

The logo features the text "Lake Victoria Peace & Sustainability Center" in a golden, serif font, centered over a background image of a sunset over a lake with a small boat in the distance.

Lake Victoria Peace & Sustainability Center

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write to you regarding the Lake Victoria Peace and Sustainability Center on Rusinga Island, Kenya. Throughout May and June of this year I had the incredible opportunity to live in the village of Kaswanga on Rusinga Island while volunteering at the Tom Mboya Hospital. Upon my arrival I was warmly welcomed by Solomon Owiti and his family, who allowed me to live with them in their home. It was through my close relationship with Solomon and his circle of friends and family that I became involved with the LVP&SC.

As I had recently completed a field study in East Africa with Canada's McGill University, I felt incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to participate in the opening stages of a grass-roots organization with a great purpose. This NGO is unique from many others, as it is solely based on a need specifically advocated for by community members themselves. Most importantly, individuals who will be directly affected by the programs locally run the organization. This ensures that efforts are allocated where they are most needed, and allows for invested individuals to continuously monitor the organization's activities.

The LVP&SC consists of a very inspiring group of individuals, who all visibly care for their community. Every member (not only of the NGO but also of the community) treated me with incredible respect, and were always eager to hear my thoughts and exchange ideas. The Rusinga Island community cares about promoting peace and offering beneficial programs, and is willing to collaborate with each other and with foreigners to achieve these goals.

The LVP&SC executive committee is extremely organized. After brainstorming the programs most needed by the community, they then voted on which should be the priority. Every meeting was run in a very democratic and respectful manner. All documents and plans were available to any member who inquired, and every individual's opinions were respected and appreciated.

I have no doubt that this organization will bring peace and positive change to Rusinga Island. The enthusiasm of the community along with the passion of the LVP&SC members will lead to important services greatly needed by the community. I look forward to furthering my relationship with the LVP&SC from Canada. I have been in contact with Solomon regularly since I left Rusinga Island, and am currently raising funds with other McGill students for the LVP&SC Water and Sanitation Project. This organization and people involved hold a very special place in my heart. I can verify first hand that you have chosen an incredible group of people, and part of the world, to partner with.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,
Anna Leitch
Montreal, QC, Canada
[Contact](#)

