



THE VIPINGO VILLAGE FUND

History of the Charity

The Vipingo Village Fund (VVF) started life in a very small way in 2006 and became a UK registered charity in October 2008. It was founded by Carol, and her late husband, Peter Hardman. Driven by the abject poverty that surrounded them on all sides and being firm believers that the only way a nation can progress is through education, they directed their considerable energies into creating a unique school in Vipingo village.

In May 2008, in a small hut in Vipingo, 26 lucky children started at Future Hope Montessori School. The high levels of HIV in Vipingo Village have left many children orphaned; Peter and Carol decided to specifically open their doors to children who had been affected by HIV. The children selected having either lost one or both parents to HIV and being cared for by guardians, or are themselves HIV positive. It soon became clear that they would need larger premises; fundraising began in earnest to buy a plot of land in the village and build 3 kindergarten classrooms, kitchen, dining hall office and toilet block. In January 2010 the new Future Hope Montessori School was opened. Over the next two years numbers steadily grew to 120 students with 3 more classrooms, library and store being added.

It was then decided that the number would be capped in the future at 135 students, where it stands today, so that the children could complete nursery and primary schooling within the safe and stimulating haven of the school. In 2013 The Litherland block was built, housing an ICT lab, science lab, first aid room and a new upstairs classroom and in 2015 the new Kindergarten classroom was opened, sponsored by Vipingo e.V.

Future Hope Montessori School is a well-resourced, well-staffed school. The school has been revolutionising education by training the staff to teach phonics as a solid basis for early reading—something which is not happening in most schools in Kenya. Over the past five years significant work has been done to expand the Kenyan curriculum and enhance it with elements from British and International curriculums. The school has offered on going Professional Development for all the teachers. This has resulted in students obtaining higher exam results, showing more interest and participation in learning and has significantly raised the educational standards in the village.

The VVF devotes most of its time and resources to the school, however the success of the small community projects, the sewing cooperative and Turtle conservation project, have led to further community work. Over the past three years VVF has employed its own Community Social Worker, Counsellor and Adult Literacy Facilitators. This has enabled community projects for adult literacy in both English and Swahili, Family Planning and Men's Sexual Health, Job skills, Youth work and Girls and Boys Healthy Relationships Programs to run and make steps towards becoming sustainable projects run by members of the community. VVF also support students into further education and two football teams. Future Hope Football Team is high achieving and has won or become runners up in many local tournaments as well as becoming runners up in the East African International Tournament in Nairobi in 2015. The Silver Bullets is the Community 18-25 Football Club and again, has proved enormously successful, only hampered by lack of funds.

The VVF employs local staff and pays them fair and competitive wages. The children are provided with holistic care within a safe environment. Every child is given free education, private medical care, between two and four nutritious meals a day depending on their needs and clothing which consists of two sets of uniforms, PE kit, shoes, raincoats and underwear.

'Changing lives through education' is the vision of the Vipingo Village Fund, believing that education should happen on all levels and by giving people opportunities- from little acorns, HUGE Oak trees grow. The mission is to raise educational standards, combat myths and stigma and empower the community at all levels.

The Vipingo Village Fund exists solely through steady fundraising, standing orders, donors and tireless work by the Trustees and Goodwill Ambassadors. Without them, the work on all levels would be unsustainable. All funds are accounted for and go directly to source. But we need YOU! There are many ways to help support us, visit our website www.vipingovillagefund.org.

We simply can't do it without you!

