

Village Volunteers Quarterly

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A Note from Founder and Executive Director Shana Greene

Hello all,

Welcome to the VVQ holiday gift guide! Inside you'll find ways to give that change lives. Make a tax deductible donation in the name of somebody you care about and impact someone halfway around the world. From providing seeds, tools and clean drinking water, to sponsoring a college education or training in sustainable farming methods, please take a moment to discover the ways in which your gift will substantially impact a life.

You may also donate directly to Village Volunteers, allowing us to wire funds where they are most immediately needed and allowing our small staff to continue the important work we do. If you choose this option, please mark your donation as "general."

Help make this holiday season special around the globe.

Please Donate Today.



Happy Holidays,

Shana

GIFT GUIDE ISSUE



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Change a life.

Give of yourself - or give in the name of someone you care about this holiday season.



Make a tax deductible donation to the program of your choice. See the last page for details. All prices listed are in US dollars.

SPONSOR AN ORPHAN

KENYA, GHANA, INDIA and NEPAL

Every child deserves access to life's basic necessities and an education. Sponsor an orphaned child and you'll provide him or her with something as meaningful as shoes, meals, school tuition, uniforms and books.

Village Volunteers facilitates sponsorships through schools with large orphan populations and through partner orphan homes in Kenya, Ghana, India and Nepal.



MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

\$7 will buy a child a pair of shoes.

\$30/month will support a primary school orphan for a year.

\$350/month will provide food and care for 30 preschool orphans.



Environmental Youth Action Corps



Environmental Youth Action Corps train local youth to be environmental advocates and educators. These young people, in turn, teach their local communities about the human-caused sources of pollution and its effects upon public health.

Topics include:

- ❖ the toxic chemical hazards of burning plastics
- ❖ preventing soil poisoning through improper disposal of batteries containing lead, mercury and cadmium
- ❖ the importance of planting trees for biodiversity and general health of the planet

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

\$20 trains a young person as an environmental advocate. They receive a button, a certificate, trees to plant and a solar flashlight. This new EYAC member then continues to educate the community and keep their local area clean.

FEED VILLAGES

KENYA

The **Feed Villages** project promotes sustainable farming education and hands-on training at demonstration farms and tree nurseries. Several garden beds are dedicated for seed growth to promote biodiversity, teach seed saving practices, and build a seed bank for future crop production. Seedlings from the nurseries are planted to restore tree cover to villages.



These farms and nurseries are not only models for healthy, practical and sustainable agricultural techniques, but all food produced is donated to schools, orphan homes, and vulnerable families.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

\$27 trains a woman in bio-intensive farming and provides her with tools and seeds. Training women in sustainable agriculture and drought farming increases food production by 2-6 times normal yield.



GIVE THE GIFT OF CLEAN WATER

KENYA and GHANA

Over a million families in Kenya alone have no clean water. Tragically, 60% of the deaths there are attributed to waterborne illness and children suffer the highest mortality rate.



Locally produced, low-cost water filters like those made at the new plant in Kiminini, Kenya, vastly improve public health by providing clean drinking water. The filters also support sustainable economic development as local people fully manage production, distribution and public health education in rural villages.



MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

\$20 provides one ceramic water filter to an orphan home, school, feeding program or clinic. Each ceramic water filter supplies water for 6-8 people per day that is 99.88% free of water-borne pathogens.

Please specify sponsorship in Ghana or Kenya.



Kick It with Kenya!



Kick It with Kenya (KIWK) is an annual Kenyan youth conference and soccer tournament that empowers participants through leadership forums on HIV/AIDS awareness. KIWK also provides participants and spectators with testing, counseling and general health services.

KIWK promotes team effort and good sportsmanship for hundreds of young people each year. Each event held thus far has built a strong sense of community for both players and spectators.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

\$25 provides a young person with a health and dental check up as well as a uniform.



The **Dzidefo Women's Cooperative** is a small textile cooperative of young women from the Volta Region of Ghana who make toddler clothing, home accessories (such as laundry bags and cushion covers), and school uniforms. The fabric used is pure Ghanaian cotton, locally designed and printed using authentic traditional Ghanaian patterns and hand-dyed woodblock prints. Income generated by the cooperative's work goes toward the women's daily essentials like food, medication, and educational fees.

Established in January 2008 under the guidance of Village Volunteer Peta Hall, the cooperative operates out of the Ryvanz-Mia Orphanage.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

\$20 buys a school uniform for a needy child, the cost of which is often prohibitive for many parents, particularly single mothers and orphans' caregivers. The cooperative works closely with local schools and offers uniforms to the children in the most need.

[Click here to donate a uniform.](#)

Additional goods produced by the Dzidefo Women's Cooperative can be purchased online via [Sustainable Bebe](#).



EMPOWER AN ENTREPRENEUR

KENYA, GHANA, INDIA and NEPAL

Empower women to create viable businesses using their existing skills. The village micro-credit program enables cooperatives to provide small loans to entrepreneurs who are unable to qualify for traditional bank loans. The loans are typically short-term (a year or less), are not secured by collateral, and require repayment in weekly installments to be re-loaned in the community.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

For every **\$100** donated, a loan will be made to a village cooperative to assist women in starting small businesses to better support their families.



Spread Public Health Awareness in Kenya and Ghana



Educate, empower, and inspire African youth through the **Youth Outreach Mentors (YOM)** program. Once trained, the mentors promote gender equality and increase awareness about HIV/AIDS. They also provide counseling for HIV positive people and teach them how to prevent transmission of the virus through healthy lifestyle practices.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

\$10 trains a young person as a Youth Outreach Mentor. YOM is a highly effective grassroots solution for public health awareness.



True Colors trains Kenyans to produce products for international markets and earn enough income to support themselves and their families. Using traditional regional skills, local men and women handcraft uniquely beautiful handbags from goatskin and other first class Kenyan leathers.



True Colors' owner, Steven Klatte, designed the Sokoni Bag in honor of his 10 week volunteer experience at Common Ground through Village Volunteers. Sokoni means market and this bag combines exclusive leathers with recycled materials emphasizing cultural tradition as well as sustainability.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

For every bag sold, True Colors donates 10% to Village Volunteers and Common Ground. To order, contact stevenklatte@hotmail.com

\$99.00 Sokoni bag (without leather side pockets)
\$125.00 Sokoni bag (with leather side pockets)
 measurements:
 16.5" (42 cm) long
 8.5" (22 cm) wide
 11.0" (28 cm) high



Steven says, "When I started True Colors, I wanted to give something back to the organizations who gave me a chance to change my life, and this is that moment!"



When purchasing holiday gifts online for family and friends, do so through GoodShop.com. Up to 30% of every purchase will go to Village Volunteers. You can do this all year long, not just at the holidays.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Visit GoodShop.com, select Village Volunteers as the organization you wish to support and start shopping online!

See GoodShop.com for a full list of participating retail stores.

Umoja ni nguvu

A Swahili proverb meaning
"Unity is Strength"



Online Resources: Get Connected!

- ❖ VillageVolunteers.org
- ❖ [VV's Volunteer Network](#)
- ❖ [Volunteer Journals](#)
- ❖ [Twitter](#)
- ❖ [Facebook](#)
- ❖ [LinkedIn](#)

Manage Your VVQ Subscription

[VVQ Subscription Management](#)

Contact Us

Village Volunteers

5100 South Dawson St. Suite 202
Seattle, WA 98118 USA
Phone: (206) 577-0515

Online:

www.villagevolunteers.org

Executive Director, Shana
Greene

Shana@villagevolunteers.org

Newsletter Editor, Kim Clune

Kim@villagevolunteers.org

HELP A BUTTERFLY TAKE FLIGHT

KENYA

The Butterfly Project scholarship provides vital support, mentoring and funding for young East African women. These young women are committed to serving in their rural communities through careers in education or nursing but lack the necessary financial resources.



Nancy Atieno Olambo, one of this year's nine scholarship winners wrote:

"It is still a great problem for a girl to be educated in the village. Most parents believe that it is a waste to educate a girl because they feel that girls never aspire to higher levels. When I stand out as a qualified professional lady through my school, no parent will still be willing to keep their daughters at home. They will make sure girls are taken to school". – Nancy



MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Any amount donated will be added to The Butterfly Project scholarship fund. **Between \$1,500 and \$2,000 a year for three years** will send a young woman to college, offering hope to her and her community.

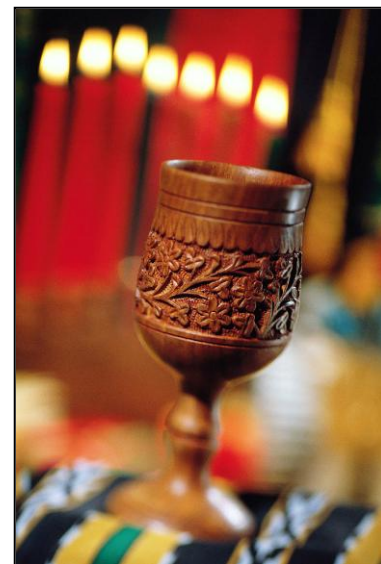
DONATE TODAY! HERE'S HOW

Please visit our [donations page](#) For more gift options. All prices listed are in US dollars. Donations made in another person's name will receive a beautiful PDF gift certificate to print and present for the holidays.

Please make checks payable to Village Volunteers and **note your program of choice in the memo line.** Mail to:

Village Volunteers
5100 S. Dawson St., Suite 202
Seattle, WA 98118 USA

Checks have the added gift of saving us processing fees but you can also [donate securely online](#) through PayPal.



*On behalf of the villagers across the world,
we thank you for your generosity.
- Village Volunteers*