

## Fact Sheet

"Give a man a fish, he'll eat for a day.  
Give a woman microcredit, she, her  
husband, her children and her  
extended family will eat for a lifetime."

**Bono**

### Mission

To empower women and girls in Sub-Saharan Africa through microenterprise, education and healthcare to achieve sustainable solutions for women, their families, and their villages.

### Profile

The Village Net began as a pilot project in 2007, and was made possible through an affiliate relationship in Ofankor, Ghana with WomensTrust, a 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in New Hampshire. WomensTrust provided fiscal sponsorship, staffing and support until Jan. 2008, when The Village Net received nonprofit status.

### Financial Status

Nonprofit (501c3)

### Management

- Harriet Stephenson, Ph.D.  
Co-founder & President
- Kyla Hagedorn, MBA  
Director of Development
- Steve Holland, Ph.D., Chair

### Our Partners

- Technology Services Corps
- Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)
- Institute of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana
- The Valued Girls Program, Ghana
- The Ghanaian Association of Greater Seattle

"Microcredit is about giving hope."

**Natalie Portman**

### Who we Serve

The Village Net serves women that are at the bottom of the economic pyramid, living on less than \$2 per day. Our programs focus on women that have some level of business activity in the villages of Suswa and Mwaani, Kenya and Ofankor, Ghana. More than 600 women have been directly served.

### Core Microloan Program

- borrowers start at \$50 level
- loans are paid back weekly in 16 week cycles
- repaid loans and donations create opportunity for additional borrowers

### Special Projects

Valued Girls Project (2008) provided soccer equipment, scholarships, and computer labs to schools that resulted in girls staying in school (Ghana)

TVN Connects (2011)

With partners, commissioned ICT centers for two public schools including refurbished laptops and training for students and teachers.

Bridge to Sustainability (2010 )

- students organized events to raise awareness and funding for 20 women in each village
- desire to expand as service learning opportunity in 2011

Pen Pal Program (2008)

kids exchanging "day in the life" stories, learning about each others culture. (all 3 villages)

"Microloans enable the poor to lift themselves out of poverty through entrepreneurship."

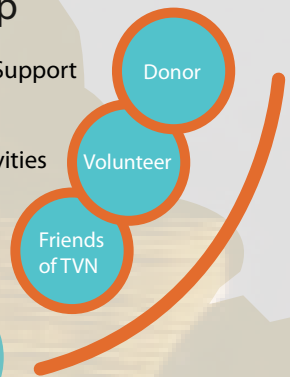
**Pierre Omidyar**

### How to Help

Provide Financial Support

Participate in Activities

Believe in Cause



### Stay Informed

Sign up for our email list to become a Friend of TVN. Learn more about becoming a sponsor, volunteer, partner or donor at:  
<http://thevillagenet.org/get-involved/>

### Impact

#### **A little goes a long way**

Women in villages report that with increased income they:

- provide extra meals
- send kids to school
- gain more respect
- provide community with needed goods and services

### Website

[www.thevillagenet.org](http://www.thevillagenet.org)

### Media Contact

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