

WHERE WE BELONG

REFUGEE GIRLS DEFINE NEW FUTURES

2021 YEAR-END UPDATE



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FROM OUR LEADERS

I am honored to have taken on the role of Board Chair this year. All of us who serve on the Board of Directors of Global Village Project are motivated by deeply personal reasons. For me, it is the fact that when my mother came to this country from Vietnam many years ago,



the existence of a school like GVP would have completely changed the direction of her life.

I serve now because I get to be a part of the lives of our students, and the possibility that this school will have an impact on their stories by providing them an education that meets their specific needs.

This year, the aftermath of the pandemic meant a drop in our student enrollment. We've had some attrition in student numbers, due partly to families relocating for a number of reasons. However, we expect to take in more students at the start of next year, with the most recent displacement of Afghani nationals as well as a new Presidential Determination from the White House. The need for our mission only continues to grow.

That is why I am excited about our new strategic plan and the vibrant future that it illustrates. We are building higher upon the foundation that we have made together: a community - a 'Village' - in which all of our girls belong, and where they all fit.

We have so much to celebrate about the year behind us, and even more to celebrate in the years ahead.

HAN PHAM
Board Chair



A whole year after starting this job, I was excited when we could finally return to school in person. There was no blueprint anywhere for teaching and learning in a pandemic. We had found a way to have school in a virtual environment, but could we find a way to have school in person and still keep ourselves and each other safe? We have tested that theory, and it has worked.

We are part way into a challenging but successful school year. Among the highlights of my first year is the creation of our new strategic plan. Over the next few years, we plan to expand GVP's model to reach an even larger number of students. The projections for the growth of refugee resettlement are significant. We aim to meet the needs of even more refugee girls who will be coming into our communities. Our goal is to formally document our model, so it can be shared and replicated. We have bold and ambitious dreams, and we have a powerful story to tell. I welcome your engagement as we turn this plan into reality.

ELIZABETH ELANGO
CEO & Head of School

OUR STUDENT SNAPSHOT

14



COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

15



AVERAGE AGE

17



LANGUAGES SPOKEN

28



NUMBER OF STUDENTS

"EVERYTHING HAS MUSIC"

by GVP Music Director, Ms. Elise Witt

During lunch, I had a very interesting conversation with one of our students. We had met with her father earlier that week, having received a concern from him that he did not want his daughters learning music. At lunch, I asked her if she knew that I had met her father. She said yes and wondered where I met him. I told her I went to her house with another staff member. She was very surprised and looked pleased.

She told me she didn't like music. Then we had a conversation about music. I told her that when I came to the US at age four, music helped me learn English. Then I talked about how music is not just singing; I spoke to her in a few different languages, and pointed out how each language has its own music. How boring it would be if our speech were monotone, every syllable on the same pitch at the same tempo. So language has music.

She was interested and asked me questions. Then she told me about a Hindustani movie she had seen in which a little girl had trouble falling asleep. The girl's parent asked her to listen to the sounds outside her window. She heard birds and cars and people. Her parent said to listen to the music around her. The girl listened and that helped her to fall asleep.

After she told me that story, she said that everything has music, and she understood now. She said she doesn't dislike music because it is everywhere. The way she expressed herself was so sophisticated, and her language was so expressive. This is one of those moments where I realize how much I love being at GVP.



HOMECOMING

The staff, volunteers and students of GVP returned to campus in August of this year with cautious excitement. After 15 months apart and an entire year of teaching and learning online, even the limitation of restrictive rules of contact could not dampen our enthusiasm to be together. Fully masked, vaccinated, and physically distanced, we have managed through several months of school with little to no disruption and a renewed zeal to learn.

Since our return to school we have adjusted to a new normal, even if we've had to make accommodations to define what normal is. The classrooms and hallways of our school are once again filled with the excited voices of our students. We have welcomed a small cohort of volunteers back on site. With our school still closed to visitors, we held a hybrid Authors' Tea in October with a room full of staff and then shared it to our wider audience virtually. We had our first field trip, an overnight hiking experience for our Form 3 students. We held a record-breaking Welcome Walk, which brought our annual community event - suspended last year due to COVID-19 - back to life with great success. In November, we hosted a small accreditation team from the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) to assess our school. We expect to receive a further accreditation through that process. We re-opened our student intake process and expect to enroll another set of new girls in our campus come January. Our student numbers may be modest but our impact is huge. We see it daily in the growth of our students: the timid girls who started school in August with limited vocabularies have butterflied into empowered, expressive students with lots of confidence in their knowledge and opinions.

GVP girls are strong and so is our village. It is from their strength that we are renewed in our mission to reactivate the schooling of refugee girls, so they can access all the benefits of a holistic education. Together, we envision a stronger future for Global Village Project.

The vision of GVP is that refugee girls have a safe place to learn and are equipped with the tools they need to surmount the barriers to equity and to accelerate their education.

OUR 2021-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN



1. TELL OUR STORY

In order to be attractive for increased support and replication, GVP's model and brand must be more widely known.



2. BUILD A STRONGER VILLAGE

The success of all GVP's aspirations is hinged on the strength of its stakeholders.



3. EXPAND FUNDING

To plan for future growth, GVP must expand and diversify its donor base.



4. SCALE TO A NEW HOME

If GVP is to be ready to handle predicted growth in refugee resettlement, it needs to prepare new space for more students and staff.



5. ENHANCE OUR MODEL

GVP has been urged to share its model more widely, becoming a recognized leader in refugee education the world over.

The plan is the result of work that took place over a six-month period. Despite the pandemic, we embarked on a highly consultative process with our community to collectively envision the future of our school.