



## 2015 Annual Report





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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2015 has been a banner year in building Village Improvement Project's capacity to operate at a super high credibility level. To summarize, VIP:

- Recruited skilled volunteers who built our brand, redesigned our website, improved our social media presence, designed a cook stove prototype, and created job descriptions and committee task sheets;
- Obtained an official address and phone number;
- Qualified as a member of GlobalGiving to crowdfund for our projects;
- Was accredited as an international NGO in Liberia;
- Provided 193 village families with solar lanterns; and
- Provided 12 town-limit signs for Suehn Highway



Thanks go out to our Board of Directors, donors, supporters, and volunteers for making 2015 a successful startup year.

**Dr. LeRoy Z. Boikai**



## OUR STORY

VIP, Inc. joined GlobalGiving in July after a successful challenge campaign to raise \$5,000 from 40 donors. Through GlobalGiving, we raised over \$11,700 from 114 donors and were able to purchase an additional 160 solar lanterns for village families.

Pilot projects were implemented in June to supply 6 homes in a Liberian village with lanterns and to install 12 town limit signs along the Monrovia-Suehn Highway. GlobalGiving provided a seed grant to develop a feedback loop with village stakeholders. VIP field experts implemented a two-part feedback loop using tailored strategies. We consider our work a success because of the rich feedback from village responders and the wealth of information we garnered about their future needs.

As we move into 2016, VIP is prepared to launch its cook stove project, thanks to the volunteer support of a mechanical engineer in Columbus and a Ph.D. engineering student at The Ohio State University. Fundraising for this project will continue on GlobalGiving at [goto.gg/22068](http://goto.gg/22068).

Another venture we are embarking upon in 2016 is to partner with Clevrnet, a pro bono student consulting nonprofit out of Yale to enhance our capacity to implement our projects in Liberia.

### Mission Statement

The mission of Village Improvement Project, Inc. is to enhance the quality of life for village communities in rural Liberia through service and education.

### Vision Statement

To be the catalyst for unlocking the potential of village communities and to create viable solutions to improving village life using simple technologies in renewable energy.

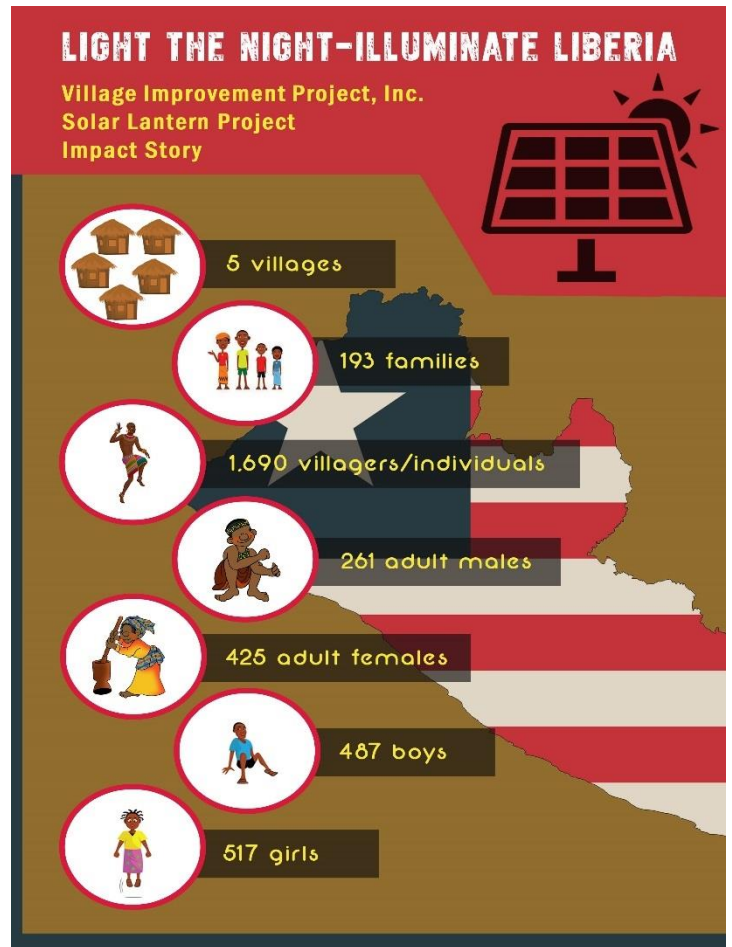


## SOLAR LANTERN PROGRAM

Several villages in the Suehn Mecca District in Bomi County, Liberia received solar lights and road signs in local ceremonies on June 20, 2015. These ceremonies were attended by the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and Superintendents of Montserrado and Bomi Counties, along with district officials and members of the news media.

In January 2016, another 187 families received solar lanterns.

As a part of VIP's feedback loop, each village with solar lanterns will receive a mobile phone for communication with VIP staff about any issues with using the lanterns. We will provide training for use and maintenance of lanterns through the first year of use. As a result of this feedback loop, three lanterns in the pilot project have been repaired and put back in service.



Solar Lantern Impact Story

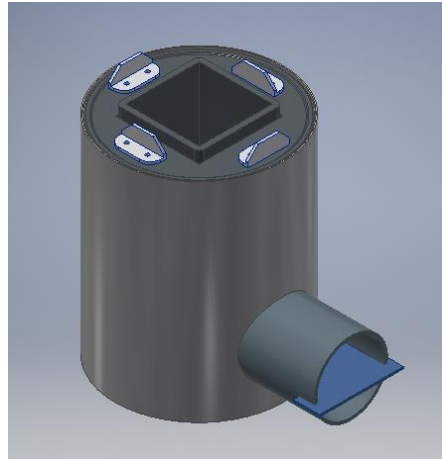


## COOKING STOVE PROGRAM

Use of rocket stove technology in villages will help address the high demand for biomass fuels and to reduce household air pollution caused by using traditional cooking methods.

- Fuel gathering consumes considerable time for women and children, limiting other productive activities and taking children away from school.
- Non-renewable harvesting of biomass contributes to deforestation and thus climate change.

VIP's design team of mechanical engineers has begun work and by early 2016, the first prototype will be available for field testing in Liberia.



Initial cook stove prototype design



## VISIBILITY FOR RURAL LIBERIA

The first 12 town-limit signs are installed and we've conducted a feedback survey from residents and motorists on the Suehn Highway about the usefulness of the signs. A typical response was voiced by a Boombula villager who said, "The road sign is helping travelers visiting our village to find their way easily."

Geographic identification will enable timely delivery of healthcare services, construction supplies, educational materials, government assistance of various kinds, trade and retail activities, and engender a sense of pride within the community.

We will use feedback from this project to help us better understand what drives sustained adoption of clean energy and safe travel. Specifically, we want first to know if the lanterns and road signs are useful and, secondly, if there are other resources that are needed.



**2015 REVENUE**

<b>Individual, Business Contributions</b>	<b>\$1645.09</b>
<b>GlobalGiving Crowdfunding</b>	<b>\$11,780.18</b>
<b>GlobalGiving Feedback Grant</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Directors Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,870.79</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,296.06</b>

**EXPENSES**

<b>NGO Registration-Liberia</b>	<b>\$1,230</b>
<b>Liberian Contract Services</b>	<b>\$1,575</b>
<b>Tech/Online Contract Services</b>	<b>\$1,958.70</b>
<b>Liberian Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,300</b>
<b>Postal, Mailing, Phone &amp; Website Services</b>	<b>\$728.57</b>
<b>Solar Lanterns Purchase</b>	<b>\$4,585.97</b>
<b>Shipping Lanterns to Liberia</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,378.24</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$3,917.82</b>





## 2015 VIP CHAMPIONS

Today, many online platforms give talented skilled volunteers opportunities to provide pro bono services in a wide range of areas to nonprofits. Village Improvement Project, Inc. has benefited from the services of the following volunteers for a total of over 655 hours:

Ms. Lakshmi Ganapathy	Designed Website
Mr. Patrick Fenn, R&P Graphics Design	Created Brand Identity
Mr. Roberto DeOliveira, R&P Graphics Design	Created Brand Identity
Mr. Aditya Govil	Developed Strategic Plan
Ms. Aparna Desai	Developed Strategic Plan
Ms. Jeanette Eliassen	Helped set up Financial Accounts
Ms. Shamus Ozmen	Built Social Media & Feedback System
Ms. Stephanie Adam	Developed Job Descriptions & Task Sheets
Mr. Pete Schupska, Engineer	Designed & Built Cookstove Prototype
Mr. Yuan Yang, PhD Candidate, Engineering, OSU	Assisted with Cookstove Design

Village Improvement Project, Inc. is grateful for the enormous contributions of its skilled volunteers and declares them VIP Champions!

## SUPPORT VIP, INC

We would be most grateful if you would consider making a **tax-deductible** investment to help us reach our goals of reducing energy poverty in Liberia. Your support is critical to the completion of our projects planned for 2016, and we will gladly keep you updated regarding our progress and the impact of your investment.

- **Make an online [donation](#)**
- **Sign up for our [e-newsletter](#)**
- **Follow us on [Facebook](#)**

## THANK YOU

Thanks to our Board of Directors, donors, supporters, and partners for making 2015 a banner year for Village Improvement Project, Inc.

### VIP Board Members

1. Dr. LeRoy Boikai, President
2. Mr. Clifton Flemister, VP
3. Dr. Jerome Boikai, Secretary
4. Mr. David Moore, Treasurer
5. Mrs. Musu Boikai
6. Ms. Aparna Desai
7. Mr. Aditya Govil
8. Mrs. Nancy Moore
9. Mr. Tamba Tandanpolie
10. Mr. Emmanuel Wettee
11. Dr. Angene Wilson
12. Mr. Jack Wilson

“I can promote use of fuel efficient and clean technology by being a part of VIP. Besides, I can put my experience of go to market and market entry strategies by helping VIP achieve its mission of setting up operations for rocket stove manufacture and sales in Liberia.” — Aparna Desai

“I joined VIP Board to make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Liberia. I believe success should be measured by one’s ability to help those in need.” — Tamba Tandanpolie

As a young man fresh out of college with no “worldly experience,” living and teaching in Liberia as a Peace Corps Volunteer was a milestone in my life. I joined the Village Improvement Project, Inc. Board to help contribute much needed resources to Liberian families as a means to give back something for

the love and respect Liberians gave me as a guest in their country. — David Moore

“My husband and I were Peace Corps Volunteers in the first group in Liberia from 1962 to 1964 and have been involved with Liberia and Liberians ever since. We are especially glad to work with Liberians outside and inside Liberia who are directly helping their people.” — Dr. Angene Wilson

“Working with children & families with greater needs has been a long standing passion of mine. I worked closely with Village Improvement Project Inc. through my pro bono consulting engagement and when I saw a strong group of board members that were former Peace Corps volunteers who worked in Liberia, I was excited at the prospect of contributing with VIP. When LeRoy offered me a position on the board, I simply could not turn down the opportunity of helping the Liberian children & families through his leadership.” — Aditya Govil

“I spent 45 years living and working in Liberia. My company always made contributions to projects like these, so working with VIP is dear to me. My desire is to increase education, health, and financial stability for people in Liberia. VIP gives me an opportunity to do this.” — Clifton Flemister

“I know from my Peace Corps teaching experience that Liberian children are very eager to learn and willing to work hard for an education that children in other parts of the world take for granted. Helping them have greater opportunities to study and learn by providing solar lanterns will mean so much to them, their families and their future.” — Nancy Moore

# VIP Year in Review

## The New Brand

R & P Design complete and launch new branding for VIP across all social media.

STEP  
01



STEP  
02

## The Pilot

Our team launches solar light and road sign projects in Liberia in June 2015.

## Crowdfunding

June crowdfunding made VIP a permanent member of GlobalGiving.

STEP  
03



STEP  
04

## Fundraising

Raised over \$10,000 through GlobalGiving.

## The Delivery

193 village families received solar lanterns from VIP in 2015.

STEP  
05



## **CONTACT**

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<https://twitter.com/VillImprovement>



**Village Improvement Project**

