



RICHMOND VALE
ACADEMY



10 Months Community Development Program
In Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique

Welcome to Richmond Vale Academy

Established in 2002, our Academy is a registered non-profit research and training institution situated in the Chateaubelair area of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Since the opening more than 600 students from the Caribbean and across the world have participated in courses fighting global warming and global poverty.

We need to react and take action for a better world for all.

Reaction comes from a lover of life and when more directed, a believer of the value of changing the world.

I urge you to ask yourself "What kind of planet do we leave behind for the next generation?" and "What kind of generation do we leave behind for that planet?"

Joining one of our programs will equip you with knowledge; skills, understanding and experiences to better protect our precious planet.

Our current system has caused Global Warming which has created temperatures higher than ever before in human history, which again has created climate change disasters with millions of people suffering; along with an acidic ocean, loss of biodiversity and a toxic planet.

Our school includes people of all ages and nationalities and we walk the talk! We are a center for sustainability in the Caribbean and at our campus we have renewable energy, rain water harvesting systems and we are moving towards producing our own food with free range chickens and sheep, agro-forestry and Permaculture gardening.

I am very happy you are reading this and I hope you will join our program!

You are needed to take collective action for humanity, shoulder to shoulder with the poor and protect the planet!

We welcome you

Stina Herberg

Director - Richmond Vale Academy







10 Months Community Development Program In Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique

Shoulder to Shoulder

With this 10 month programme, we join hands with activists all over the world to fight for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty in some of the poorest regions of the world. We believe that this kind of activism is needed more than ever, and we invite you to join a team of likeminded people for an action-based and fast-paced programme, learning and creating positive change through humanitarian work.

10 Months

Study & Action Programme

Programme Structure

Period 1 – 3 months: Training at Richmond Vale Academy in St. Vincent

Period 2 – 6 months: Volunteer in Africa

Period 3 – 1 month: Conclusion and information period in St. Vincent

Certifications

1. Field Work Certification from Humana People to People
2. Certification of Completion from Richmond Vale Academy

Start Dates April and October



Period One

3 Months

Training in St. Vincent, Eastern Caribbean

Period One is based at Richmond Vale Academy in St. Vincent. Studies will include global affairs, political science, international and economic development. Methods will include group and individual studies, lectures, investigations and discussions within a team.

You will also take part in projects and receive leadership and practical training to develop a variety of skills directly needed during the subsequent project period in Africa.

The school is run by staff and students together, and all daily chores are organised within and by this group. The focus of the training period is to provide the framework that will give you the understanding, knowledge and variety of skills, including team building, practical and leadership skills, to make the project period a success for both you and the beneficiaries at the project. These skills will also be useful in your future career and life.





Period Two

Project Work in Africa

After three months, equipped with relevant knowledge and skills, you will embark on the next stage of the journey. Together with members of your team, you will be posted at projects in Africa. The projects focus on farming, health and community development.

The project works with children, parents, farmers, teachers, local leaders, national government and international partners to tackle the root causes of poverty and build sustainable and thriving communities.

Before leaving for Africa, you will have Skype meetings with the Project Leader to discuss and determine the specific jobs and responsibilities for your posting, depending on the specific needs of the project.

This will act as the guidelines for the coming six months as you begin your work together with the people already at the project – there will be a variety of tasks, from engaging with local farmers to increasing food production, supporting income-generating activities, or promoting and constructing latrines together with a local community – and much more.

You will also use this period to gather materials such as photos, films and interviews from the people and activities at the project, and you start producing materials such as a newsletter, a radio broadcast, a podcast, a video, a multimedia project, and other such products for the conclusion period in St. Vincent.

Period Three

Conclusion and information period in St. Vincent

Following your six month posting, you will return to Richmond Vale Academy to digest your experiences. This final stage of the programme enables you to share your findings and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the work in the field. This allows for continual improvement of the programme, whilst ensuring you gain extensive and valuable understanding derived from the programme.

You will finalise the products and get ready to spread information to target groups of your choice and “hit them in the heart”, thereby supporting and encouraging greater sustainable development efforts.

During this phase, you will acquire additional skills and understanding to help you prepare for the next steps in your life and career.







The Development Projects

This programme combines our unique learning environment with six months of working and living in communities in Africa.

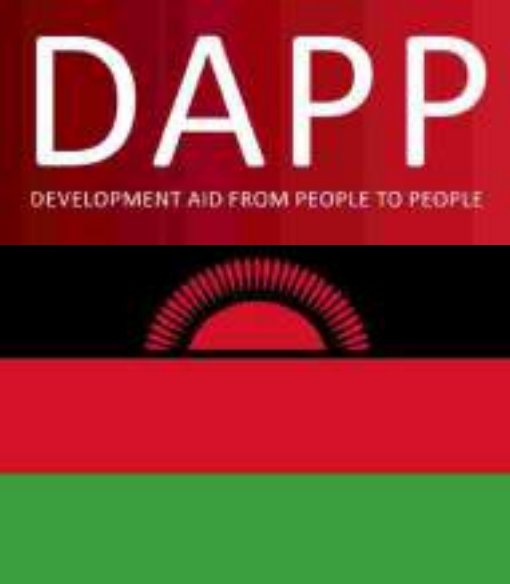
Richmond Vale Academy is a partner with Humana People to People's member organisations in Africa. The Federation Humana People to People was established in 1996 and is a network of 29 organisations engaged in creating change, locally and globally, in communities in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas.



Humana People to People's approach to development is centered around community mobilisation.

Humana People to People have developed and implemented a methodology that equips communities with the materials, knowledge and infrastructure to lift themselves out of poverty. Humana People to People members work in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and have been implementing development projects for almost 40 years.

Development Instructors from the 10 months programme join Humana People to People projects in Africa for six months. To date, participants from Richmond Vale Academy and other learning centres in USA and Europe have worked together with tens of thousands of people to create change, learn new skills, to farm, build homes, feed their families and educate their children and capacity for leading a full life.



Development Aid from People to People Malawi (DAPP Malawi) is a locally registered NGO that has worked in Malawi since its establishment in 1995.

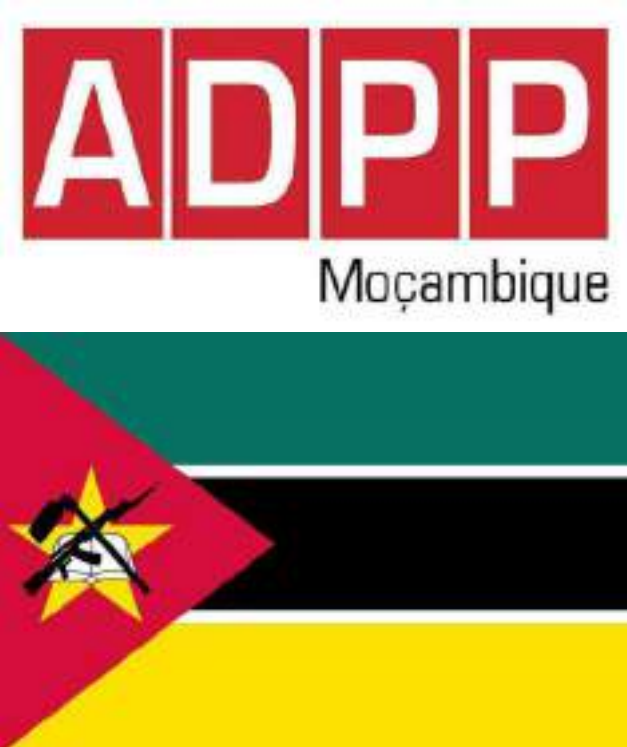
The objective of DAPP Malawi is to promote social and economic development. Through a variety of development models, DAPP complements the government's efforts in implementing the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy to achieve the nation's Vision 2020. The people engaged in the development initiatives of DAPP are trained and equipped with tools and knowledge enabling them to transform their dreams and wishes for a better life into practical actions.

DAPP Malawi believes that poverty can be overcome through adopting a coordinated, community-wide approach to development, which combines education, adult literacy, improved livelihoods, increased production, health, women empowerment and environmental protection. In its 25th year of implementing development programs in the four thematic areas of agriculture, education, community development and health, DAPP Malawi continues to work with the people of Malawi and empower individuals and families to make informed choices about their lives and take an active role in society to reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas.

What started as a clothes sale business to generate funds for the first Child Aid social project in Chiradzulu District in 1995 has now grown with a workforce of more than 500 dedicated employees who reach out to approximately one million people across Malawi annually. It is with profound gratitude that we salute the Government of Malawi, partners, employees and the many volunteers who continue to support DAPP Malawi projects tirelessly, and to the millions of Malawians we have worked with over the years in the projects, who have made each day an inspiration to do more.

As we are in 2020, looking at the 25 years gone by, looking at the present and casting our eyes into the future, there is still a great deal of work to be done and we look forward to the coming decades as we remain committed to continue fighting shoulder to shoulder with The Poor.

dapp-malawi.org



ADPP Mozambique is a Mozambican Non-Governmental Association that works across Quality Education, Health and Well-being, Sustainable Agriculture, and the Environment, established in 1982.

Since 1982, ADPP Mozambique has been proud to remain true to its original mission of promoting the social and economic development of the most vulnerable people in society, especially in rural areas, and in particular children, orphans, women and girls, reaching over 2,000,000 people with projects and employing over 3,300 people.

ADPP Mozambique believes that development, above all, is about people; and that when people are respected and valued, they increase their capabilities and become the driving force of the changes they intend to make. ADPP's mission is to support all people to work together and move towards a better future. This better future is one where all people have the ability to pursue their choices and dreams and realize their full potential.

Sustainable development is our goal. We believe that it is possible to create opportunities and deliver positive long-term impact whilst addressing some of Mozambique's most significant challenges, when working closely with communities.

ADPP Mozambique's vision is to support all people to work together for a better future, one in which everyone has the ability to pursue their choices and dreams and to realize their full potential.

To achieve that, our programs are aimed at targeting the most disadvantaged social groups, especially women, adolescent girls and children, as well as vulnerable populations. The interventions address the various barriers as access to health care, gender imbalances, economic challenges and stigma and discrimination.

adpp-mozambique.org



Founded in 1990 as a non-for-profit, non-governmental organisation, DAPP Zambia creates development together with the people, through running community based and people centred projects. We do this by generating conducive spaces for community ownership of the projects by mobilising people to find community centred solutions to challenges.

DAPP's mission is to create development in communities together with the people by sharing necessary skills, knowledge and tools to fight poverty, illiteracy and disease. DAPP has a long-term vision of seeing: a Zambia where people live equitably, free from poverty and injustice, with access to health and education in a nation that protects and develops natural resources to sustain them.

Its projects harness peoples' own power, working for sustainable development, to create positive change individually and collectively to build resilience and capacities. This includes improving livelihood, lifelong learning, as well as health and human rights for all.

It implements various projects in all the 10 Provinces of Zambia reaching over 1.3 million people. The knowledge, skills and tools we share, empower people and their families to face and overcome poverty, illiteracy and disease with diligence. We believe that when people work together, they are better able to support one another and take collective actions to solve problems that they cannot handle alone.

Working with children, youths and women in developing vocational, entrepreneurial and literacy training, DAPP Zambia believes that quality education for all and the promotion of learning for life are fundamentals for the people and the communities to be in control of their own development.

Its activities are cost effective, providing best value for money in terms of outcomes and impact and are aligned with the Government of the Republic of Zambia's 7th National Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

DAPP Zambia works closely with the Ministry of General Education, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development as key partners.

dappzambia.org



What it takes to be a Development Instructor

The Development Instructor Commitment

- You have turned 18 years old.
- You are ready to leave your home for 10 months to volunteer in a community environment 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- You have decided not to drink alcohol or take drugs for the entirety of the programme.
- You are eager to experience a multidisciplinary and collective training programme, which includes theoretical and practical activities.
- You are ready to immerse yourself in a multicultural and diverse community.
- You are ready to volunteer where you are most needed.
- You look forward to engaging with the Humana People to People projects in a spirit of cooperation, mutual learning and respect.
- You are committed to learn about people, cultures, values and traditions, and to share your knowledge and stories with the public after your travels.

The Skills You Develop

Through the different periods and elements of the programme you have the possibility to develop the following skills:

- ✓ **Written & Verbal Communication**
- ✓ **Interpersonal Skills**
- ✓ **Leadership**
- ✓ **Self-Reflection**
- ✓ **Confidence**
- ✓ **Public Speaking**
- ✓ **Decision Making**
- ✓ **Investigative Research**
- ✓ **Proactive Problem Solving**
- ✓ **Project Management**



Case Stories

From training at Richmond Vale Academy to working at the projects



Tomika from St. Vincent, volunteered in Mozambique



Ammon from United States, volunteered in Ecuador



Jocelyn from Chile, volunteered in Ecuador



Anna from Poland, volunteered in Belize

Why did you decide to become a volunteer?

TOMIKA: I decided to become a volunteer, because I wanted to do something different in my life. I was very interested in joining the fighting with the poor program in Africa. At that time, I thought of the many bad things that the media had shown us. The starvation, diseases, orphans and many other bad things that I had learned happened in Africa. I wanted to help. I thought that I could do something different than what many other young people around my age did. Many of my friends continued with their education, some got a job, etc. And I went to Africa trying to do something to help others.

AMMON: At first it was because I was unsure of what I wanted to do after high school but I knew I wanted to do something better than just live the "American Dream". As I wanted to learn how to work with a team, with a community and how to turn an idea into practical action I realized that this was the way I could make a real change in the world around me.

JOCELYN: Because I know I had more opportunities than others so I wanted to give back, try to help other people who didn't have the same luck.

ANNA: I was looking for something different to do with my life. I wanted to do something hands-on, that had a real and visible meaning.

What do you do now and what practical skills did you gain from this program to prepare you for this?

TOMIKA: I am working as a Sorting Center Manager in a secondhand clothes business in Guatemala. From the volunteering program, I was trained to work with the poor and create employment opportunities for those in need. The program prepared me for my current job, where I am employing people who cannot get a job elsewhere because of their education level, background, or because they are living in a red zone (violent area where there are gangs). I have learned not to discriminate anyone, and to be a teacher - I teach my staff to do the job correctly where they can grow and help to create employment for others. While at the same time they are learning to fight Global warming and climate change from the job they are doing.

AMMON: The most important thing I gained from this program was recognizing opportunities when they come along, as well as knowing how to find those opportunities. There is more than one way to do something, there is more than 137 ways to do things. The best way won't always be obvious and often times you have to make the path forward. Real Practical skills though: Gardening, Using a Machete, Speaking Spanish, Organizing events and group actions, harvesting food, travel skills of all kinds.

JOCELYN: I learned about myself, my capacity about organizing, some English skills, living in communities and deal with real problems.

ANNA: I work for a sailing organization, doing youth projects. I've been sailing since childhood so this is a dream come true. I'd say most of the skills I got from the program were soft skills. I've learned how to better deal with people, how to organize my workday, how to communicate with my international coworkers. But most importantly, I've gained a different outlook at life. I am going to work part-time soon, because I've realized there are other more important things in life.



What would be an important moment, event, achievement or person you met during your time in the program?

TOMIKA: An Important moment during my program was my 6 months stay in Mozambique. Before I arrived to Mozambique, I had always had the idea that I am poor. But in Africa I learned that wealth is not in material things. I have seen families eating from one plate and still invite their neighbors to join them for a meal. I have learned not to be a prisoner of the capitalist world that we are living in. The time that I stayed in Africa is very memorable and it taught me to be a humanitarian.

AMMON: The close relationships I built with those I worked with in Ecuador, seeing how generous they were to invite me into their homes and lives. Participating in Projects with the teachers during my program were probably the most important part of me growing as a person.

JOCELYN: I met with a lot of people who became really important to me... they will always be in my heart. The best moment was to create an ecologic playground in Ecuador-Cangonama; it was the best thing I did in my life, not just for the playground itself, but because of the people, the work, the organizing part of it, it made me another person...

ANNA: There's been a lot of those moments. I've met wonderful international activists, as well as inspiring local leaders (or future leaders).

As two single women we had problems with getting accepted (or indeed being taken serious) in the conservative Belizian village. The best moment was learning that we ended up inspiring women of the village to take action and stand up for themselves.

All of our projects ended up being very rewarding. When you organize a fundraising event for a school, and then work Shoulder to Shoulder with the teachers and parents to renovate the classrooms, open a library and build a playground, you get a special kind of satisfaction and a feeling of achievement.



Has your work as a Development Instructor impacted your decisions for your future?

TOMIKA: Yes it has. It has made me look at the world differently than how others see it. Many others see materials as a part of wealth and do not care about what goes on around them. I see a world where I can help to change the lives of many people by developing employment opportunities so that they can give their families the basics in life.

AMMON: It has guided my path towards a life that focuses on people, community, and the earth. Towards taking practical action that is morally motivated. My work and daily life now focus on how I can live more sustainable and learning skills that can be shared with those around me, as well as eating delicious, healthy food all the time.

JOCELYN: For sure, it changed my whole life, I completely changed my mindset and the way of living... I think more simple in the way of my private needs... It is not only about me... It is about us. Hope you will participate!

ANNA: After living for many months in a whole different reality, I didn't want to go back and do meaningless things. I have managed to find a job which satisfies me and lets me continue to do important things. But now I have a completely different view of the world and my own place in it. I am closer to nature, more self-sufficient, aware of what I'm eating and my general consumption habits. I've even learned to sew so I can make my own clothes. I take good care of myself right now, also in the emotional sense. The only bad thing is that I miss RVA all the time!





St. Vincent and the Grenadines



St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a southern Caribbean nation comprising the main island St. Vincent and a chain of smaller Grenadine islands.

The total population is around 111,000. St. Vincent and the Grenadines gained independence from the United Kingdom on 27 October 1979 and became part of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The small island nation is one of the less economically developed countries in the Caribbean. Several times the Islands have been affected by hurricanes and natural disasters. Latest La Soufrière Volcano Eruption in 2021.

In 2020 St. Vincent and the Grenadines created history by becoming the smallest nation to be elected to the governing body of the UN by taking up a role in the Security Council as a non-permanent member for two years. Many issues were brought to the attention of the council, for example, the recognition of the link between changes in climate and economic and human security as an absolute imperative for the survival of Small Island Developing States.

The Background

The multi-island country of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), also known as Hairouna or Yurumein is located in the southeastern part of the Caribbean Sea.

SVG is a small island nation, but its history is quite remarkable, and its landscapes are breathtaking. This country has had a long history of resistance against European imperial powers. The people of St. Vincent, the Kalinago, managed to protect their homeland from French and British settlements for 200 years. They were so vigilant that this territory became the last of the major Caribbean islands to be colonized. During this struggle, enslaved Africans escaped from shipwrecks and joined the indigenous communities. They are interracial with the Caribs and are now known as the Black Kalinago or the Garifuna people.

In 1719, Britain took control over the country and remained in power until 1979, when SVG claimed its independence and its right to control its affairs.

The country imports about 35% of the food, which affects the local economy. Half of the population lives in rural areas, with about 25% employed in farming. The farming population is aging, and few young people are going to farms.

The country depends on imported fossil fuels for electricity generation, transportation and cooking. It has an energy mix of 90% fossil fuels and about 10% hydropower, with an increasing supply through solar photovoltaic (PV). Fortunately, this nation has many potential carbon-neutral sources, especially geothermal and solar. In the mainland, LPG gas is used for household use and is sometimes complemented by solar water heaters found in Vincentian homes.

The government has installed solar panels in 3 government buildings and a college; people are now more aware of the benefits of using solar power. There are also hydropower plants in St. Vincent. When fully functional these plants can provide up to 20% of the nation's power through renewable energy sources.

When compared by area, SVG is ranked globally as the second most disaster-prone country in the world.

As part of the Caribbean, SVG is in the Atlantic Hurricane Belt. For this reason, damaging storms and flash floods hit the area almost every year. In addition to this annual threat, climate change is negatively affecting the region with increased intensity of hurricanes, rising sea levels, decreasing rain falls, and ascending temperatures.

As the strength of hurricanes and tropical storms continues to increase so will the damage and destruction, the country will see more landslides and soil and coastal erosion. Furthermore, sea-level rise and storm surges will affect the towns and fishing villages across the multi-island nation. More than 85% of the population will be affected.

The People and their livelihood

The people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines are called Vincentians or "Vincy". They are very welcoming and friendly. The country's economy relies on tourism, agriculture, and the fishery. Agriculture and tourism had a severe setback during Covid and the La Soufrière eruption. About 80% of the agriculture is located in the zones affected by the volcano. The decrease in productivity left many people destitute with lost or destroyed homes.

About 300,000 people of Vincentian heritage reside outside St. Vincent and the Grenadines in North America, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Today they represent a substantial economic resource in challenging times of poverty and the recurrence of disasters that set the country back in economic development.

Nature and Resources

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has a breathtaking natural beauty with rainforests, mountains, and rivers. It has everything from sandy beaches to coral reefs and high elevations for hiking.

The most valuable resources in the country are the people and the fertile land. There is a lot of potential going forward in Tourism, Agriculture, and creating a sustainable living model with ecological farming and energy built on hydro and solar.

The Enrolment Process

- Contact us by email and we will email you an info pack with detailed information.
- Connect with us on Skype, Facebook or WAPP for a short talk about the programme and answer any immediate questions you might have.
- Fill out the application form online if you want to go ahead.
- Arrange for an online meeting where we present the programme, discuss the requirements and answer your questions. During this meeting you will also get closer to deciding which team you want to join.
- We will give you one or more alums with whom you can communicate throughout the process.
- Paperwork & Payment. When we have had the final talk we will send you the payment methods and enrolment papers.
- Reserve your spot. When we have received the initial USD 500 enrolment fee and the signed enrolment papers you have reserved a spot on the team.
- Prepare your Travel. Now it is time to get ready for a life-changing journey! We will be available to support you throughout the process.



Finances

The programme costs USD 4,500 as a student payment. This covers your basic expenses for the 4 months at Richmond Vale Academy, which includes a shared room, 3 meals a day and team programme expenses such as books, films, transport and stationery. It also covers part of the travel expenses to the project country.

On top of this, Richmond Vale Academy with support from a donor will finance the travel expenses to Africa, which covers: the flight, travel insurance and any other expenses connected with the project period.

Additionally, Humana People to People will provide accommodation and a monthly allowance to cover food expenses for the period at the project destination.

Other Expenses:

- Health insurance for the 4 months at Richmond Vale Academy will be financed by yourself.
- Personal items such as medication, toiletries and any other personal expenses will be covered by yourself.



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a college degree or field experience to join the programme?

No. Neither a specific experience nor a degree is needed. Our programmes are designed to equip you with the relevant knowledge and skills you will need for the project period abroad – the rest you will learn along the way.

Will I be safe overseas?

Yes. We care deeply about the safety of our participants. The countries where we work have safe working environments. You will volunteer with other members of your team at an already established project run by Humana People to People. We present the safety regulations of the project countries to all participants who are asked to comply with them.

Can I choose where I want to go?

No. Our project partners will define which projects have the highest priority. Our experience is that Development Instructors enjoy the experience and have a great time regardless of which project they are posted at.

Can I take holidays during the programme?

No. During the course of the programme you will have three months intensive training to build a strong team and to prepare yourself for the project period. After the project period, it is essential that the team evaluate their efforts and pass on experience to the next team and the general public.

Can I contact my family and friends during the project period?

Yes, you will be able to contact your family through SMS, phone, email and social media. Keep in mind that you may be in areas with limited internet connection. We recommend that you get a local sim card, which is very accessible, so you can be easily reached.

Can I work or go to school while doing the programme?

No. Our programmes are a 24/7 responsibility and require full time commitment. You will be busy training, travelling, working at your project, and sharing your experience with others.

Are couples, friends and family members able to do the programme together?

Yes, you are welcome to do our programmes and travel to the projects with your partner, friends or family. Each of you needs to comply with all requirements to be eligible for the programme.

Can any nationality take part? Yes.

Why do we ask our participants to agree to our no drugs/no alcohol policy?

At each learning centre, you are part of a community striving to be an example of international cooperation and development. In such a context, alcohol and drugs get in the way; they divide the community, distract us from our objectives and put our safety at risk.



Start your humanitarian career!

Contact us for more information:

info@richmondvale.org



RICHMOND VALE
ACADEMY

Chateaubelair
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

www.richmondvale.org