



## THE VILLAGE

Our vision is to create a global community that reaches across barriers and boundaries, where people can live and thrive, and where human potential is championed.

The 'Why' - Across the planet there is profound potential that is being lost every day, potential that if given the right circumstances could be harnessed to change the world.

The 'What' - The Village is a constellation of communities around the world providing opportunity, safety and a future for those within them.

The 'How' - Utilising the unique skills of the veteran community, we are supporting those communities which we are working with.

The 'Where' - Everywhere is unique, and we recognise the need to ensure cultural and regional differences are understood. Each of our Villages are also at different stages of growth. But they all are working toward consisting of the same universal pillars of community:

**Home**, a place of safety and welcome, where a person's basic needs are met.

**School**, a place of education, academic and social.

**Theatre**, a space for the expression and interaction with the arts and performance. A space of storytelling.

**Garden**, a place where people tend the land in return for nourishment and economic sustainability.

**Market**, a place of enterprise and entrepreneurship, where crafts, goods and services can be sold or traded in order to support the general economic wellbeing of individuals and the community.

**Sacred Space**, a place of spiritual observation and learning. This might be a church, a mosque, a meditation room, or a place for mental or physical health healing.

The 'Window' - In order to share the experience with our donors, we are creating an online Village which will connect those who give to those who receive, providing the platform for a single community.

Sustainability - Our ethos is to build our Villages so they are sustainable, not only financially but also ecologically and for the individuals we support.

The Village, Charity Number: 1186107

Trustees: Edward Parker | Eliza Levien | Patrick Jackson | Darryl Eales

Stody Hall Barns - Stody - Melton Constable - Norfolk - NR24 2ED

Website: [www.thevillagecharity.org](http://www.thevillagecharity.org)

The Village of Lesotho is in one large compound and comprised of multiple elements including an orphanage, a school, a garden, a sacred space. In 2020, we are launching a market, and a theatre. The Village of Lesotho was our first project, launched in 2018.

Lesotho has the second highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate. As a result in a country of 2 million people, there are an estimated 400,000 orphans and vulnerable children. These children either are in need of care or left to seek employment in low paying jobs, to support themselves and often their siblings. Also boys as young as five are sent to the mountains to work as shepherds or herd boys for local farmers. They live an isolated life in a harsh environment, often being struck by lightning in the summer and face freezing conditions in winter. Herd boys receive little to no formal or social education.



**The Home**, or this case orphanage, houses up to 50 children at any one time. *The Village* supports the maintenance by calling on the skills of our veteran volunteers, the education of the children, and staff salaries, ensuring the highest holistic care for the children.

**The School** is a small breeze-block building, not far from the orphanage. The school operates at night after the herd boys have completed their days work with the animals, and provides a basic education in maths, English and writing. It is also an opportunity to socialise and the herd boys receive a hot meal.

**The Skills College** is being launched in the spring of 2020. This new programme will provide full time skills training in carpentry, glass and metal work for the herd boys and children at the orphanage. They will also receive full time academic education. This training, which will develop their skills and knowledge far beyond anything previously achieved, will give opportunities for employment as well as recognising the untapped potential which exists.

**The Garden** is run with the aim of creating long term economic and ecological sustainability and to provide nutritious food for our beneficiaries. It consists of 6 acres of plowed land and a recently renovated greenhouse. Our team of veteran volunteers also installed a water storage and irrigation system.

## Future Goals

To fully establish a 'Market' where the goods from the Skills College and Garden can be sold to the local community, returns being put back into The Village of Lesotho.

To establish a 'Sacred Space' where children and herd boys can receive mental health support through where the herd boys and orphans can interact more openly with the local community, helping them integrate to a greater extent in local life.

Launch a 'Theatre' space to provide a platform for storytelling and performance by the orphans and herd boys to engage with the local community and tourists to generate income, as well as, a deeper sense of cultural traditions.

Expand the 'Garden' by developing an animal husbandry programme to support which will support orphanage and the herd boys by providing produce to be sold in the 'Market.'

Expand the 'School' by providing vocational skills to up to 10 shepherds per annum.

Grow the night school to other remote mountain areas to reach more herd boys in need.

## Achievements - 2019

6 acres of vegetables planted in the garden.

86m of guttering, using 229 rivets used to create a water storage and irrigation system.

12 months supply of seeds to feed orphans and herd boys.

Attendance in the school grew in the school from 8 to 53.

1,044 hours of class time.

10,800 meals provided.

2 herd boys sponsored for full time education.

144 hours of skills training.

540 hygiene packs provided to reduce illness.

All orphans returned to full time education.

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We launched a pilot in October 2019.. The project is designed to lay the foundations of our work in the area. Today, the project consists of a theatre and a sacred space and our focus is to support the mental wellbeing of our beneficiaries.

The Village of Bethlehem supports 9 teenaged boys who have been impacted mentally and physically by the ongoing conflict. Some were afraid to leave the house, or could not sleep, or suffered from flash backs. All struggled to talk about their traumas and feared trusting other people. They had been excluded from society, as they could not attend school or gain employment. We are working with local staff to build community around these young people to reintegrate them back into society.

In Palestine, 47% of the population is 15 or under, many of whom suffer from anxiety, have trouble sleeping, have depression and many additionally suffer from physical injuries as a result of the violence.



**The Theatre**, has been used as a profound healing tool. This is led by local drama professionals through scripting, voice classes, public speaking, acting lessons, and movement. This work has remarkably shifted our beneficiaries confidence, giving them agency to speak about their experiences, a sense of purpose and community. Previously, many of them were unable to speak about their traumas, express emotions, and were isolated without a social support system.

**The Sacred Space**, has been at the heart of this pilot, providing consistent mental health support to young people, who otherwise were not receiving this kind of care. The support has been delivered both one-on-one and as a group.

### Future Goals

To establish our own 'Village' space.

Establish a 'School' to provide tutoring and skills training for traumatised young people who are unable to attend traditional classes.

Establish a 'Garden' to grow indigenous organic food growing programme as a source of income and establishing a sense of heritage.

To expand the 'Sacred Space' by funding a full time psychologist and to introduce a mindfulness studies programme to reduce anxiety.

### Achievements - 2019

9 young men supported.

14 hours of individual mental health support.

10 hours of group mental health support.

12 hours of music and drama therapy.

The start of a local volunteer programme of beneficiaries supporting others in the community.

# BUILD A VILLAGE

£100,000	builds a Village
£30,000	builds a School and funds the books and teachers
£25,000	funds a Home and the meals it must provide
£15,000	funds a Theatre and its productions
£15,000	funds a Sacred Space and the therapy it provides
£10,000	funds the training needs for a Market
£5,000	funds the planting and tending of a Garden



£500	funds a hot meal in a School each month
£250	funds skills training per individual each month
£100	funds a teaching assistant in a School per month
£50	provides a hygiene pack in a Home per month
£10	funds new clothing for an individual per annum

## Future Villages include but are not limited to:

- Jordan
- United Kingdom
- India
- Native American reservations, USA
- Coal mining territory in USA
- Northern Uganda
- Mexico
- Peru
- Cambodia
- Vietnam

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## VETERAN'S EXPERIENCE

The Village recognises the great value of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces and how the skills and talent they have learned during their service can be harnessed to the advantage of those the charity is supporting. For many of those who have taken part in our volunteer programme, there have been significant benefits to the veteran, showing them self-worth and providing them purpose post their service. Not only are we able to utilise their skills, but we recognise the great value that volunteering has to their ability to adjust to the world beyond the military.

These deployments of veteran volunteers are an integral part of our community building. By bringing seemingly disparate people together, we are able to create unique cross-culture bonds, sharing of knowledge, and new perspective on life and living.



## FOUNDER - DOMINIQUE SINAGRA

When Dominique Sinagra was 19 she volunteered at an orphanage in Lesotho. Early on, she began interviewing the children, simply asking them to tell their stories. Listening to the children speak about their own lives, Dominique was struck that they didn't mention HIV/AIDS, mud huts, violence or other scenarios commonly associated with the lives of African AIDS orphans. Instead, their focus was far more universal and on love for a sibling, sorrow at losing a parent, dreams for the future and fear of being alone. Themes that could be found in stories the world over.

This realisation struck Dominique as important. In our deeply fractured world, it is vital work be done that enables us to see ourselves in the lives of others in order to break down barriers. Dominique decided to continue to travel, gathering people's stories and examining what connects us. In the space of four years, Dominique interviewed people in Kisumu, Kenya, former child soldiers in northern Uganda, herd boys in Lesotho, U.S. military veterans in Oklahoma, Syrian refugees in Jordan and Palestinian refugees in the West Bank.

The Village was born out of these experiences, as a platform for us not only to recognise our common humanity but also to act on it. To ensure proper governance, she has gathered together a Board of Trustees with diverse expertise in the charity sector, finance, communications and entrepreneurship.

We were honoured that The Village was recognised by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex for our unique approach and our commitment to champion the veteran community as well as the work we are achieving internationally. In 2019, we were also given a grant by the Endeavour Fund, part of the Royal Foundation, and have been nominated for the Endeavour Fund Community Award.

By investing in The Village, you're investing in the world.  
Let's do it together.

Dominique Sinagra - [dominique@thevillagecharity.org](mailto:dominique@thevillagecharity.org)

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