



December 2016

2016 in Review

Let me start with a sincere THANK YOU! Looking back at 2016 we are grateful to our community of supporters. When we've asked for your help to support programs that empower others, you rose up and joined us in reaching the goals.

We've given scholarships for girls to attend college, facilitated hundreds of educational sponsorships, and supported women's groups in facilitating sustainable solutions to community challenges through business. We planted hundreds of moringa trees, supported sustainable farming trainings, and set up the first Sickle Cell Anemia support group for parents whose children could suddenly die with Mama Maria Clinic in Muhuru Bay. We listened.

It Takes a Village

In March we hosted a successful fundraiser at Impact Hub featuring three long time and treasured partners. The remarkable Urmi Basu of [New Light](#) came from India to speak, CNN World Hero, Peter Kithene of Mama Maria Clinic in Kenya spoke passionately, and Sharon Simolai Leina, Emmanuel Tasurs daughter spoke graciously on behalf of Namunyak Maasai Welfare.



The event was a well attended silent auction with great food and a performance by the wonderful Kenyan singer/songwriter, Naomi Wachira.

Fundraisers require an enormous amount of effort and our team of Board members and dear friends of VV created a wonderful evening.

Empowering Women Period (EWP)

With your support we now have a sanitary pad manufacturing operation up and running in the Kalighat red light district in Kolkata, India. The project was a product of our great friendship and relationship with Urmi Basu of [New Light](#). The women involved call their business Mukti meaning "Liberation" in Sanskrit.

With time the women working will build up their confidence to take on bigger leadership roles. Volunteers are important to work with the Mukti women to improve processes, teach social impact business techniques, and to train in becoming community health workers to offer pads and decimate crucial health information. To support the project, [a \\$12 a month subscription](#) will buy pads for vulnerable girls and support a women's business. With the recognition of Empowering Women Period/Mukti Women project in India this year, we are working through the final steps to bring the project to Kenya.

Milestone Awards

Empowering Women Period/Mukti women won the **UN Women's Project Inspire People's Choice Award**. A special thank you to those who helped us in a thrilling finish to the end. Duke University Junior, Riyanka Ganguly traveled to Singapore to speak and represent the project and to accept the award. She was brilliant.

Courtesy of Mazars, at the UN Women award



ceremony, EWP also won the Financial Inclusion award for empowering women through business. Mazars is an international, integrated and independent organisation, specializing in audit, accountancy, tax, legal and advisory services.

Education and Support of Vulnerable Children and Youth

Thanks to those who support children's education. A special recognition goes out to Monika's Maasai Kids and the Weiss Scholarship Fund, who combined ensure 58 kids have the

resources to attend school.

Lenana Girl's School

Established for orphaned, vulnerable and dispossessed girls from the ages of 11 to 22, the goal of the Lenana Girls school is to be self sufficient through developing businesses that will generate income to cover the costs of running the school.

Through a fundraiser with Wassa Dance, we were able to establish a goat dairy to teach the girls how to run a dairy and raise goats. Courtesy of donors, they have lab equipment and the girls are being prepared for success.



Sirua Aulo Academy in Kenya

Emmanuel Tasur of Namunyak Maasai Welfare has had a banner year for Sirua Aulo Academy addressing the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children. This educational institution does a stellar job in bridging the education gap in an under-served community. The school is getting well deserved national recognition; as it was last year, its ranked 1st of 700 schools. This year the national exam scores were unprecedented. The high school also this year with great promise and a growing student body. Sirua Aulo Academy could not have happened without the support of volunteers after witnessing the great investment in the future that is made here through education.

In early 2017, the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, directed the set up electricity to be connected to both the primary and high school. They've waited for 8 years for this milestone. A water pump and water system is also in funding stage and we hope to see that come to pass in early 2017.

Musical Genus, Ben Harper's Benefit for New Light

Ben Harper performed on December 11th in San Francisco to benefit our partner [New Light India](#). The organization founded by Urmi Basu provides aid, shelter and education to girls and women in the red light district of Kalighat protecting young girls and boys who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation. New Light also works in sustainable income generating programs like the Mukti sanitary pad project funded by Village Volunteers' Empowering Women Period.



The Ben Harper benefit specifically supported New Light Boys' Home, Khela-Ghar, in an effort to provide young boys of women who are in prostitution, the opportunity to grow up in a safe and secure environment to realize their full potential. The boys' home will help remove male children from the violence filled environment of Kalighat, where they are exposed to crimes and

other socially undesirable practices. The program was introduced to Ben through his wife Jacklyn who had volunteered and admired New Light's life-saving work.

"There is a plan and a purpose, a value to every life, no matter what its

location, age, gender or disability."

- Sharron Angle

2017 in Preview

As a new year rings in, we are excited about what 2017 holds for our partners at Village Volunteers, as we are preparing to roll out some new and exciting projects and volunteers who will participate this year.

In an ever evolving world we recognize the need to upgrade our website and to make it more mobile friendly and streamlined. We've had some setbacks but we are working to finalize the new design and to carry over our vast library for sustainable resources, projects, database and volunteer guides.



Is next year your year to volunteer or intern or perhaps return to witness the changes?

Contact us and we will customize your volunteer experience to your skills, interests, academic or professional goals. Perhaps 2017 is the year you finally travel to Africa or Asia! Let us know and we will design your safe and meaningful experience abroad. Contact us at info@villagevolunteers.org or shana@villagevolunteers.org

Village Volunteers - 206 577 0515 - www.villagevolunteers.org

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