Dear Friends,

At the end of 2019, we were looking forward to 2020 as a year of transformation at Village Health Works. We eagerly anticipated the opening of the Kigutu Hospital and Women’s Health Pavilion (WHP). We believed the lifesaving services it would finally bring to our community, imagined the first class of students at the Kigutu International Academy (KIA), and envisioned many other positive changes. Like so many others, we could not imagine then the new challenges this year would bring in the shape of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. For those with loved ones who have been lost or severely impacted by this pandemic, we extend our most sincere condolences—because we understand all too well how it feels. The newfound uncertainty and anxiety faced by residents of the U.S., Canada and Europe are similar to what our patients and colleagues feel all or most of the time. Over half of Burundi’s population contracted malaria last year, and that is malaria alone without including all the other diseases and conditions for which care is woefully inadequate. The many challenges brought by the pandemic only add to the ongoing difficulties that our colleagues face every day as they seek to safeguard the health of our community.

As we have seen through the different global responses to this pandemic, the strength and integrity of health systems are of primary importance to a successful response. Where we have been able to respond effectively—being able to secure PPE quickly and efficiently through our procurement team, connecting with community members through the tireless work of our Community Health Workers—it is because of capacity and systems we put in place previously. Where we wish we could do more—an inability to provide ventilation, a lack of ICU capacity—it is because we are still building those capabilities in a very literal sense. When the WHP opens its doors it will fundamentally transform our ability to both face the consequences of the ongoing pandemic as well as be ready for the next threat to health and wellbeing—whatever it might be. As a teaching hospital, the WHP will also support the training of a new generation of medical professionals to help expand these capabilities throughout Burundi.

We made important steps towards long-term transformation in 2019 through education as well. After years of planning and organization, the initial class of KIA will be admitted and begin their studies in 2020. These young people were chosen for their academic performance, dedication to their community, entrepreneurial spirit and leadership potential. These bright, engaged and dedicated young people will become a new generation of problem-solvers, change-makers and entrepreneurial leaders to support a more prosperous future for their country.

I see greater hope in these young people, as well as in my own home. In 2019 my wife Cathryn and I welcomed the newest member of our family, Charlie, into the VHW family. While the world changed a great deal from the day he was born until his first birthday in March, I know I will see him grow up alongside the seeds we have planted over the last year. He will not remember a time when women in our community died because they could not get a c-section, or when Kigutu was not a center of learning as well as healing. And it is not only Charlie. Every child born in the hospital will be born into a world that is a little more just than it was when their parents were born.

This new world is one we are creating hand in hand with all of our supporters—both the community members who have been with us from the beginning as well as our friends living far away from Kigutu. Village Health Works has confronted challenges with adaptability and tenacity from its first days, when community members helped build our first buildings using bricks they made with their own hands. The community showed that same spirit when they came together to create the road that made possible the hydro plant that powers our campus, and at every step of the way there stood the many members of the VHW family who have also provided invaluable support. Together, we can cultivate healing, hope and opportunities for transformation in our community, and lay the groundwork for serving as a model for others who wish to do the same.

Turi kumwe—we are together,

Deogratias Niyizonkiza
Founder and CEO
Village Health Works’ mission is to provide quality, compassionate health care and education in a dignified environment while also addressing the root causes of illness, poverty, violence, and neglect.

Our Core Purpose
To cultivate healing, hope, and opportunities for transformation.

Our Core Values
• We value the dignity inherent in each individual
• We aspire to excellence in all we do
• We proceed with boldness and perseverance
• Compassion and justice are at the heart of our organization
• We are accountable to each other and to our community

Where We Work
Village Health Works operates in Kigutu, Burundi. Our campus is 7 miles from the nearest paved road and 3 hours south of Bujumbura, overlooking Lake Tanganyika. We serve a population of approximately 200,000 people.

Since first opening our doors in 2007, Village Health Works has worked and grown alongside the community we serve as we developed and implemented our solutions together. We believe bridging locally developed solutions with an international community of collaboration and support is an effective answer to the problems our community has identified as the greatest threat to human development and peace: a lack of access to quality health care, to quality education for all students, and to sufficient nutritious food.

Health
• Burundi has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, with a ratio of 55 per 100,000 live births—more than twice as high as neighboring Rwanda.
• There are only 4 doctors and 20 nurses and midwives for every 100,000 residents, 5 times fewer than the regional average.
• The infant mortality rate in Burundi is 41 per 1,000 live births, 25% higher than the regional average.

Education
• Only 10% of children have access to pre-school education.
• Less than 20% of youth attend school beyond grade 9 and only 5% complete secondary school.
• Government expenditures are extremely low with only 5% of GDP spent on education, compared to 15% in the DRC and 21% in Tanzania.

Food Security
• $261 per capita GDP, the lowest in the world.
• Nearly 80% live in extreme poverty, earning less than $2 per day.
• 54% child stunting levels, the highest in the world.
Our Bold Vision

We aim to use the successes and lessons learned in the first 15 years of our integrated grassroots, community-driven model to establish a hub for care, teaching, and research poised for meaningful national and regional impact. In the next five years, we will dramatically expand our reach by improving our capabilities to make direct change, while also collaborating with a new generation of Burundian professionals to continue driving that change forward. It is clear that for this change to be long-lasting, it will need to be rooted in hope, dignity, and resilience and driven by those who have both the greatest understanding and the greatest stake in the future of the country.

KIGUTU
Our campus provides a central location for care and teaching

CATCHMENT AREA
Our many community-rooted interventions provide direct outreach and support for the 200,000 people we serve

BURUNDI
Through strengthening systems, training, and partnerships we will dramatically extend our reach

EAST AFRICA & BEYOND
We will advance our model and impact beyond Burundi through research and collaboration

CURRENT SERVICES

2021 - 2025

Health
Direct clinical services
Community health workers
Clinical training
Partnership, research, advocacy

Education
Direct education services
Teacher training
Entrepreneurial leadership development, teacher training
Participation in African education networks

Food Security
Agricultural training and demonstration
Nutritional promoters and model farmers
New solutions that amplify rural voices
Developing partnerships and sharing best practices

Community Engagement
Training and cultural events
Collaboration and coordination
New solutions that amplify rural voices
Network with regional community development organizations
Mele, Esther, and Renatta are Community Health Workers based in Mugara, a thirty minute walk from our campus. They serve as our eyes, ears, and helping hands there, escorting patients to the clinic and bringing the clinic to patients through in-home care.

**Mele** has been a program leader for some time and community members now turn to her for advice on social and family matters, from disputes between in-laws to couples struggling with possible infertility.

**Esther** brings energy and dedication to supporting her community. She is proud of the role she plays in the health and wellbeing of her community, and is eager to learn more and grow in her capabilities.

**Renatta** has been with us since the very beginning, and, as one of the most well-respected members of the community, often helps to mediate disagreements. She is also a graduate of our Twiyugurure (“Opening Up”) program, which provides social support and education to better understand reactions to past traumas. The positive changes in her life have led others to ask how they too can benefit from the sessions.
Healthcare

The five areas of our clinical program—maternal and infant health, child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, and mental health—work together to support the health of individuals as well as the communities to which they belong. Six physicians, 15 nurses, 9 lab techs, as well as pharmacists and other staff, work seven days a week at our 50-bed clinic and see an average of more than 2,500 outpatients per month. This clinical team works closely with our Community Health Workers and the community itself to support proactive preventative care, such as an integrated approach to confronting a malaria outbreak, while preparing for future capabilities of the new teaching hospital. Key areas of focus in 2019 were increasing lab capacity and collaborating with colleagues at public health facilities to advance training in surgical techniques.

In 2019 we conducted our most extensive baseline study yet of our activities, demonstrating more conclusively the impact of our work, particularly in the areas of maternal and child health. This analysis allows us to better characterize needs and to measure future outcomes that will be possible once the Kigutu Hospital and Women’s Health Pavilion (WHP) is finished in 2021. (Learn more about the WHP and the impact it will have on page 12!)

Oliver’s Story

VHW is dedicated to treating every patient with excellence and dignity, but the ones we get to know well have a special place in our heart. At only 4 years old, Oliver’s grandmother brought him to VHW suffering from malaria, anaemia, kwashiorkor, and necrosis of the right cheek. As we worked to help him heal, Oliver lived with us on campus for more than a year and even now routinely returns for follow-up treatment. Without an operating room, we were not able to adequately address the necrosis but Dr. Jean-Baptiste, our Medical Director, found a hospital and a doctor in Bujumbura who could operate on Oliver’s cheek. Oliver is doing much better now, but will need reconstructive surgery as he grows older—treatment that is not currently available in Burundi. His case is just one example of how the opening of the WHP will provide transformative treatment and care for community members like Oliver here, on our campus.

- 49,900 patient consultations
- 76,563 home visits by Community Health Workers
- 100% HIV patients on treatment
- 33 per 1,000 infant mortality rate compared to 58 per 1,000 nationally
- 69% of women in our catchment area receive 4+ antenatal visits, often leading to healthier pregnancies, compared to 49% nationally
- 100% malnourished children on treatment
While we celebrate the accomplishments in improving the health of our community that have been possible since 2007, we look forward to the next chapter. Currently, our patients who require surgical care are forced to travel long distances to hospitals where essential resources like water, electricity, and trained surgeons are not always available. Under these conditions, sadly patients often do not survive. We are building the Kigutu Hospital and Women’s Health Pavilion (WHP) to provide life-saving surgical, obstetric, gynecologic, and pediatric care to the people in our catchment area while simultaneously laying the groundwork for an improved health system for decades to come. Today in Burundi, post-graduate education is limited. Once open, the WHP will provide an opportunity for clinical training, education and research, supporting the development of the next generation of Burundian medical professionals.

2019 saw substantial progress on hospital construction, which is currently 75% done. We stand by our commitment to ensuring high quality, dignified care with private delivery rooms, skilled and compassionate staff, and a focus on nutrition and other aspects of comprehensive, patient-centered care. With windows providing a spectacular view of Lake Tanganyika, we hope the WHP can not only offer physical health and healing, but advance overall wellbeing for all of those working in and served by it.

Dr. Jean Baptiste Mbonyingingo, a general practitioner and our Medical Director, joined Village Health Works in 2014 after years of experience treating people suffering from HIV. He is known on campus for his ability to quickly connect with his patients as well as his strong dedication to their physical and mental health. Seeing his patients recover and return to the community is his favorite part of his work. He hopes to expand his ability to help patients by training himself and other physicians in surgical procedures. He is optimistic, expressing that his “hope is there. My hope is there with the hospital.”

He trusts that by building the hospital and facilitating learning, Village Health Works will be creating a sustainable cycle of healthcare for the region.

However, he stresses that adaptability will be necessary, especially with the current Covid-19 situation, emphasizing that “we have to be creative.”
Connecting With Our Community

VHW’s ability to connect effectively with our community is driven by an extensive and dedicated team of colleagues working directly in every part of our catchment area. From Community Health Workers and Nutrition Promoters providing information, resources, and referrals to model farmers and cooperative members helping their neighbors find success in new endeavors, our team working directly in each colline is a key part of our effectiveness.

“Since first opening our doors in 2007, Village Health Works has worked and grown alongside the community we serve to become a clear demonstration of what is possible when people come together to confront common challenges.”

–Deogratias Niyizonkiza, Founder and CEO
Education

Our education program addresses the complex educational challenges faced by the children of Kigutu. Our comprehensive services include a vibrant preschool, daily nutritious meals for students from preschool through secondary school and school-based health interventions. Afterschool and weekend enrichment activities include programs to support girls’ development, build English language skills and more. We also work closely with the local government school to provide ongoing teacher professional development and to make infrastructure improvements for a quality learning environment. Our parent engagement efforts ensure there is strong community support for education in Kigutu.

Meet Athanase

After working at VHW for 7 years as a teacher and the English Access Program Coordinator, we are pleased that Athanase Niyongabo recently became the VHW Assistant Education Program Manager. Athanase’s passion for education and learning has been an inspiration to other teachers and positive influence on hundreds of students.

Last year, as part of the US State Department’s English Access Program, Athanase traveled to the US. Working with educators from around the globe, Athanase learned new instructional methods and mentorship skills. He has brought these new experiences and lessons back to Kigutu to support the expansion of the MUTIMA Girls’ program and the school feeding program and new teacher training activities.

Athanase is committed to helping to expand VHW’s education program in the coming years. “I enjoy teaching because it is entirely about sharing—you give, edify others and do not lose what you give.” We thank Athanase for being an outstanding mentor to teachers and students in Kigutu and beyond!

- 4% dropout rate (54% decrease from 2018 and 92% less than the Burundian national average)
- 89% of teachers received 112 hours of teacher training in different child-centered teaching strategies
- 0% global acute malnutrition rate (vs 5% nationally in Burundi)
- 288 girls participated in the MUTIMA girls’ health and leadership program
Great progress has been made towards launching the Kigutu International Academy, a ground-breaking boarding school that will open in late 2020. Building on the lessons of our education work to date, KIA will offer an innovative secondary school education to young people from across Burundi. The Academy will focus on hands-on and experiential learning, using VHW as a campus. KIA graduates will gain the skills they need to solve tomorrow’s challenges, serving as a new generation of problem-solvers, change-makers and entrepreneurial leaders for Burundi.

KIA has hired an outstanding team of international educators and renovated McKenna Hall, which will house the school for its first few years. Most exciting, KIA has admitted its first class of outstanding young people who demonstrate academic excellence, commitment to their communities and leadership potential. From budding entrepreneurs and future doctors, to talented musicians and accomplished artists, the first KIA class is an impressive group!

Meet the newest members of the Teaching Team

“The idea of a small team of inspired and dedicated educators and students cooperatively creating a brand new school is incredibly exciting. The first cohort of students will be bonded with the common purpose of learning a new language and creating the traditions and ethos of this exceptional new school. What an amazing opportunity for all of us to be part of the first year of KIA!”

-Matt du Aime, Lead Teacher

“I have personally experienced the power of education; it can change a life and open doors that would never have opened otherwise! I'm excited to meet our students, to empower them, and to eventually see how they will be the change we want to see in our communities and in our country. I believe in the power of education and that's why I was willing to bet on KIA, put my own projects on hold, move to Burundi and work for KIA.”

-Lorissa Nsezwe, Teaching Fellow

“I am thrilled to get to know our inaugural class. I want to learn what inspires awe in each and every one of our students and I want to help cultivate their curiosities so they can grow into themselves. Possibly the best feeling in the world is learning from someone who recognizes and shares your passions while taking the time to help you pursue them. Above all, I’m excited to listen to our students and community members. I know I’ll learn a great deal from this experience.”

-Daniel Brooks, Teaching Fellow

“I am very excited to get to know the students passions, interests and especially their ambitions to contribute to our country. Many talented students in Burundi do not get an opportunity to pursue their dreams. As a Burundian who got that opportunity, I believe in bringing talented students together to learn from each other and from the community around them. KIA will not only open doors to educational and career opportunities, it will also equip the students with the skills they need to start building the Burundi they want.”

-Nicole Kamikazi, Teaching Fellow
Food Security

Malnutrition, poor health, and economic disenfranchisement are inextricably intertwined. At Village Health Works, we work to break out of this cycle by providing nutritious food to our students and patients, as well as uplifting community agricultural cooperatives and economic enterprises. As community members are trained in sustainable and productive farming practices, baking, fish-farming, beekeeping, cooking, sewing, and more through model farmers and training, they are able to achieve better nutrition—and therefore better health—for themselves and their families.

Mayengo: A Success Story

In 2018, 174 internally displaced families from a 2016 landslide were relocated to the Mayengo Colline in the VHW catchment area. Mayengo had a substantially higher malnutrition rate compared to other collines, as well as limited food diversity and limited access to agricultural land.

In 2019, VHW conducted a needs assessment and identified the most vulnerable 94 households to teach how to make kitchen gardens. Using an integrated approach to build resilience through economic and agricultural development, we focused on communal land ownership, cultivation of crops, and the development of household kitchen gardens in order to increase the availability of nutritious foods, and subsequent income-generating opportunities.

Households received tools and seeds, ongoing training & in-field supervision, and household counseling on various nutrition-related topics. We are thrilled to report that by the end of 2019, a significant increase in dietary diversity was seen amongst the most vulnerable of households.

On Campus Agriculture

45,069 kg
fresh produce farmed on campus

$38,776
monetary value to offset feeding costs

2,700
inpatients served nutritious meals

5,165
beneficiaries attended cooking demos

Community Agriculture

24
agricultural cooperatives supported with seeds, tools, and training

1,034
farmers report increased food production

3,311
community members trained by 18 model farmers
Community Engagement

The community of 200,000 people we serve is the inspiration and driving force behind everything we do, and we will continue to work with them in support of the needs and goals they have identified as necessary. As we continue to expand our capacity to strengthen systems in health and education and build a foundation in food security, the strong partnership we have with our community will be maintained as a fundamental basis for all of our work.

In 2019, we collaborated with our community to increase our WASH programs, expand our model farming program, support outreach through music, drumming and dance, and continue to find innovative solutions in order to address the root causes of illness, poverty, violence, and neglect.

In July of 2019, nearly 1,000 runners from all over Burundi ran the Kigutu Half Marathon. The grueling race up and down the mountains surrounding our campus had an elevation gain of 2,500 feet and tested the stamina of the strongest runners.

In addition to the Kigutu Half Marathon, VHW sent 18 staff members and runners from our area to the Kilimanjaro Marathon in Tanzania to represent our community and country. For many of the runners, it was their first time traveling outside of Burundi and their first formal running competition. The team were also the only Burundian runners in the race!

Today, local running clubs are helping to bring former enemies together in the spirit of competition.

Thank you to board members Sharon and Bill Jacob who sponsored both races!

11,483 community members volunteered
257 community members trained in WASH
838 community members reached through WASH awareness campaigns
875 people ran the Kigutu Half Marathon
VHW Responds to Covid

With the first Covid-19 cases confirmed in Burundi’s capital in late March of 2020, VHW began preparing to confront the pandemic—hoping for the best, while preparing for the worst. Utilizing pre-positioned resources, we developed a strategy based on effective containment through protecting patients, health workers, and community members, while mobilizing additional capacity for treatment. Moving quickly, we were able to secure the ingredients to produce hand sanitizer, which is being distributed widely on campus. Thanks to the work of our procurement team, VHW already had 124,000 gloves and 5,200 N95 respirators and was able to work with international partners to source additional PPE, diagnostic equipment, and therapeutics. We also implemented changes at our facility to promote physical distancing by improving screening and triage procedures, setting up tents complete with hand washing stations away from the main clinic areas, and spacing prenatal and other routine visits throughout the week to limit the number of patients congregating in waiting areas—a figure that otherwise can approach 200.

One colorful solution to protecting both community members and staff has been crafting facemasks from the local kitenge cloth. These facemasks are part of an effort to ensure that personal protective equipment (PPE) is available to help protect all staff (and as a reminder to refrain from touching one’s face), while helping to reserve the more limited amounts of medical-grade masks for our frontline health workers. This increase in demand has meant that the sewing cooperative VHW sponsors has had to add additional staff.

While actively preparing for the immediate future, VHW recognizes that a more definitive response to Covid-19—and any future threat that may emerge—is to finish construction of our 150-bed teaching hospital, scheduled to open in 2021. The critical infrastructure needed for a hospital proves essential in the kind of crisis that results from a pandemic—in particular, the ability to deliver oxygen to a large number of patients and the availability of isolation wards. When completed, the hospital will provide greater support for the entire health system, allowing a more effective response to the ongoing spread of Covid-19 and, as importantly, the collateral impact on other areas of healthcare. Early evidence shows that Covid-related disruptions to maternity and pediatric care already are having devastating consequences globally.

VHW’s Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tarek Meguid, emphasizes the importance of an overall health system as a goal to building the hospital: “There is a huge portion of the population without access to high quality healthcare, and their situation does not improve as it otherwise could. Building this hospital is a meaningful contribution towards strengthening the health system, and to finally providing high quality healthcare to people who need it desperately. Every delay means more suffering for the people who need these services, and do not have them.”

We would like to recognize the donors and advisors who continue to help us respond to this unexpected challenge during this time of need.

Gaudence, a longstanding sewing cooperative member, says “It’s a lot of work, but it’s important work—we are preventing the spread of this virus, not only for our protection but for the people around us.” The sewing collective is making more than 100 masks a day and distributing them to community members.

Deo and Emmanuel are both drivers at VHW, helping to transport patients in our ambulances and playing a key role in our operations by transporting food, equipment, and staff.

A pulse oximeter measures oxygen saturation—an important factor for respiratory diseases such as Covid-19.

Sandrine, one of the teachers at the school that VHW runs, said “So much has changed—no more handshakes, no hugs or kisses. No physical contact. Oh, I miss that so much!”
We honor the life of Augustin Ndabagumije (second from left), who passed away in July 2020. He was a master of the ikembe finger piano, traveling throughout Europe, Canada and the United States to promote the music and traditions of Burundi. He was a respected member of our team, loved by the children he taught and the community members he worked with. He will be deeply missed.

Augustin Ndabagumije
1959 - 2020
### Financial Summary

For the year ended December 31, 2019.

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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<th>2019</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
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#### INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2019</th>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td>$16,363,219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Building a Movement

Thank you to our generous partners and friends whose gifts of $1,000 or more made between January 1 – December 31, 2019 are reflected here with our profound gratitude.

Three enormously generous gifts were made in 2019 that have helped us reach more than 80% of our $20 million goal to build the hospital.

- **$1,000,000+**
  - The Cummings Foundation
  - The Pharo Foundation
  - The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

- **$500,000 - $999,999**
  - Patricia McKenna and Douglas S. Knapp
  - John and Peggy Stevermer
  - The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.

- **$25,000 - $49,999**
  - Marie Jackson
  - David Rockefeller, Jr.
  - Kendall A. Lyden

- **$1,000 - $4,999**
  - Elizabeth Kaido
  - Charles and Nancy Burton
  - William G. Amsden

$500,000 gift toward the hospital; matching this year’s Pharo Foundation gift, in honor of the birth of Deo and Cathryn’s son, Charlie. Anne is a true heroine, a fierce and generous champion of VHW; an admired painter; the founder of Parenting Journey, which provides social service support to underserved families; and a life-long fighter for the social justice movement.

Thank you, Anne, Guillaume, Joyce and Bill!
Sixth Annual VHW Holiday Luncheon

On December 2nd, 2019, board members Sharon and Bill Jacob hosted 200 guests for a memorable event at the Lake Isle Beachfront in New York City’s Central Park. Our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tarek Meguido, was the keynote speaker at the 2019 edition of this annual event. After his initial remarks, Ali Wentworth treated the guests to a wide-ranging and entertaining interview of Dr. Meguido.

It was our largest fundraiser in the six years this event has been held, and we deeply appreciate the support our guests provided to make the event such a success! In these times where Covid-19 has forced us to expand our community health programs, as well as improve the services aimed at improving the livelihood of mothers, pregnant women, newborns and children. They have also supported us in developing a more robust approach to integrating gender considerations into our work, including through empowering women to serve on our board of directors.

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Thank you to all our donors for your continued support. Our programs would not be possible without you.

Village Health Works is a 501(c)(3) organization based in Burundi and New York. All donations are tax deductible.*

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Thank you to Lara Meguid, Bill Bullard, Manuela Gikoro, Jamie Schlesinger, and Wade Zamechek for their photographic contributions.

Designed by Danielle Alling, Kali Creative.