

The Victoria-Taiama Partnership

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The Victoria-Taiama Partnership

Vision: The people of Taiama and Korie Chiefdom are educated and healthy and empowered to live self-sufficient lives.

Mission: To improve the health, education and social well-being of the people of Korie Chiefdom, particularly women and children.

Goals:

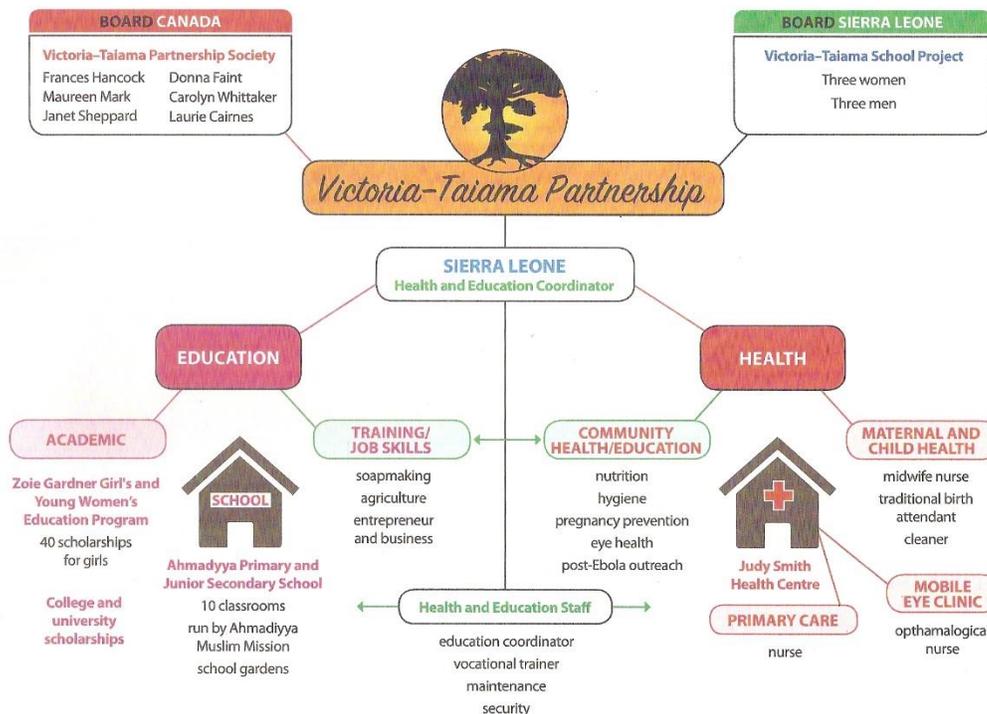
- *Improving the survival rate of under-fives and reducing infant and maternal Mortality
- *Increasing young women's independence and ability to support themselves and their families.

Newsletter 2018

Hello Friends of the Victoria-Taiama Partnership!

Once again, we have had a very productive year in Taiama. We have continued to support six programs in our two core areas of:

- **Health** (Primary Care, Maternal Health, Eye Health)
- **Education** (Zoie Gardner Scholarship Program for Secondary School and Post-Secondary girls, Vocational Education in Soap-making, and an agriculture program at Ahmadiyya Secondary School).



The Judy Smith Health Centre



Since June 2016, our amazing mid-wives have now brought over 120 babies safely into the world and are proud of their record of “zero deaths” for moms and babes. Our reputation as the best place in the Taiama area to go for pregnant women is growing! “Baby baskets” of newborn clothing, diapers, lotions and supplements for new moms are popular with the moms.

The Judy Smith Health Centre registered a monthly average of 50 older children for primary care and 90 children in the under-fives program, many of whom were treated for gastro-intestinal problems, malaria or typhoid.



The Eye Health Project

The Eye Health Project, under the direction of Mr. Steven Jambaway, sees about 200-300 patients per month for corrective lenses (courtesy of the Victoria Lions Club) and medications for post-Ebola eye syndrome, river blindness and other tropical eye diseases. Stephen visits area schools and holds clinics at the project office in Taiama. To date, over 5000 children have been treated for eye diseases and given prescriptions eye glasses.

Zoie Gardner Girls' and Women's Education Program



The academic scholarship program, supported by the Zoie Gardner Foundation, continued to support 40 girls in Secondary School and 10 Post-Secondary students who are studying nursing, education, computer science, accounting and solar installation. Three of the girls graduated in June 2018 and have begun new careers in nursing and teaching!

A new supervised after-school study centre, which opened

last November at the Zoie Gardner Education Centre, has helped our girls be successful in their exams by providing a quiet, well-lit area for the girls to complete their homework and study away from home duties.

Spotlight on Samuella Macauley – student nurse

Samuella is 21 yrs old and received the Zoie Gardner Scholarship to attend the registered nursing program at the School of Community Health Services on the Bo Campus of Njala University. She is grateful for this opportunity as she is passionate about helping her community. She is pictured here on her first day as a qualified nurse, starting her new job at the Military Hospital.



The highly successful soap-making project at the Zoie Gardner Education Centre has recently graduated an additional seven young women in soap production, bringing our total to 22 women who then received micro-loans to start up their own businesses. The three varieties of soap, handwashing, antiseptic and laundry are well received in the local markets. The loans have been faithfully repaid in monthly installments by all the graduates.

Ahmadiyya School Agricultural Project

The Ahmadiyya School Agricultural Project planted 4 acres of ground nuts (peanuts), corn and rice last Spring. Harvest results were mixed, and many lessons learned about insect control, location of plots according to needs of sunshine and watering!

Global education

Over the past 20 years students of several schools in Victoria have done fundraising and exchanged letters with students from Sierra Leone. The goal was to support our projects while increasing our students' global awareness and sense of social responsibility. This past year, students at Lansdowne Middle School explored the theme, "If the world were a village" with a focus on comparing their lives to those of students in Sierra Leone. They followed up with a fund-raiser which donated \$400 for school supplies for the students of Ahmadiyya Junior Secondary School.



Spotlight on Ibrahim Swarray

Ibrahim has been our **Overseas Victoria-Taiama Project Coordinator in Sierra Leone** since January 7, 2013.

He reports to both the Canadian and Sierra Leone boards of the Victoria-Taiama Partnership while overseeing all aspects of the Judy Smith Health Centre, the Zoie Gardner Foundation and the Ahmadiyya School Agricultural Project.

Ibrahim ensures that Board decisions are carried out and the funds are dispersed safely.

We owe Ibrahim a huge debt of gratitude for his integrity, his hours of hard work and for his compassion.

You can help Ibrahim to do his job more easily. He needs a motorbike to travel around Taiama and the rest of the Korie Chiefdom.

Next plans

-  Community Maternal Health Program (2019)
(Pre -and -post natal care in nearby villages.)
-  Post-secondary scholarships (our funding will end in 2020)
-  Student housing for 6 Secondary School girls (2019)
-  Vocational programs for young women (soap making, agricultural training and marketing, textiles and traditional crafts)
-  Small business loans for young women
-  Social enterprise strategies for financial support of the Health and Education centres
-  School computer and library Centre

**Thank you so much for making a difference in the lives of the people in
Taiama and surrounding villages!**

We especially wish to recognize and thank several long-term donors

- Zoie Gardner Trust Fund – part of the Healing Our World program of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria
- The Victoria-Taiama Giving Circle
- Faint/Smith Family and Friends
- Mark/Gates Family
- Whittaker/Gibson Family
- St. John's Anglican Church
- Victoria Lions Club

You can get more involved!

The Victoria-Taiama Partnership is an international organization made up of individuals who are passionate about improving the health, education and social well-being of the people of Korie Chiefdom, Sierra Leone particularly women and children.

- **Plan to attend our fundraiser on February 24th.** Check out our website for more information.
- Follow the Victoria-Taiama Partnership on Facebook and help share news and events
- Send this newsletter to someone who would be interested in The Victoria-Taiama Partnership
- Get in touch to ask how you can become more involved!



Spotlight on one of our new mothers

I had my baby at the Judy Smith Maternal Health Clinic in Taiama. This holiday, please give to help other moms and babies to stay healthy and have a safe birth in Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone has the highest maternal death rate in the world. According to 2015 World Bank figures, maternal mortality is highest in the world at 74/1000 and infant mortality is 3rd highest, at 94/1000 (behind Chad and Angola). Since March 2016, our mid-wives and nurses have delivered over 120 healthy babies in our clinic.

Why do mothers and babes die?

- poverty
- distance
- lack of information
- inadequate services
- cultural practices.
- severe bleeding (mostly bleeding after childbirth)
- infections (usually after childbirth)
- high blood pressure while pregnant (pre- eclampsia/eclampsia)
- complications from delivery
- unsafe abortion.

Our Goal this holiday is to raise \$10,000.00 for a maternal health outreach program.

How might your donation be spent?

- \$20 will buy nutritional supplements for a pregnant mom plus a baby bundle (clothing, diapers, mosquito net, soap and lotions).
- \$25 covers the cost of baskets for newborns (baby crib, mosquito net, clothing, soap, vitamins for mom)
- \$50 pays for vaccines or nutrition supplements for 50 children under 5
- \$100 buys support for five moms and babies, or five solar lights for the delivery room, or one month of medication for the Health Centre
- \$150 will pay one month of wages for a Community Health Worker to do pre- and post-natal visits in Taiama and the 4 surrounding villages.
- \$200 will pay one-month wages for the Mid-Wife
- \$350 covers the monthly salary and supplies for a mid-wife
- \$550 pays for a Travel Pack of basic medicines for one month

For our 2018 Giving Campaign you can also target a gift to one of our three other project areas; Eye Health, Training/job skills or Education.

Donate:

- Paypal button on our Website: www.taiama.org**
- Cheque to Victoria-Taiama Partnership Mailing Address: Box 95, Malahat, BC V0R 2L0**
- Email transfer to victoriataiamaproject@gmail.com**



Board of Directors 2018-19

1. Maureen Mark (Chair/ treasurer)
2. Laurie Cairns (Secretary)
3. Frances Hancock (Member at large)
4. Donna Faint (Member at large)
5. Carolyn Whittaker (Member at large)
6. Janet Shepherd (Member at large)