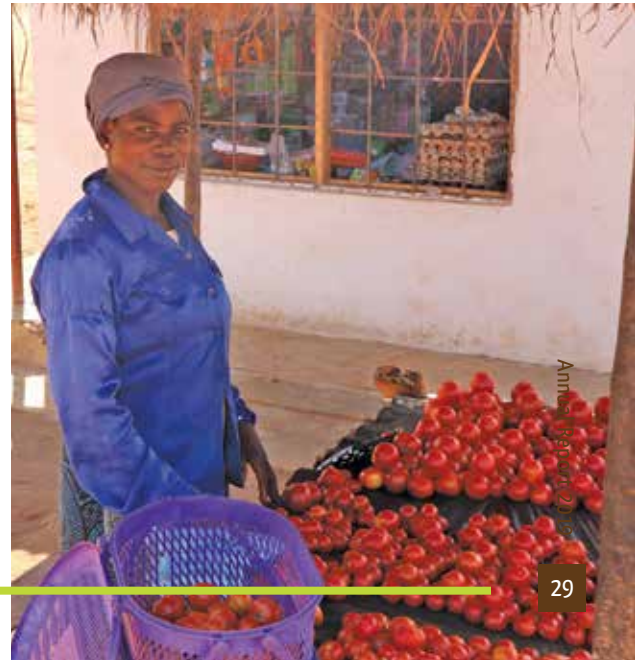
- **21,477 chickens were inoculated against Newcastle Disease, preserving this source of nutrition and income for 1,792 households;**
- **100 goats were distributed to 50 vulnerable households from 9 villages, and 61 offspring from goats were passed-on to new households; 2,500+ goats were de-wormed to prevent internal parasites, thereby preserving this source of nutrition and income for over 900 households;**
- **12 seed multipliers from Kalupe, Chikabwereza, Muluwila, Mtambo, Chilimani and Nkumbira produced 4,167 kgs of CG7 certified seed, enabling farmers to sell their seed, generating 2,500,200 Kwacha (3,333.60 USD) for the famers.**
- **19,447 tree seedlings were raised by village forestry committees to protect against soil erosion and promote bee keeping businesses—1,508 were transplanted in communal woodlots, 5,774 were distributed to individual households, and the remainder were sold within their communities to sustain future efforts.**
- **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.**

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“On a beautiful August afternoon, I hopped into the back of a pickup truck and headed to a remote village in the shadow of the Zomba Plateau. Everyone from the village chief to the youngest newborn was at the heart of the village singing, dancing, and sharing their gratitude. As the sun began to set behind the plateau, the village chief commenced the goat passing-on ceremony. The villagers celebrated as one family gave its goat’s kid to another family, further strengthening the entire community. I was truly amazed by the love and appreciation of the people and their desire to better their communities and families.

— GRACE NEMEC

*2019 Friendship Trip Participant*



Anna K. [unreadable]



# 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 began to flourish in 2019. Several cooperative clubs are up and running. **Over 185 liters of honey was harvested by the clubs generating money to buy food and other basic necessities.**

Another major income source stems from revolving loans provided to the seed producers. VIP gave loans to farmers who then after the harvest sell surplus seed to the local communities and repay the loans. These “seed multipliers” generate thousands of Kwacha in income for the farmers as well as helping the local economy by allowing farmers





to purchase seed from their neighbors at better prices. This year four new clubs were formed who received their first loans.

In addition, Village Savings and Loan Association programs (VSLAs) continue to transform the lives of their members. VSLAs teach those involved how to save money and combine their resources together to make loans to other members. **Currently, there are 29 VSLAs throughout the VIP service area with more than 250 members.** During the year, the clubs have been trained in business management and financial analysis and assessment. **Over \$72,000 was generated and saved by the 29 VSLAs! By the end of the year, the most successful VSLA saved \$6,692.85, which they shared to buy farm inputs and household assets.** 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 2019 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 single crop and subsistence farming. It also creates more opportunity for growth and expansion as villagers learn alternative livelihoods.

Kwapeza Chigalu is a member of Tigwirizane VSL group from Mtambo village. She is married with three children. In 2019 she saved 296,000mk which she used to buy a brand new deep freezer at a cost of 194,650 MK which she uses to operate a business of selling thombwa and Freezes. In addition she is in the process of completing the construction of a second house which was started two years ago. With the additional VSL funds for 2019 she bought cement, doors, window frames and glass. Her plan is to rent this house for additional income.



# 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. An exciting new initiative this year was the construction of **2 new libraries at the Sakata and Chimpeni Primary Schools**. It is virtually unheard of for primary schools in Malawi to have libraries. **It is expected that 30 teachers and over 690 students from the two schools will benefit from these libraries**, which currently have been stocked with over 1,000 books.

VIP supported 62 students in government secondary schools and 10 college students by providing school fees, school uniforms, and stationery. VIP also conducted a two-day retreat for these students, to equip them with life-sustaining skills, including sessions addressed to setting life goals, improving self-esteem and self-control, reproductive health issues, HIV and AIDS, essay writing, self-awareness, and spiritual development. By removing the financial boundary to



“VIP to us is a mother to this community. It has changed my life. From nothing, to hero. Now, people look up to me. Sometimes they may come to me asking for help, this means a lot to me, because VIP found me with nothing. But through VIP I’ve been able to go to African Bible College. I applied there and was accepted. Through VIP, we can see God.”

— CYDNEY CHIKALEMA, *Kalupe village, Student, African Bible College*



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.

VIP supported vocational training for twenty-eight students at various vocational training centers in Malawi, with training provided in mechanics, plumbing, tailoring, welding and bricklaying to help provide employment opportunities for these youth. VIP also supplied the students with safety clothes and boots. It is expected that the vocational training will create employment among the targeted youths.

VIP conducted a training workshop for 54 Community-Based Childcare Center caregivers to enhance their knowledge and skills in early childhood development. 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.

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.

“One thing I love about being in Malawi is seeing how people are willing to go to great lengths to

improvise with the limited resources.

I spent time with 26 teachers and headmasters from 9 village schools who came together for a 4-day science training session. One experiment, meant to show balanced forces, is making a “human table” with 4 people each leaning their shoulders in the lap of the next person. To set it up you need chairs without armrests. Since we did not have those, I was about to skip the lesson, but one of the teachers who had previously done the experiment with his class, insisted that the other teachers needed to learn it as well. One teacher who lived close by offered his chairs. We dispatched 2 teachers with bicycles to fetch the chairs from his home and we did it.”

— TRUDI VELDMAN

2019 Friendship Trip Participant





# INFRASTRUCTURE

**INFRASTRUCTURE IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF EVERY AREA OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT** on which VIP focuses. From the construction of schools, libraries, and teacher houses, to the drilling of boreholes, to the building of bridges and security fencing, 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.

## **Primary School Construction and Improvement**

In 2019, VIP constructed libraries at the Chimpeni and Sakata Primary Schools. These libraries provide a tremendous resource and leg up for the students attending these schools, as very few primary schools in Malawi have libraries. VIP also constructed an additional school block and teacher's house at Sakata Primary School.

## **Construction of One Heart Community Day Secondary School**

VIP has engaged Donekis Construction Company to begin construction of the One Heart Secondary School in Phetembe Village. Currently, the project is in its first phase of construction, with two school blocks, an administration block, toilets for staff and students, and two staff houses being built. The school is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2020.



### **Solar installation in five school structures**

VIP has installed solar powered electricity in a block of two classrooms at Matawale Primary School, and the library and a teacher's house at both Sakata Primary School and Chimpeni Primary School. The solar-powered electricity was installed in order to retain teachers in schools located in rural areas, improve student performance through increasing learning and studying hours, and improve teachers' service delivery by providing them with ample time to prepare for next day's classes.

### **Energy Saving Stoves**

VIP conducted trainings to promote the marketing and use of energy-saving Chitetezo mbaula stoves made in the villages. A woman's group for Liti village was able to earn extra income by making and selling 311 stoves to the Save the Children organization. They have also trained 55 women from neighboring villages in how to make and use these stoves.

### **Tree Planting Competition**

To encourage the planting of trees as a way to combat the effects of climate change, VIP developed a competition amongst villagers to see who was able to plant and maintain the most trees. Nearly 300 villagers participated.

### **Construction of Community Based Child Care Center**

VIP rebuilt a CBCC shelter with a kitchen and a two-door pit latrine in Chilimani Village. The community provided bricks, river sand, stones, and water as their contribution to the project, while VIP provided other necessary materials and equipment, including payment to the local builder to lay bricks and roof the shelter.





# HEALTHCARE

VIP IS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MALAWIANS and improving their access to quality health care. Fostering a healthier community enables individuals to participate in the country's development. The healthcare services and support we provide are accessible to the poorest and most vulnerable families.

## Preventative Health Initiatives

Ernesto Makoka joined VIP in 2019 as the coordinator for Maternal Child, Health, and Nutrition. He continues to be supported by Madalitso Chakani, and Violet Matimati. **Together, they supported the establishment and training of 250 care groups who, in turn, delivered nutrition and health education to over 3,000 community members.** Trainings included topics like proper hygiene and sanitation, cooking demonstrations, and diversified food preparation and preservation. The health promoters involved in the care group trainings also monitored nutrition in children. Those children who were suffering from moderate to severe malnutrition were referred to a health facility for additional treatment, care, and support.

VIP supported the annual Child Health Day in Zomba District. This health promotion day delivered Vitamin A and deworming agents to 1000 children under 5 years of age and 500 postpartum mothers.





### The Kalupe And Khanda Medical Clinics

We continued to run weekly outreach medical clinics for those in need and who may have limited access to the government-run clinics, which are often under-staffed and under-resourced. **In 2019, we nearly doubled the number of people who were treated at these clinics reaching a total of 5,760 patients.**

There is a deep understanding that not all vulnerable patients are able to make the journey to our clinics or a health center for care. Our VIP nurse, Madalitso Chantani, working together with the clinical officers from local health centers, made routine home visits to provide clinical treatment, care, education and support to those clients. In 2019, 40 patients were seen and assisted with chronic conditions like hypertension, wound care, stroke, diabetes, AIDS, and cancer.

### The Khanda And Kalino Dental Clinics

VIP continued to provide monthly dental clinics. **Like the medical team, the dental team saw exponential growth in the patients accessing care, serving 2,094 clients in 2019.** The government-run clinics ran out of Lidocaine, the anesthetic used in tooth extractions, but VIP was able to procure the necessary supplies to continue these much needed services.

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.

“It’s been an honor and privilege to have been the founder of the dental clinic in Malawi. We have touched so many lives in the past 5 years and the equipment that we have been able to procure has been invaluable. I know the clinic is in good hands with Titus, our Malawian dentist. As always I keep my Malawian and VIP family in my prayers.”

— SCOTT GRADWELL  
*2019 Medical Trip Participant*





In 2019, for the first time ever, VIP conducted two medical and dental mission trips in March and July. The medical and dental teams from the USA were composed of physicians, advanced practitioners, dentists, dental assistants, nurses, nursing students, and support staff who traveled to Malawi to serve the sick and vulnerable. Working hand-in-hand with Malawian medical personnel, our teams offered medical, dental, and vision care at three remote clinics, treating many patients suffering from diseases and conditions unseen in America, like malaria and parasites. These clinics served over 7,000 patients in March and over 5,500 patients in July, providing healing, compassion, and a sense of hope where almost all was lost.



“I went for the first time as a NP student on the medical trip in 2013. Frank started coming with me as support staff in 2014. It has been amazing to see the growth in all 6 areas of development in the years we have been going. There have been times where we literally did not recognize an area just a year later due to all the changes. Our pastor Russell Goodrich has gone with us the past two years. He said it best when he announced from the pulpit that in his 20 plus years of ministry he has never seen an organization with more of an impact for the Kingdom of God. Villages in Partnership really is “Changing lives one village at a time”. I am excited to see what God is going to do as the secondary school and clinic are completed.”

— JYNNIFER & FRANK ALBANO, 2019 Medical Trip Participant

## Medical Trip Participants

### MARCH TEAM

Lucy Goeke, NP - Team Lead  
 Frank Albano  
 Jyn Albano, NP  
 Molly Babb  
 Sheila Bonner  
 Karen Brown  
 Lauren Deddens  
 Tom Goeke  
 Russell Goodrich  
 Rachel Hesse

Tessa Mills  
 Adriane Neumeister, RN  
 James Reist  
 Sharma Robinson  
 Allie Schindler  
 Jessica Spady  
 Shawna Whitford, RN  
 Katelyn Wnek  
 Abigail Wolkenberg

### JULY TEAM

Eileen Gradwell, RN - Team Lead  
 Lauren Gradwell, PA - Team Lead  
 Dr. Barbara Edwards, MD  
 Amanda Elsen, NP  
 Troy Elsen  
 Carol Golden, RN  
 Timothy Golden  
 Dr. Scott Gradwell, DMD  
 Sean Gradwell  
 Dr. Neeraj Hotchandani, MD  
 Tory Huchro  
 Katie Hulit, RN

Megan Longshore  
 Grace Ludwig  
 Hayley McIntyre  
 Devin Murray  
 Hope Petersheim, CNA  
 Debra Price  
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 Noah Seelhorst  
 Patricia Snow Sheldon  
 Dr. Dela Taghipour, MD  
 Dr. Sarah Vick, MD  
 Dr. Xin Yu Wang, MD



**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.

As in past years, 2019’s Friendship Trips brought a diverse group of people from all parts of the U.S. together, inviting them to step a bit outside their comfort zone and see or hear things that most visitors to Africa never get to experience. As time is spent together and lives are shared, relationships are built. Blessings flow both ways, as we receive more than we give.



“In July 2019, I traveled to Malawi with a group of medical professionals, nurse practitioners, and VIP sponsors. While I have participated in several VIP trips over the last 10 years, working with the medical team was a completely eye-opening experience. Over the course of three days, we

treated over 7,000 patients in four villages. I felt simultaneously humbled, inspired, and blessed to support VIP and the medical team in this life-changing mission.”

— TORY HUCHRO  
2019 Friendship Trip Participant

### Friendship Trip Participants

**JULY TEAM**

- Anne Diebel
- Matthew Hammell
- Annabel Hughes
- Elizabeth Hughes
- Crystal Sweeney
- Dr. Dela Taghipour, MD
- Dr. Sarah Vick, MD

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“What makes VIP so strong is that we don’t travel to Malawi with the mindset that we are changing the country in a week, but that we are going to learn, experience and participate with the Malawian people in their way of life. We get to absorb the culture of Malawi and bring that message back to our church in the United States. It is the messaging of God’s love that improves Malawi and the United States, together. VIP changes hearts in transformative ways for the glory of God’s kingdom”

— TOM MARRERO

*2019 Friendship Trip Participant*



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