



oneVILLAGE

PARTNERS

Annual Report • 2016



Letter from our Leadership

2016 was a year of incredible growth and development for OneVillage Partners. We had a leadership transition, and with our expansion into six new villages, have now reached 17,205 people over the course of our work! We tested and refined our model, rolled out an innovative, participatory evaluation methodology, and graduated our first cohort of 98 women from our financial literacy and empowerment program. We are grateful for our US and Sierra Leone staff, who are committed to learning and continual improvement, a Board of Directors that is passionate about development with communities (not for them), and most of all our dedicated supporters, who have enabled our innovation and growth. Our shared agitation with the status quo in global development has driven our impact beyond what we could have achieved as individuals. We are stronger as a community.

As an example, OneVillage Partners collaborated with the village of Majoe this year. After the community came together and identified sanitation and hygiene as the village's most pressing problem, villagers designed, piloted, and successfully implemented a latrine project, which increased latrine access from 31% to 100%. While latrines have a transformative impact on health, there was another, more exciting part of the story: the Majoe community built a school *without* OneVillage Partners. We saw Majoe demonstrate what we have seen in other villages - once communities have learned how to identify and solve problems alongside OneVillage Partners, they then take initiative to apply these skills on their own. This is how we nurture sustainability.

At OneVillage Partners, we work alongside communities as they develop inclusive leadership skills that will propel them to continue driving their own development solutions long after we depart. In international development, where even the most straightforward project can meet an array of challenges, a foundation of cooperation is a prerequisite to success. Peter J. Bockarie, a Community Action Group volunteer in Mamboma, said it simply and eloquently: "In unity, we can achieve our goals." When we work together, our voices and actions are multiplied by the creativity and innovation that are created when we tackle shared problems together.

We hope you enjoy reading our 2016 Annual Report and celebrating the impact and success you supported this past year. Thank you for strengthening OneVillage Partners with your commitment.

Warmly,

Jill Lalonde
Executive Director

Jeff Hall
Board Chair



Jill Lalonde with some of the team in Sierra Leone



Jeff Hall with community members in Sierra Leone

Highlights from 2016

Sustainability



93% of past projects are still functional and being managed by their respective communities.



82% of evaluation participants attributed a specific change in their lives to their partnership with OVP.



Expanding our reach

We nearly doubled our influence from 7,000 to 13,800 people; grew our Sierra Leone team to 24; and entered six new villages while deepening relationship in three existing villages!



Nurturing Opportunities for Women



Zainab Sesay (left) is a graduate of the Nurturing Opportunities for Women (NOW) program, OVP's custom designed, picture-based women's empowerment and financial literacy curriculum. Our curriculum is helping women gain control of their financial lives. **Zainab is one of 85 percent of participants who achieved her financial goal to send her three children to school.**

Once shy in community meetings, Zainab is now a regular attendee of Community Action meetings and other village gatherings. Zainab is steadfast in sharing her opinions and ideas to inform community development. In fact, since completing the NOW program, Zainab is unafraid to demonstrate her newfound leadership skills and voice her ideas.

Zainab is grateful that OVP created a platform upon which she is not only encouraged to speak out, but also her voice will be respected and heard. She states, "The way in which OVP mobilized, engaged and supported the total inclusion of the marginalized people in the community regardless of gender, race, status and wealth...this has developed common understandings among us."

NOW by the Numbers



85%

of participants met their personal financial goal.



100%

of women reported increased use of voice and communication in their family.



\$41.88 USD

the average amount women saved during the 8-month curriculum; equivalent to one-year school fees for four children!



98

women successfully graduated from the 8-month curriculum.



89%

of women demonstrated the ability to create a budget for the next month.

Community Action Program

Community Action Program by the Numbers



269

toilets were installed;
increasing overall latrine
coverage from 59% to 100%
in six communities



300

locally-sourced
hand washing
stations were installed
by the community



73

Community Action Group
volunteers were trained to
monitor projects and
continue sensitization on
proper hygiene and
sanitation practices

Mohamed's Story

Mohamed, pictured on the right posing front and center in a gray shirt, is a member of the Gbeka Community Action Group (CAG). You might remember Mohamed from last year's annual report, where we highlighted his emergence as an effective volunteer change agent in his village. In 2016, Mohamed continued to gain confidence in his leadership abilities, applying his proven community development skills to not only his community but also surrounding villages.



Mohamed is a model CAG, demonstrating that with effective leadership, villages themselves take initiative and can effectively implement and sustain their own development projects.

Other volunteers in the CAG program appointed Mohamed as a leader of their entire group; Mohamed's success in this role led him to volunteer to provide training to other CAG leaders in neighboring communities, Yandohun and Maloma. There, Mohamed brought his community development skills and personal experience to bear. He took the initiative to build a meeting place, called an Ataya Base (Ataya translates to strong coffee), where young people from his community come together to discuss development challenges and brainstorm and implement solutions. Mohamed is committed to continuing to mobilize traditionally disengaged young adults of Gbeka and transform their community through unity and collaboration.

Hear Mohamed describe his transformation into a leader with a cool heart in our short film "The Sharpening Stone" featured on our website.

Staff Profile • Sheku Gassimu

What is your favorite part of your job and working with OVP?

Learning from community members. It's inspiring to see them use their voices! There is enormous potential in these communities just waiting to be tapped. Over the course of my time with OVP, I see that other organizations come in assuming that they [local villagers] know nothing. When OVP goes to communities, it's with the understanding that community members are leaders of their activities and development.

What is something you have learned in your work with OVP?

In Ngolahun, I was able to learn from a Community Action Group member, Batu Gbamayaji. She is an illiterate woman with great community leadership skills. She exemplifies that leadership is not only about being educated, but rather being intrinsically motivated, seeing oneself as a change agent and having confidence in one's capacity to do something. Seeing how easily Batu mobilized women to do community work showed me that even those who are not educated play a role in development.

What is your title now? How did you work for this promotion?

Currently, I am the Community Action Supervisor. I joined OVP as Community Project Coordinator. It's all about hard work and diligence, and being passionate about the job you do. I work well in teams, and I am an open communicator with staff and community members. I don't want to use power negatively; I want to work with people to achieve goals.

What are your goals for your future with OVP?

I envision working with OVP for quite a long time and growing with the organization. This has already started in my growth from Community Action Coordinator to Supervisor. I envision becoming the next Manager, and then Program Director, Country Director and then the Executive Director... [laughing] I will take the executive position from the USA to Sierra Leone!



Sheku Gassimu joins in with community members as they dance and sing to kickstart a community meeting.

Staff Highlights



Abdulai Bah

Finance and Operations Manager

Last year, we were officially recognized as a Non-governmental organization (NGO) in Sierra Leone. Organizations operating in Sierra Leone at a certain level have to register with a relevant government agency [for us that's the Ministry of Social Welfare] to receive official status to work here. That was my biggest highlight for in 2016. It was the first time we submitted our registration and the first time for me to go through the process. It took about 5-6 months, but we went through the process successfully on our first try. For us to do that, it makes me very proud!

Sophie Dresser

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Manager

In 2016 we piloted an innovative evaluation methodology called Most Significant Change. This method took our staff directly to communities to collect stories of significant change, which provided the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team with incredibly rich qualitative data to measure outcomes of our work. It was a big achievement and I couldn't be more proud of the entire team who work so hard every day to remain steadfast in our participatory approach.

Be sure to read the Most Significant Change report on our website!



Evaluation Highlights

In 2016, OVP introduced a new evaluation methodology, Most Significant Change (MSC), which is true to our value of inclusive community participation. Through this process, villagers in partner communities share stories about how OVP has impacted their lives. These stories provide valuable information on OVP's work, both what has worked well and what could be done better. OVP analyzed themes from the stories told by community members, and the following themes emerged:

- more than half of the stories included a statement about women's empowerment or inclusion.
- 43% of stories mentioned that OVP fosters social cohesion either on a household or community-wide level.
- 37% mentioned OVP's role in encouraging community mobilization or engagement.
- 30% of stories were about outcomes regarding OVP's training on leadership.

2016 Story of the Year: My Wife's Personal Story Relieved Us

Gbessay Alpha is the husband of a Nurturing Opportunities for Women participant in OVP's partner village of Gbeka. In most Sierra Leonean households, it's common for husbands to dominate household decision-making, as well as control the activities of their wives. Prior to OVP's involvement in Gbeka, Gbessay was no exception. His wife, Jinnah Alpha, had little control over their finances or her activities in the community. After participating in the NOW Program, Jinnah was able to share her financial management skills, including budgeting and planning using the Agricultural Calendar, a key picture-based planning tool from the NOW Program. Gbessay now lets Jinnah manage their household finances, which according to him, has significantly improved their financial wellbeing. In his own words:

"My family is now living happily...my wife manages our income... when given the opportunity, women are more careful with expenditures... I see how my wife's saving has relieved us!"



This story was selected through a multi-step selection process involving the entire OVP team. It was selected from a pool of 217 story ideas!

Financials

2016 Statement of Activities

Revenue

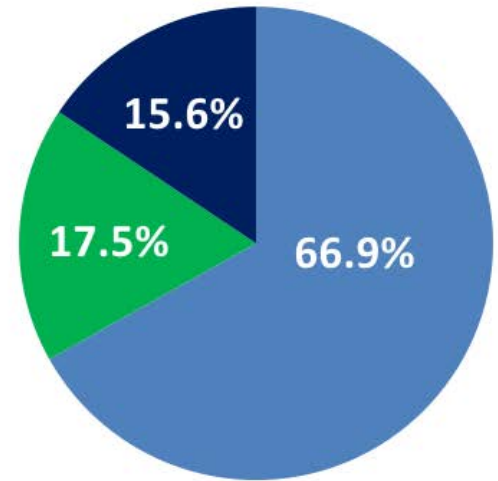
Direct Contributions	
Individual contributions	\$349,359
Foundation and Corporate grants	\$155,100
Business and Organization contributions	\$105,917
Other Income	\$22,155
Revenue Total	\$632,531

Expenses

Administration	\$47,160
Fundraising	\$98,441
Programs	\$461,947
Expenses Total	\$607,548

Net Income \$24,983

Program Expense by Project



- Community Action Program - 66.9%
- Nurturing Opportunities for Women - 17.5%
- Advocacy and Outreach- 15.6%



2016 • Donor Appreciation

\$20,000+

Jeff & Margaret Hall
Mortenson Family Foundation
Lynn & Carol Truesdell
WEM Foundation

\$10,000 - \$19,999

William & Karen Burke
Rosemary & David Good Family
Foundation
Laurie & Edward Greeno
International Development &
Relief Legacy Grant Fund of
the Minneapolis Foundation
The John W. Mooty Foundation
Trust
Nolan Family Foundation
The Jay and Rose Phillips Family
Foundation
Steve & Kathy Wellington

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Tom & Amara Abood
Kent & Mandy Adams
Marc & Alicia Belton
Brian & Jaclyn Carey
Arne & Jessica Cook
Becky Finnigan
First National Bank of Omaha
Carol & Ian Friendly
Joseph Green & Trudi Anderson
Jodie & Nick Kozlak
March Family Foundation

Tamrah Schaller and Stephen
O'Neil
Pentair, Inc.
Plymouth Congregational
Church
Brian & Nancy Siska
Christi Strauss
Weis Builders, Inc.
Wellington Management Group

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Frank Babka
Andrew & Nellie Bauer
Braun Intertec Corp.
Bridgewater Bank
Colliers International
Cushman & Wakefield
Northmarq
First American Title
Foss Swim School
Gray Plant Mooty Foundation
Paul Johnson
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Jeanne & David Mooty
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Bob Potts
Presbyterian Homes & Services
Jacqueline Prince
RSM US

John & Ann Stauch
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Cherie Stofer
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TCF Foundation
Jill & John Trautz
Tradition Capital Bank
Alex & Amy Ware
Mary & Steve Watson
Western Bank

\$1,500 - \$2,499

Alatus, LLC
Wade & Jennifer Anderson
Wendy & Dan Barker
Carlson Commercial
Charlson Foundation
Commercial Partners Title
Ted & Carol Cushmore*
Dougherty Mortgage, LLC
ESG Architect, Inc.
Frana Companies, Inc.
Fredriksson & Byron, P.A
Friends of Sierra Leone Project
Fund
Hexum Peterson Services, LLC
Kathleen F. & David W.
MacLennan*



Full house at 2016 Partner Breakfast

2016 • Donor Appreciation

1,500 - \$2,499

Michael & Katie McElroy
Midland Title
Liz Nordstrom
Northridge Construction
Rory & Rhonda O'Neill
PAK Properties
Sever Construction Co.
SKS Holdings, LLC
The Ackerberg Group, Inc.
The Excelsior Group
The Waters Senior Living
Management, LLC
Timberland Partners
United Properties Residential, LLC
Helen Wang
Paul and Becky Zech

\$1,000 - \$1,499

Mark Addicks
Peter & Susan Ahn and family
Ali Alizadeh
Julie & Doug Baker, Jr.
Foundation
Brad & Kathleen Begley
Benefit Design Associates
Stephen Brown
Mary Burnton
Carlson Commercial
Ruthanne & Mark Coleman
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Maenner Properties, Inc.
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Volunteers

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Stacy & Peter Seng
The Terrace Group
Noelle & Jeff Turner
Ursidae Investors LLC
Sean Walker
Wallin Foundation
Willis Towers Watson
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\$500 - \$999

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Sue Basiago
Ben Bastian
Michael Benedict
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Debbie Bequette
Scott Beuning
John Breitinger
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William & Sally Centner
Phyllis Clemants & Maurice
Anderson
Annabel & Nicholas Cronin
John & Kathy Curran
Dorothy Dahlenburg & Tom
Stern
Jay Swanson & Ellen Doll
Connie Doran
Frank & Patricia Dutke
Kathleen Erickson
Wendy Ethen
Marion Etwiler

Jamie Ewine
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MaryPat Fitzpatrick
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Doug & Michele Hall
Walter & Anna Beitzel Hall
Don Helgesson & Sue Shepard
Brian & Karen Holcomb
Dan Holoch
Inland Companies
Amy & Mike Kolar
Murray Kornberg
Abby & Ben Leber
Michael & Catherine Lee
Richard Jewell & Ann Ludlow
Steve Aldrich & Jane Maetzold
Craig Mattocks & Heather
Maginniss
Doug & Therese Moore
Kriss & Marcy Novak
Craig Patterson
Mike & Esther Phippen
Pohlad Family Foundation
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Mary & Michael Ranum
Katie Ricketson & Steve Salmen
Roe Law Group, PLLC
Saturday Properties, LLC
Mark Schlitter
Karen Schneider & Peter Gleekel
Tom & Holly Krugler Shepherd
Michael & Mary Sill
Helene & Jeff Slocum
John Stern & Sofia Andersson-
Stern
John Owens & Patricia Strong
Eric & Gretchen Tuck
United Church of Christ
Linden Hills
David C. Warner
Angie & Kirk Weidner
Michael & Leslie Wille
Zero-Max Motion Control
Products

*Denotes gifts given through Family Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation

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Lynn Davis
Michael O.D. Elliott
Joseph Green, *Secretary*
Jeff Hall, *Board Chair & Founder*
Dr. Paul Johnson
Michael Kithcart
Malvin Moore
Emilia O. Smith
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Sophie Dresser
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