



# 2017 Annual Report

Village Improvement Project Inc.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I reflect on 2017, Village Improvement Project, Inc. has had its most successful year of fundraising in its three years of existence.

Here are highlights of 2017 activities:

1. More than \$20,000 raised through GlobalGiving including \$12,000 for the Cookstove Project
2. \$4,200 raised from the sale of 100 solar lanterns to Liberian organizations
3. Donation of 360 solar lanterns by Panasonic valued at \$12,894.91
4. Donation of \$500 by the African Youth League of The Ohio State University
5. Anonymous donation of \$1000 on GlobalGiving
6. Shipment & distribution of 8 large wardrobe boxes of used clothes to villages
7. Distribution of solar lanterns to an additional 307 families
8. Shipment of 504 new lanterns in October for distribution to homes in Cape Mount, Lofa, Bassa, Bomi and Montserrado Counties in 2018

As these highlights show, VIP continues making progress toward fulfilling its mission.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Donors, Supporters, Partners, Liberian staff, and Board of Directors for making 2017 the most productive and successful year for VIP since its founding in 2014.

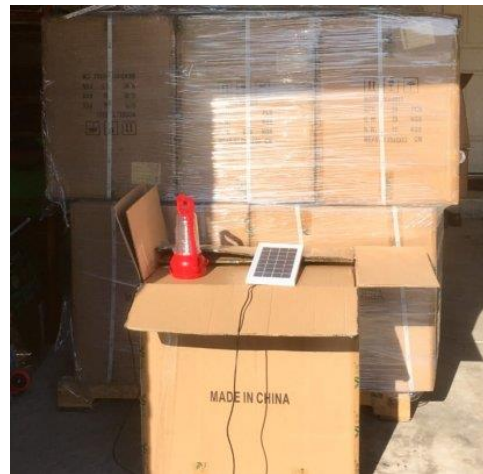
The impact of our services are manifested through access to more zero-cost lighting in more than 1,000 village homes in Liberia.

Sincerely,



Dr. LeRoy Z. Boikai, President and Founder

## SOLAR LANTERN PROGRAM



This year VIP purchased 504 lanterns capable of charging mobile phones for distribution to new villages in rural Liberia. These lanterns will be distributed in two new counties (Cape Mount and Lofa). The lanterns have now arrived in Liberia and VIP CEO, Dr. LeRoy Boikai, will distribute them in January of 2018. He will also spend time surveying towns and villages where VIP has already supplied lanterns to gauge and measure impact.

VIP received a generous donation from Panasonic this year. They donated 360 solar lanterns for distribution to school teachers, nurses in rural clinics, and Ebola orphanages. These lanterns have arrived in Liberia and VIP will distribute them in January 2018 during Dr. Boikai's visit.

### COOK STOVE PROGRAM

VIP's clean cookstove project launched this year by piloting the use of manufactured rocket stoves alongside traditional three-stone cooking methods.

The field tests have utilized various protocols to demonstrate how our stoves perform with local cooks, foods, practices, and fuels. The controlled cooking test measured stove performance in comparison to traditional cooking methods when a cook prepares a pre-determined local meal.

VIP is currently pursuing partnerships with manufacturers of clean cookstoves here in the United States. Our goal is to become a distributor for their stoves in Liberia. With the earnings from distribution sales, we plan to begin assembling stoves ourselves in Liberia employing local labor. In preparation for starting local manufacture and assembly, this year VIP shipped a welding machine and accessories to Liberia to use in fabricating clean cookstoves.



### FINANCIAL HEALTH

Thanks to our many generous donors, VIP is in good financial health. Since all fundraising is done by volunteers, our fundraising costs are less than 15% of our total revenue, well below other non-profits. Sales of lanterns to Liberian organizations allows us to use the profits generated to provide lanterns to villagers at no cost. This enterprise model is helping to make VIP even stronger financially.

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

January - December 2017

<b>Fundraising and Revenue</b>	
Contributions	\$19,009.76
Grants	637.12
Lantern Sales	4,565.00
Fundraising Costs	-3,056.87
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$21,155.01</b>
<b>Expenditures and Operating Costs</b>	
Administrative & Legal	\$146.00
Information Technology	652.87
Liberian Salaries & Benefits	2,060.00
In-country Maintenance & Project Support	6,866.22
Shipping, Freight & Transportation	3,465.35
Supplies	2,854.60
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$16,045.04</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,109.97</b>

## SUPPORT VIP

Please 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 ongoing projects. We will gladly keep you updated regarding our progress and the impact of your investment.

- Make an online [donation](#)

For more information, visit:

[www.vipinc.org](http://www.vipinc.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/liberianvillages>

<https://twitter.com/VilImprovement>

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