

The Victoria-Taiama Partnership

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www.taiama.org



The Victoria-Taiama School Project

Annual Report 2019

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.



post-natal and feeding program



Midwifery program



Eye Care program



Girls boarding home

Accomplishments:

- ✚ Construction of ten classrooms and block of 10 latrines at Ahmadiyya Primary School (2005-10)
- ✚ Secondary School Program at Ahmadiyya School: Sept. 2013-
- ✚ Container of medical and school supplies (2010)
- ✚ Construction and operation of Judy Smith Health Education Centre (2011-)
- ✚ Food and medical supplies for Ebola victims (2015-16)
- ✚ Support for 40 girls enrolled in Secondary School; 10 Post-Secondary scholarships (2014-present)
- ✚ study centre for 40 scholarship girls (2017-present)
- ✚ Zoie Gardner Education Centre: 30 graduates of soap making program; self-sufficiency as of Sept,1, 2019
- ✚ Maternal Health Program: 180 healthy moms and babies since June 2016: zero deaths!
- ✚ Eye Health Program: over 2000 children and adults treated for eye diseases and provided prescription eye glasses.

Continuing and future projects:

- ✚ Judy Smith Health Education Centre (Primary Care, Under Fives, Eye Health, Maternal Health Program (pre-and post-natal care, mid-wife attended deliveries)
- ✚ Community Maternal Health Program (2020?) (Pre -and -post natal care in nearby villages.)
- ✚ Post-secondary scholarships
- ✚ Student housing for 6 Secondary School girls (2019)
- ✚ Vocational programs for young women :soap making(2016-19), agricultural training(2019) and marketing, Textiles(2020)
- ✚ Entrepreneurship training and small business loans for young women (2017-)
- ✚ Social enterprise strategies for financial support of the health and education centres
- ✚ School computer and library centre

Sierra Leone continues to show appalling statistics in the health of its people. While life expectancy has nudged up to age 52 for women, the maternal mortality rate, while improving, is still at 17% (1360/ 100,000) and the under five mortality rate is 110/ 1000. The Victoria-Taiama Partnership has continued to support the health, education and well-being of the women and girls of Taiama through three programs at the Judy Smith Health Education Centre (Primary Care, Maternal Health, Eye Health), and three programs through the Zoie Gardner Education Centre for Girls and Young Women in the areas of Academic Education, Vocational Education and safe housing for six at-risk Secondary age girls. We are working towards improving girls' and women's daily lives through our following goals:

1. Improving the survival rate of under-fives and reducing infant and maternal mortality.
 - The Judy Smith Health Centre continues to register 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 and typhoid.
 - We have added on the weekly distribution of a popular complementary nutritional supplement produced locally called Binemix. The program emphasizes that breastfeeding must continue after the introduction of the baby food at six months, and that the supplement is not enough by itself. These sessions allow our staff to regularly monitor infants for malnutrition and illness, and to also bring moms together to share new information about nutrition for the family, and for regular pre-natal and post-natal checkups.
 - A new solar refrigerator is now storing vaccines for newborns, infants, and older children, allowing mothers to have their children vaccinated at the centre and not travel to another health facility for that purpose.
 - Our amazing mid-wives have now brought over 180 babies safely into the world since June 2016, and are proud of their ongoing record of “zero deaths” for moms and babes. Our clean facility is an attraction for many parents (and noted by local authorities), and it has the reputation as the best place in the Taiama area to go for delivering a baby! “Baby baskets” of newborn clothing, diapers, lotions and supplements for new moms are popular with the moms.
 - The Eye Health Project, under the direction of Mr. Steven Jambaway, has grown and he now sees about 100 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. He is hoping to expand the program into a mobile clinic and hire another staff member to help service a needy population.

2. Increasing young women's independence and ability to support themselves and their families.
 - As of September 2018, fees for all students, including Secondary School have been abolished. The academic scholarship program, supported by the Zoie Gardner Foundation, has continued to support 40 girls in Secondary School with uniforms and supplies, and in the absence of fees, has changed its focus to supporting six at-risk students (home abuse, long walking distances,

inappropriate home duties, poor study conditions) who are now boarded safely in town with a housemother who cooks and oversees their discipline and safety.

- Seven Post-graduates continue their studies in nursing, computer science, accounting and catering at colleges within 100 km. The supervised after school study centre, has been well-attended and 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.
- Our staff monitor the needs of the girls, oversee the boarding home, pay the fees directly to the Post-Secondary institutions and monitor the attendance and grades of the girls.
- The vocational program for young women at the Zoie Gardner Education Centre has graduated 30 young women over the past four years in our highly successful soap-making program. Monthly profits from the sales of the three varieties of soap, handwashing, antiseptic and laundry in the local markets are now, as of September 1, paying the wages of the soap tutor who also co-ordinates sales. Micro-loans to start up their own businesses have been faithfully repaid in monthly installments by all the graduates, and this pool of funds is now available for the new women's agricultural project.
- The new vocational project in Agricultural Production (initiated March 2019) has provided micro-loans to 45 women who have co-operatively planted and recently harvested 15 acres of ground nuts (peanuts) and cassava for sale in local markets.

Thank you to our generous donors who have continued to support this project! We thank

- Zoie Gardner Trust Fund
- The Victoria-Taiama Giving Circle
- Faint/Smith Family and Friends
- Mark/Gates Family
- Whittaker/Gibson Family
- St. John's Anglican Church
- Victoria Lions Club
- Benefaction Foundation

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



Maureen Mark,
Chair, Victoria-Taiama Partnership
October 2019

Board of Directors 2018-19

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

Victoria-Taiama Partnership Financial Statement 2018-19	
Statement of Income and Expenditures	
<u>Revenue:</u>	
Donations:	54,195.44
Fundraising:	4918
<u>Total income:</u>	59,113.44
<u>Expenses</u>	
Administration (communications and bank fees)	1424.5
Program:	\$57,689.00
total expenses	\$59,113.50
Assets and liabilities	
Net assets-July 1, 2018	\$24,458.86
Assets June 30, 2019:	\$20,353.04
Accounts receivable:	0
Net assets:	\$20,353.04
Total liabilities and net assets :	\$20,353.04