

SEPTEMBER, 2025

# Village664



## THE MOMENTUM IS BUILDING

Something is shifting, and it's not just the seasons. Across inboxes, WhatsApp threads, and quiet conversations, a growing number of people are asking: How can I give back?

Over the past quarter, we've seen that question turn into action. Donations have been received, connections have been made, and new conversations are unfolding. We've facilitated linkages between on-island nonprofits and diaspora allies, sparking collaborations that span education, youth development, and inclusive support systems. Among these, we've begun exploring ways to better serve children with special educational needs, alongside other community priorities that deserve attention and care.

This is what building looks like: one connection, one conversation, one commitment at a time.

ISSUE #03

## Newsletter Highlights

**The Momentum is Building**

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**Investing in Futures: Village664 Supports MRC's Back-to-School Drive**

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**Sowing Support: Seed Donation Boosts Local Farming**

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**Village664 Supports UK-Montserrat Red Cross Link**



## INVESTING IN FUTURES: VILLAGE664 SUPPORTS MRC'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

At Village664, we believe that investing in education is investing in Montserrat's future. We contributed XCD \$2,000 to the Montserrat Red Cross (MRC) to support their 2025 Back-to-School Drive. The initiative provides essential school supplies to children across the island—from notebooks and backpacks to other essential items. These resources ease financial pressure and help students walk into their classrooms with pride.



### MRC STAFF AND SAFEGUARDING LEAD WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Thanks to this contribution, we were able to assist 31 parents with full back-to-school packages, supported 2 students with special requirements and provided 13 children with bus tickets and school lunch for the first term.

The Montserrat Red Cross exists to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. Their work spans disaster preparedness, health education, and community support—always grounded in compassion, neutrality, and service.



**AKEISHA BENJAMIN, DIRECTOR, MRC WITH  
NIANNA ST. CLAIRE, OUTREACH AND  
ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, VILLAGE664**

We are grateful to our donors and supporters who make moments like this possible. As we look ahead, Village664 remains committed to supporting initiatives that uplift youth and strengthen local systems. Education is just one piece of the puzzle—but it's a powerful place to start.

To get involved in future initiatives, visit [village664.com](http://village664.com) or email [info@village664.com](mailto:info@village664.com). Together, we're building a stronger Montserrat."





# CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

The word is spreading, and the momentum is building!

Over the past few months our goal of making valuable connections has truly come alive. We have seen firsthand how one conversation, one introduction, or even a single shared story can spark change. Our network is growing: individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences are stepping forward with the simple goal of building a sustainable Montserrat.

As the stories in this third edition of our Newsletter will show, we have matched NGOs with volunteers and donors who bring not only generosity, but also wisdom and invaluable networks. To those who have raised their hand and made financial or other donations we thank you for your commitment, your spirit, and your belief in the power of connection.

We introduce in this edition the “Village664 Wishlist” where we highlight the items and the skills that our partner NGOs need to not only do what they do, but do what they do, better. Check out this list on the last page and reach out to us via email at [info@village664.com](mailto:info@village664.com) to ensure that you get the information you need and if necessary, the connections that will make positive differences.

As we look ahead, let us celebrate our progress, however modest. I encourage you to spread the word and create bonds that will help make Village664 transformative and lasting.

With warm regards,



Derek Osborne  
Chairman, InVillage664

## FINANCIAL REPORT

January to August 2025

### Income

Donations	\$14,850
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### Expenses

Donations	\$2,000
Operating Expenses	\$12,750
Bank Charges	\$283
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	\$15,033
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Net Loss	(-\$183)
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[www.village664.com](http://www.village664.com)  
[info@village664.com](mailto:info@village664.com)

## FROM SOIL TO SOLUTION: CLAUDE BROWNE SPEAKS ON FARMING CHALLENGES AND HOPE



**MR. CLAUDE BROWNE**  
**PRESIDENT,**  
**MONTSERRAT FARMERS**  
**ASSOCIATION**

**1. Can you briefly introduce the Montserrat Farmers Association and its main objectives?**

The Association brings together farmers to strengthen agricultural production, advocate for better access to inputs, and share knowledge. Our goal is to ensure farming remains viable and sustainable on-island.

**2. What are the biggest barriers to expanding agricultural production on Montserrat?**

Land access is a major issue. Many farmers want to scale up, but suitable land is limited or tied up in long-term leases. We're advocating for clearer policies and more flexible arrangements so farmers can grow without unnecessary delays.

**3. What kinds of inputs are most difficult to access, and how does that affect farmers?**

Fertilizers, seeds, and livestock feed are expensive and not always available when needed. That affects planting schedules and overall productivity. We've had some support, but consistent access is still a challenge.

**4. How are farmers working together to overcome shared challenges?**

We're constantly sharing knowledge, what works, what doesn't. Some farmers pool resources to buy inputs in bulk or help each other with labor during peak seasons. That kind of collaboration is what keeps us going.

**5. Why is strengthening local agriculture important for Montserrat's food security?**

We import most of our food, which makes us vulnerable to price shocks and supply chain issues. If we can grow more locally, we reduce that risk and create jobs. It's not just about farming it's about resilience.

**6. What is the Association's long-term vision for agriculture on the island?**

We want to build a resilient, self-sustaining agricultural sector one that feeds our people, creates jobs, and reduces reliance on imports. That means investing in training, infrastructure, and innovation.

**7. What's the best way for supporters, especially those in the diaspora to get involved?**

Whether it's donating seeds, tools, or livestock feed, sharing technical know-how, or offering mentorship, every bit of support helps us grow stronger. We're eager to connect with people and organizations who believe in Montserrat's future.

## SOWING SUPPORT: SEED DONATION BOOSTS LOCAL FARMING

Village664 helped spark a meaningful partnership between Mr. David Lake of the United States and the Montserrat Farmers Association. Through this connection, over 120 packets of seeds were donated to support local agriculture, completely free of charge.

The seeds donated included a wide range of vegetables and herbs such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, lettuce, carrots, and more. Farmers and home gardeners across Montserrat were able to receive seeds by contacting the Montserrat Farmers Association directly.

This initiative reflects the spirit of Village664: building bridges that lead to real, lasting impact. By linking generous individuals with grassroots organizations, we continue to help grow a stronger, more resilient Montserrat, one seed at a time.



IMAGE OF VARIOUS SEEDS DONATED



MR. CLAUDE BROWNE

PRESIDENT, MONTSERRAT FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Start a conversation with us!

Want to know more about Village664, how you can get involved, or any of the NGOs we support? Email us at [info@village664.com](mailto:info@village664.com) or call 664 396 4071

It takes a village — and the 664 is calling. Let's create something powerful, together.





## VILLAGE664 SUPPORTS UK-MONTSERRAT RED CROSS LINK

Village664 is working behind the scenes to support a clothing shipment from the British Red Cross to the Montserrat Red Cross. We are currently helping coordinate logistics and serve as liaison support to ensure the items arrive safely and smoothly.

Right now, we are preparing for the first shipment, but this is just the beginning. In the future, we hope to expand these efforts to include other essential supplies that meet local needs.

We are proud to help build these bridges. Stay tuned for updates, and reach out if you would like to get involved.



### Montserrat Diaspora Medical Professionals Registry

#### Calling All Montserratian Medical Professionals in the Diaspora!

We're building a Medical Database to understand the skills within our diaspora and explore how you can support Montserrat's health sector.

#### Why This Matters:

- Help identify how your expertise can support healthcare in Montserrat
- Be considered for future health initiatives, partnerships, and emergency support
- Strengthen connections between diaspora professionals and local health efforts

#### Who Should Complete the Form?

Doctors, nurses, therapists, public health experts— anyone in the medical field connected to Montserrat and living abroad

**Submit your info here:**  
<https://forms.office.com/r/5UhyHTazaR>





# WISHLIST

## For Local Farmers:

♡ Dusters

♡ Seeders

♡ Handheld Sprayers

♡ Budding Knives

♡ Bypass Secateurs

♡ Hand Trowels

♡ Post Hole Diggers

♡ Pheromone Traps

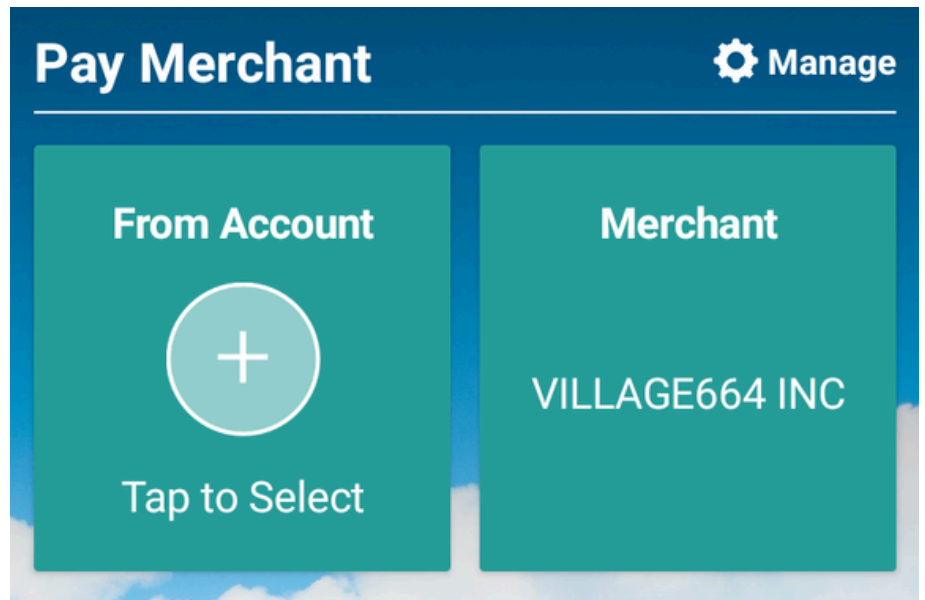
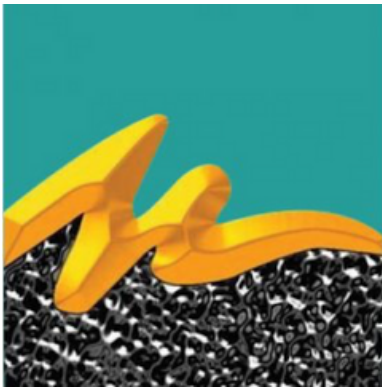
♡ Watering Cans

## Profesional Services:

♡ Occupational Therapist

♡ Speech and Language Therapist

## DONATE VIA BANK OF MONTSERRAT



ACCOUNT CHECKING - 6522662

OR VISIT [WWW.VILLAGE664.COM](http://WWW.VILLAGE664.COM)  
AND CLICK 'DONATE'