



## Village Improvement Project



## 2014 Annual Report

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## Village Improvement Project

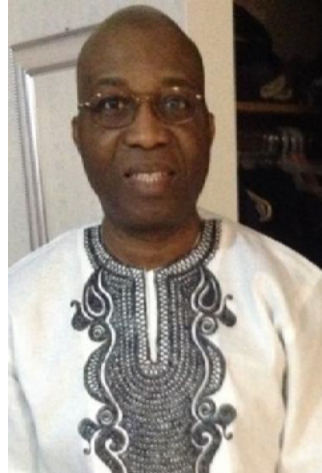
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Solar lantern kits I sent to family members in Liberia in March so significantly transformed their lives such that the idea of replacing kerosene lanterns with clean bright solar lanterns on a village-wide scale was born. My subsequent appeal to friends and relatives to assist in purchasing solar lanterns for three villages in rural Liberia in 2014 brought enthusiastic encouragement and financial support from some donors to expand this project into a movement with greater impact. By the end of July, Village Improvement Project, Inc. was established as a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit corporation with a nine-member Board comprising of former Peace Corps Volunteers to Liberia and Liberian professionals in the U.S.



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

Thanks to our Board of Directors, donors, supporters, and partners for all that they have done in the past six months to make our work possible.

**Dr. LeRoy Z. Boikai**

ILLUMINATE  
& ENLIGHTEN



## OUR STORY

VIP, Inc. springs from a long-held dream and goal to do something significant to improve the lives of poor villagers in Liberia who never seem to benefit from most other development efforts. Three primary projects VIP, Inc. will undertake are providing solar lanterns for village homes, manufacturing improved cook stoves, and installing highway signs to help identify major towns along highways from Monrovia.

Village Improvement Project, Inc. obtained its first seed grant of \$1,000 from The Pollination Project in September and its second of \$2,000 from the Ross Foundation in December. By December, 2014, VIP, Inc. had purchased 37 of the 49 initial solar lanterns needed, 3 solar street lights and 12 reflective road signs for phase one projects. Shipment of the road signs and 6 lanterns to Liberia for the pilot project took place in December.



### **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 creating some solutions to improving village life using simple technologies in renewable energy.

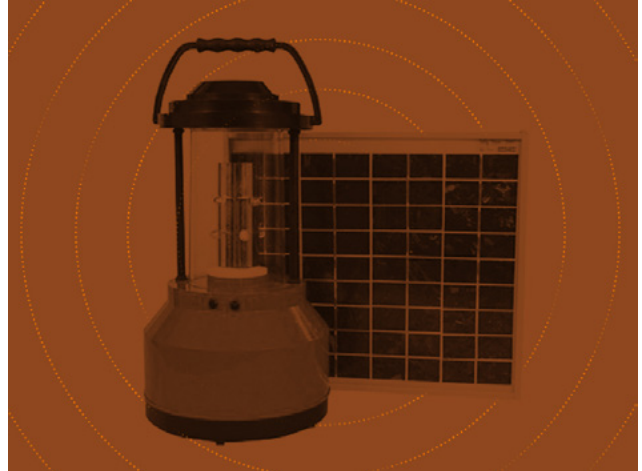


## SOLAR LANTERN PROGRAM

- Provide LED solar lantern with 560 lumens and mobile phone chargers to 50 village homes in three villages. The lanterns which can stay on for 8 hours will allow school children adequate light to study and do their homework.
- Provide a 20W solar street light for each village to be erected at the center of the village or market area to allow villagers to extend their work day or activities into night time.
- Extend the working day by typically three hours.
- Children extend their study day –often by 2 hours or more per night.
- Save time on trips to the market for mobile phone charging.
- More time to learn, earn and engage in family activities.

VIP's technical team led by Mr. Clifton Flemister, a Board member and electrical engineer, has tested the lanterns and street light equipment for three months before shipping to Liberia.

Bright 560 lumens solar lanterns with mobile phone chargers and 20W street lights used in VIP's solar light project.



## COOKING STOVE PROGRAM

- Using rocket stove technology to help address the high demand for biomass fuels and to reduce household air pollution caused by using traditional cooking methods.
- Cleaner and more efficient cooking solutions can cut down on the time women and girls spend gathering firewood, allowing girls to devote more time to their education and women to spend more time improving their families' livelihood.

Liberia's Population Size: 4,190,435

Percentage of population using solid fuels for cooking: 98%

Population using charcoal for cooking: 40.50%

Number of people affected by Household Air Pollution: 4,106,626





## VISIBILITY FOR RURAL LIBERIA

- Reflective Road Signs
- Towns along highways from Monrovia will have reflective identification signs that read “Welcome to \_\_\_\_\_ Town” followed by the name of the County.
- Highway signs will help improve the infrastructure strength score of Liberia and aid in the promotion and growth of business in rural communities.



**REVENUE**

**July to December**

<b>Donor Categories</b>	<b>Amount</b>
38 Gifts Total . . . . .	\$5,655
2 Grants . . . . .	\$2,500
36 Individuals . . . . .	\$3,155

<b>Tiers (Individuals)</b>	<b>Count</b>
Under \$100 . . . . .	26
Under \$500 . . . . .	8
\$500 + . . . . .	2

The Pollination Project (\$500) and the Ross Foundation (\$2000) provided 44% of VIP’s funding while 36 individuals (\$3155) provided 56% in six months of existence in 2014.



**EXPENSES**

Solar Lanterns (37) . . . . .	\$1,027.95
Street Lights (3) . . . . .	\$486
Battery & Boxes . . . . .	\$98.83
Road Signs (12) . . . . .	\$272.11
Nonprofit Registration. . . . .	\$525
OpenBank Account . . . . .	\$125.86
Ebola Donation . . . . .	\$300
Grant & Donor Management Tools . . . . .	\$1,100
Total. . . . .	\$3,935.75
Balance. . . . .	\$1,719.25

## **SUPPORT VIP, INC.**

We would be most grateful if you would consider making a **tax-deductible** investment to help us reach our **\$20,000** goal for 2015. Your support is critical to the completion of our latest projects planned for 2015, and we will gladly keep you updated regarding our progress.

- **Make an online donation**
- **Sign up for our e-newsletter**
- **Follow us on Facebook**

**WE GIVE  
PROGRESS**



## THANK YOU

Thanks to our Board of Directors, donors, supporters, and partners for all that they have done in the past six months to make our work possible.

### VIP Illustrious Board -2014-2016



**“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, VIP Board Member**

**“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, VIP Board VP**

**OPEN EYES,  
OPEN HEARTS,  
OPEN DOORS**



**CONTACT**

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**Village Improvement Project**

